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## BALLARAT NEWS

### Prayer for Plenary Council

Blessed are you,  
God of all creation.  
You have given us life and light  
and all the wonders of the world.  
You have sent your Son Jesus  
to be our Saviour  
and your Holy Spirit  
to be our guide.  
As we prepare for the  
Plenary council,  
we ask you to come into our hearts  
with your Son and Holy Spirit.  
Come to us and  
make your home in us.

We pray for our local community,  
for the people of our diocese  
and for the Church throughout  
Australia.

May your wisdom show us the way,  
for your word is a lamp for our feet  
and a light for our path.

Come and fill the hearts of your  
faithful and kindle in us the fire  
of your love, that we may  
live by your gospel  
and share your good news  
with all we meet.

Holy Mary, Mother of our Saviour,  
pray for us. St Mary MacKillop,  
pray for us. Amen



**St Patrick's College Yr. 7 2020**  
Enrolments will be closing on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, if you have not put your enrolment in yet, please do so before this date.

If anyone would like a prospectus to contact Kathryn Mundy on 5322 4449 or email [kmundy@stpats.vic.edu.au](mailto:kmundy@stpats.vic.edu.au)



## Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Ballarat North, Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree



306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 5331 1012

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

School Web: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au

Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324

480a Gillies Street, P O Box 192 Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

School Web: www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au

School Phone: 5339 4726

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

Visiting Priests: Fr Gary Jones

Fr Anthony Nagothu

Fr Sajjan Mathew

Staff at St Columba's

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Wed-Friday 9.00am -1.00pm

Staff at Wendouree

Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache

Wed- Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

Safeguarding Officers:

St Columba's: Peter Marquand

OLHC: Maree Roache

Mass times: St Columba's

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am

Wednesday: 9:30 am

Mass times: Wendouree

Saturday: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Tuesday: 5:00 pm

Thursday: 10:00 am

Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Bar 5:1-9

Ps 125. R. v.3

Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

Lk 3:1-6



### 2nd December ~ 1st Sunday of Advent (C)

#### Focus on the Scriptures

Today's gospel passage, with its vivid description of the end-time signs, may seem a strange choice of reading for Advent and the beginning of the Church year. Its depiction of global devastation has a particular resonance in a post-industrial world faced with the effects of climate change. Some may be tempted to interpret "apocalyptic" events of today as the judgement of an interventionist God. This is far from the truth. Our mindless exploitation of planetary resources has brought its own judgement and we must struggle together to save our planet from further destruction. Advent and Christmas are about the coming "in power and great glory" of the One who brings the liberation of God. The earliest Christians believed that Jesus would soon return and bring everything to completion. Some decades after Jesus' death, Luke's community had come to realize that the "final" coming of Christ was not just around the corner as they had expected. They needed to be reminded that a delayed return was no excuse for lack of vigilance. Luke warns against activities and attitudes that de-sensitize the heart or the human spirit.

For Luke, an attentive heart and constant prayer for the strength to withstand whatever comes is the proper stance for the Christian believer. An attentive heart will be attuned to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. The image of Jesus coming on the clouds belongs within an ancient understanding of the structure of the world in which God and God's heavenly court are located in the heavens above. It might function in our times as a reminder that the Incarnation, "God's becoming material" (Karl Rahner), is an ongoing cosmic event, not just a once-off event limited to one place and one time.

We might do well to read this gospel passage against the backdrop of today's first reading from Jeremiah that looks to the fulfillment of God's promise of the "virtuous branch for David". The organic metaphor of the branch reminds us of the interconnectedness of God's people and of all being across the ages. The virtue of the expected descendant of David finds expression in honesty and integrity, literally "justice and righteousness/right relationship". Justice in the Hebrew tradition is about redress in the law courts for the most vulnerable. Righteousness is about right relationships as well as the equitable sharing and proper use of Earth's resources. Justice and righteousness are two sides of the one coin. Where they are absent, there is no liberation. Our prayer and practical action this Advent might embrace the plight of the earth itself and the concerns of those who yearn for liberation from various forms of oppression. We might remember those seeking asylum among us and those who have been granted refugee status yet still await the justice of resettlement. Our Advent could make a difference to their Christmas. Veronica Lawson RSM



**Responsorial Psalm:** To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Sr Connie Walsh RSM, Adele Carter,

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Trevor Jeffreys, Carmel Caligari, Paul Melenhorst

**We pray:** for the sick of our Parishes, especially Saskiah Gallagher, Roslyn Tobin, Blake Dridan, for the success of the Plenary Council and for those on the RCIA journey for 2018/2019.

## ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

*Love, pray, serve, hope & follow Jesus*

**Advent booklets** still available this weekend then ONLY available from the Parish Office. The cost is \$4.00. Great way to prepare for Christmas.



**Christmas Rosters** this weekend roster sheets will go out for our Christmas Masses of 6pm and 8pm Christmas Eve and 9am Christmas Day. If you will be at one of these Masses please put your name down for a ministry.

**SVDP** group are currently selling Christmas cards, Columban calendars and small gifts in the foyer after Mass. Get yours now before they sell out!

**Giving tree** this year we will be having a giving tree in the foyer of the Church. Please take a green angel card from the tree and purchase a gift suitable for the age and gender of the person. Then wrap gift, tape the card you took onto the gift and return it to under the tree (up to or prior to the weekend of 14/15 December). There will also be a box for you to donate food or toiletry items (also something special for single mum's would be appreciated) for those in need within the wider Ballarat area. Your assistance with one or other or both these causes would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



**RCIA** next weekend (9th December) our three candidates (previously Baptized) will take their first public step in their journey towards full reception into the Church. The Rite of Acceptance (Rite of Welcoming) including the signing of senses will take place on Sunday morning during the 10am Mass. The Church will officially welcome the candidates as disciples, members (albeit not yet full members) of the household of faith. This rite is the "first consecration by the Church" for those seeking Christian initiation. They will literally be marked with the cross of Christ as God's own. We will also present them with their first Catholic Bible. Please keep Debra, Michelle and Charissa in your prayers.

**Advent Anointing Mass** will be held on Wednesday 12th December at 11am. This will be followed by a light luncheon. If you require transport please contact Judith in the Office.

**Advent Reconciliation** will be on Thursday 13th December at 7pm in the Church. All welcome

**ODC** please pick up your copy of the latest Our Diocesan Community magazine this weekend.

**Book sales** this weekend John van de Laar will be selling copies of his newly published book "Christian Monastic Development in the 4th Century" at \$25 a copy.

**Rosters** the next round of rosters will be sent out in the next couple of weeks and will also be available on line and a few printed copies will be in the foyer.

Collections	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 556.75	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 2597.20	Average for this financial year \$ 1676.02

NEXT WEEKEND		What's coming up:	
SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
8th December		9th December	
WELCOMER	Catherine Fara	Geraldine Mugavin	<b>Advance notice:</b>  <b>Christmas Mass times:</b> Christmas Eve: 6pm & 8pm Christmas Day: 9am Please add your name to the rosters in the foyer. Thank you!
COMMENTATOR	Rosemary Fithall	Judy Brown	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jennifer Adams	Jim Kierce	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Ann Lacey	Derek Streulens	
GIFTS	Madigan Family	Mandy Carroll	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Peter and Ruth Marquand, Trish Simmons	Judith O'Sullivan, Mary Kennedy, Irene Monigatti	
OVERHEADS	Norah & Stephen	Judith	
SACRISTAN	Norah	Anne	

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

*WELCOMING ~ SPIRIT OF MISSION ~ CHURCH/SCHOOL LINKS*

**Follow up to 'Mission For Life'.** A number of people who attended the sessions with Fr Richard Leonard sj have inquired how his books may be purchased. Purchases can be made through Pauline Books & Media, 7 Denmark Hill Rd., Hawthorn East 3123. Ph: 9822 3424; [www.paulinebooks.com.au](http://www.paulinebooks.com.au) The Diocesan Resource Centre at 5 Lyons St South, Ballarat has most of Richard's books available for borrowing. Contact Kate Lawry (5337 7149). REVIEW: So that the Parish Pastoral Council can effectively review the mission please complete the brief on-line survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6H3ZRTC> Your responses will assist in planning of any future events.



OLHC Parish

**The annual OLHC Christmas Day Lunch:** The hall will be set up on Saturday 22nd December at 10am, Food preparation will be on Monday December 24th at 10am. Forms will be provided for volunteers to place names. Many thanks for your time and assistance. Bookings for lunch **0419975914**.

Christmas Mass times:	St Columba's	OLHC	Waubra
Christmas Eve (24th Dec)	6:00 pm & 8:00 pm	7:00 pm	
Christmas Day (25th Dec)	9:00 am (Revised time)	10:00 am	8:30 am

**Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees' Pizza Lunch**—December 16th at 135 Bogong Ave, Invermay. \$15—BYO drinks and glasses. Celebrating friendship and supporting a local refugee family. Contact Carmel 0409 553 561

**Regina Caeli:** On Friday the 21st of December St Patrick's Cathedral will host Regina Caeli's "Carols in the Cathedral". The congregation are warmly invited to join in singing their favourite carols. Donations will be taken at the door to support the 3BA Christmas Appeal who donate to St Vincent de Paul, Anglicare, Uniting-Care and the Salvation Army.

**Sr. Connie Walsh RSM** was a former principal of OLHC school from 1969—1973. Sr Connie passed into eternal life earlier this week and was buried from St Alipius Church on Wednesday. May Connie rest in peace.

**Exodus Community** are seeking donations of food and Christmas gifts for community. Donations can be left in the basket in the foyer.

Collections	We thank you for your generous support		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 482	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 99
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 622	Weekly Average	\$ 1463
8th/9th December	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
<b>LEADER of SONG</b>	Sue Searls	Margaret White	<b>Thurs 6th</b> Miners Rest Mass at 7:30 pm at home of Pauline & Tony Newman  <b>Advance Notice:</b> <b>Exodus Mass</b> with Bishop Paul Bird at 5:30 pm <b>Anointing Mass</b> on Thursday December 13th at 11:00 am. All welcome. <b>Reconciliation:</b> Wednesday 19th at 7:00 pm
<b>MINISTER of the WORD</b>	Darryl Clark	Harry Kennedy	
<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	Lia Yu, Joyce Jackson, John Bourke + 2 volunteers	Tony Bruty, Helen Rieniets, Peter Briody + 2 volunteers	
<b>SACRISTAN</b>	Joyce Jackson	Helen & Mick Rieniets	
<b>COUNTERS</b>	Brendan Curran and G & T Doery		
<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	This Weekend— <b>Waubra</b>	Next Weekend— <b>Learmonth</b>	
<b>Minister of Word:</b>	Kerri Mullane	Roy Rhoderick	
<b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>	Margaret McDonald	Kerryn Gallagher	
<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Trish & Steve Coleman	Bev Hayward	