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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



National Prayer of Sorrow and Promise
16 December, 5pm

Mercy Place Chapel, Ballarat East
The Catholic Religious of Australia encourage the people of the Diocese to join them in prayer for those who have been abused, their families, and communities. All welcome. Enquiries: 0407820622 or 0419575419

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 Sajan 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: 11.00am
Anointing Mass

Mass times: Wendouree
Saturday: 6:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am Rural
10:00 am OLHC
Thursday: 11:00 am
Anointing Mass
Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:
Zep 3:14-18
Is 12:2-6 R. v.6
Phil 4:4-7
Lk 3:10-18



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Jimmy Simpson, Roslyn Tobin
Anniversaries: We remember: Fr John Martin, John Lever
We pray: for the sick of our Parishes, especially Saskiah Gallagher, Blake Dridan, for the success of the Plenary Council and for those on the RCIA journey for 2018/2019.

9th December ~ Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Focus on the Scriptures

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist encourages his followers to be patient, as the wait for salvation will soon be over. The Israelites longed to see the day when the Messiah would come. Each generation hoped and prayed that they would be the one to witness the appearance of God's anointed. The Jewish people still hope and pray for this event in every generation. But Jesus did not come as many expected. Some thought he would arrive in a dramatic event and the end of the world would occur. Others expected a regal entrance or a political overthrow of the Romans. Luke's Gospel repeatedly points out that the very people who longed for the day to see the Messiah missed out because they were looking for the wrong signs. John the Baptist is the first to see Jesus for who he really is for the world. He recognises that Jesus' sacrificial love can fill our valleys, lay mountains low, make crooked paths straight and rough ways smooth. Advent is not a season where we have to pretend that we do not know Jesus is coming and then put on mock surprise at Christmas. Advent is the season which celebrates a 'patient yes'. Every year all of us in the Church stand in a queue and remind ourselves of how blessed we are to have seen our salvation in Jesus. We remember the faith of those who longed to see what we see and to know what we know. And we cultivate our patience for life's valleys, mountains and crooked paths where sometimes we can feel Jesus' absence more than his presence, where only when we look back we can see he was with us all the way. So, as we all wait together in line this Advent let's say yes to all that salvation holds for us: yes to God's personal love; yes to Jesus' kingdom of justice and peace; yes to every opportunity to serve the Gospel and yes to knowing that our God is a companion to us at every step of our journey, even in the most unexpected ways.

Scottish poet John Bell expresses it this way:
*Light looked down and saw the darkness.
"I will go there", said light.
Peace looked down and saw war.
"I will go there", said peace.
Love looked down and saw hatred.
"I will go there", said love.
So he,
the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love,
came down and crept in beside us.'*



© Richard Leonard SJ

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

Love, pray, serve, hope & follow Jesus

Giving tree 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. Thank you.

RCIA on Sunday morning 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.

Baptism we congratulate Isaac James Cannane, son of Emma and Joshua and Billy Maurice Martin, son of Kerry and Kate, who will be baptized this weekend. We pray that they will grow in faith with the love and support of their parents, godparents and our parish community.



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. If you are able to assist with reading please contact Judith in the Office.

Rosters the next round of rosters have been sent out and are now available on line and a few printed copies are in the foyer. These start in January. 2019 Flower roster also now available.

Communion to the Sick Would those who take Communion to the sick and housebound please contact the Parish Office asap 5331 1012 or ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au with the name/s of those to whom you take Communion? This is to update our list and ensure we have enough hampers for pickup. Thank you

East Timor Knitting Program Please look in the Foyer at the articles for Silent Auction. Write an amount you would pay for an article and if you are the highest amount over the next few weeks you can purchase it. Most beautiful knitting is continually coming in for the babies and parents of East Timor. Words of thanks and appreciation have come from the Sisters and the families. In the foyer please note The Certificate of Appreciation that we have received on your account.

St Vincent de Paul Mass St Columba's SVdP will be celebrating its annual Mass this Monday night at 7pm. We would love to have you join us in this celebration which will be followed by a light supper. All welcome.

Sew and So Thursday 13th December at 1.30pm in the Church Foyer. This is our last gathering for the year so come along and enjoy an afternoon of Christmassy Celebration. Enquiries Margaret 53314032

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Friday 14th December 7pm to 8pm in the Church. All most welcome.

Collections	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 777.10	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1919.40	Average for this financial year \$ 1677.90

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	What's coming up:
	15th December	16th December	
WELCOMER	Ruth Marquand	Catherine Fara	Advance notice: Christmas Mass times: Christmas Eve: 6pm & 8pm Christmas Day: 9am Please add your name to the rosters in the foyer. Thank you!
COMMENTATOR	John van de Laar	Irene Monigatti	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Peter Dalton	Geraldine Mugavin	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Mary Dinning	Anthea Hinchey	
GIFTS	Volunteer please	Sharon De Beer	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Ann Lacey, Torie Waight, Maureen Eddy	Kathy Bennetts, Judy Brown, Eleanor Kennedy	
OVERHEADS	Trish	Megan	
SACRISTAN	Trish	Megan	

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 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>



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**.

Anointing Mass will be held on Thursday December 13th at 11:00 am. In OLHC Church. Morning tea to follow. All most welcome to attend.

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	10:00 am	8:30 am

Baptism Last weekend Sadie Solomon, daughter of Monica and Timothy was welcomed into the Catholic Church through the sacrament of Baptism at OLHC. As a Parish community we pray for Sadie and her family.

Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees Pizza Lunch—December 16th at 135 Bogong Ave, Invermay. \$15. BYO drinks and glasses. Celebrating friendship and support for 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".

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

Parish Maintenance There is a book now housed in the Sacristy in which to record any maintenance issues.

"Christian Monastic Development in the Fourth Century" John van de Laar (Ballarat Diocese) has written a book on monasticism in the early Church and the importance of women monastics in the fourth century. \$25 each

Collections	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 525	Loose money (2nd collection) \$ 98
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 760	Weekly Average \$ 1463

15th/16th December	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Vin Dillon	Exodus Mass with Bishop Paul Bird at 5:30 pm Wed 12th Dec at 4 Violet Grove Wendouree, followed by a BBQ.
MINISTER of the WORD	Kath Connors	Marie McMillan	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Bev Hayward, Trish Pearce, Des Lloyd + 2 volunteers	Harry Kennedy, Coralie Kennedy, Pauline Howard + 2 volunteers	Anointing Mass on Thursday December 13th at 11:00 am. All welcome.
SACRISTAN	Sue & John Calistro	Geoff & Marg McLean	
COUNTERS	Kath Leonard & Kay Stringer		Advance Notice: Reconciliation: Wednesday 19th at 7:00 pm
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend— Learmonth	Next Weekend— Waubra	
Minister of Word:	Roy Rhoderick	Tony McDonald	
Minister of Eucharist :	Kerryn Gallagher	Clare Mullane	
Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward	Trish Steve Coleman	