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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

### 16th December ~ Third Sunday of Advent (C)

#### Focus on the Scriptures

We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philippians announces that the Lord is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.



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**Responsorial Psalm:** Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**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

Tuesday: 11:00am (Hailey House Anointing Mass)

Wednesday: 9:30am

**Mass times: Wendouree**

Saturday: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Thursday: 11:00 am (Kelaston Anointing Mass)

Friday: 10:00 am

**Readings for next weekend:**

Mi 5:1-4

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19.

R. v.4

Heb 10:5-10

Lk 1:39-45



**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: Those who have died recently

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Sheila Veronica Gregory, Ronald Mark Edgar, Ronald Leslie Edgar, Maisie Lamb

**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.

## ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

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

**Christmas Rosters** roster sheets are now out for our Christmas Masses of 6pm and 8pm Christmas Eve and 9am Christmas Day. We still have a few places that need filling. If you are going to be at one of the Christmas Masses please add your name to the list. Thankyou

**Giving tree** Thank you so much for your very generous donations of food and gifts for those in need in the Ballarat north area. Your generosity will go a long way to helping the SVDP society in the Parish in their work.

**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.

**Flower roster** take two of the flower roster will be in the foyer. If you took one last week please take a corrected roster. Thank you

**Communion to the Sick** those who take communion into the home and would like to collect a hamper to deliver, can do so from the School office Monday to Friday next week. Contact Judith if you will be unable to collect before Wednesday during school hours.

**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 in 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.

**"Christian Monastic Development in the Fourth Century"** John van de Laar (St Columba's) has written a book on monasticism in the early Church and the importance of women monastics in the fourth century. The intention of this book is to give the reader some inside knowledge of the Christian Church in the fourth-fifth centuries, which saw corruption and disagreements between many sections of the church. It was a period where women were extremely influential and tried in many areas to maintain the original Christian teaching of Jesus, and the Scriptures, alive. Bishop Paul has written the foreword. Copies are available to peruse from the Catholic Education Office or for purchase for \$25.00 from John ph. 5300 2327.

**Diocesan Christmas Appeal** There will be an opportunity to contribute to the Bishops Christmas Appeal after Communion during the Christmas Masses, otherwise money for this appeal can be placed in an envelope clearly marked "Diocesan Appeal" can be left on the collection plate. Thank you in advance.

**Office closing** please note the Parish office will be closed from Thursday 20th December 1pm until Wednesday 23 January at 9am. Emails and phone messages will be checked regularly. Urgent messages can be left on the presbytery number ph: 5332 4324.

Collections	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 771.55	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,434.30	Average for this financial year \$ 1,678.20

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	What's coming up:
	22nd December	23rd December	
WELCOMER	John Madigan & Family	Pat & Bernie	<b>Christmas Mass times:</b> Christmas Eve: 6pm & 8pm Christmas Day: 9am Carols will proceed each of the Masses.
COMMENTATOR	Eileen van de Laar	Judy Brown	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jan Mullaly	Min Myers	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Trish Simmons	Jo-Anne van der Voort	
GIFTS	Jan & Linley	Lorna & Carmel	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Kathleen Keogh, Shirley Edgar, Jennifer Adams	Margaret Martino, Kay Merbach, Carole Barr	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer	Harry Chapman	
SACRISTAN	Maree	Maureen	

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

WELCOMING ~ SPIRIT OF MISSION ~ CHURCH/SCHOOL LINKS

**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	10:00 am	8:30 am
New Year's Day		9:00 am	

**Christmas Choir:** Singers to join the choirs at the Christmas masses will be appreciated.

**Regina Caeli:** On Friday the 21st of December at 7:00 pm 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.

**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>

**Catholic Man Breakfast Series** Men of all ages are invited to a Catholic Man Breakfast to be held on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Craig's Royal Hotel in Ballarat. The Breakfast will be hosted by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and will feature former leading Radio Executive, Shane Healy, as guest speaker. Further information from Chris Liston, ph. 0437 318 or email [251/chris.listo2@gmail.com](mailto:251/chris.listo2@gmail.com) or Vincent Sully, ph. 0407 310 115 or email [vcjdh.sully@gmail.com](mailto:vcjdh.sully@gmail.com).

**Parish Office:** From Dec 23rd until Thursday January 24th the Parish Office will be closed. Contact can be made via email: [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.ord.au](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.ord.au). The Message Bank on the Parish phone (5339 2302) will be checked regularly.

Collections	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 615	Loose money (2nd collection) \$ 85
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 682	Weekly Average \$ 1463

22nd/23rd December	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
<b>LEADER of SONG</b>	Veronica Stott	Sue Searls	<b>Reconciliation:</b> Wednesday 19th at 7:00 pm
<b>MINISTER of the WORD</b>	Pauline Howard	Deanna Osman	
<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	Mavis McNulty, Pauline Newman, Pat Dillon + 2 volunteers	Marie McMillan, Tony Bruty, Maxine Rousch + 2 volunteers	<b>Advance Notice:</b>
<b>SACRISTAN</b>	Pauline Howard	Peter & Sapphire Osman	
<b>COUNTERS</b>	Kath Leonard and Kay Stringer		
<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	This Weekend— <b>Waubra</b>	Next Weekend— <b>Learmonth</b>	
<b>Minister of Word:</b>	Tony McDonald	Fon Ryan	
<b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>	Clare Mullane	Bev Hayward	
<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Trish Steve Coleman	Bev Hayward	