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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

**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: 9:30 am

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

**Readings for next weekend:**  
Sir 3:2-6. 12-14  
1 Sm 1:20-22. 24-28  
Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1 or Ps 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10. R. v.5  
Col 3:12-21 or  
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24  
Lk 2:41-52

## 23rd December ~ 4th Sunday of Advent (C)

**Focus on the Scriptures**

This little gospel story tells us that 'the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and not merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'. Is this just poetic hyperbole?

We know that beautiful music can have a wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus, being carried by Mary in her pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations.

From the moment of the conception of Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to all human beings. The good news is that you and I and every human life ever conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit as Original Blessing.

There is a further and consoling truth. Every mother or father who has lost a baby too early needs to know that the same extraordinary sense of Our Lord's presence was felt by your baby. That Divine Presence conferred a powerful Original Blessing on that little life within the womb, and that same Presence accompanied your baby into the everlasting embrace of Divine Love in Heaven.

We could pause a moment to pray using the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. © Fr Michael Tate



**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

**We commend to God:**

**We remember:** Kerin Graham, Ron Morgan, Monica Morgan, Nancy Reidy, David Fithall, Maree Briody, Patrick Curran, Stephen Head and Teresa Head

**We pray:** for the sick of our Parishes, especially Sasskiah Gallagher, Blake Dridan, for the success of the Plenary Council, for those on the RCIA journey for 2018/2019 and for all those who find this time of the year difficult.

## ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

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

**The office** will be closed from Thursday 20th December at 1pm until 9am Wednesday 23rd January. For any urgent matters please call Fr Marcello at the Presbytery—phone 5332 4324.

**Thank you** We would like to thank all the co-ordinators and leaders of all the various groups in the Parish. Without you, a lot of what happens in the Parish just would not happen. So often you serve behind the scenes or without a thought of thanks. But, please be assured we appreciate all that you do!



**Notice sheets & rosters** Over January please be aware of any vacancies to rostered ministries. If you are there and can help, please do so. It would be greatly appreciated. There will be notice sheets and Living Word reflections in the foyer for each weekend over the holiday period. They will contain the current week-end roster. Rosters also on notice board.



**Baptism** we congratulate Luca Dovaston son of Simon and Rebecca, who will be baptized on Sunday morning. We pray that he will grow in faith with love and support of his parents, godparents and our parish community.

**Wednesday Masses** no Mass Boxing Day however Masses at 9.30am will continue through the holiday period. Many thanks to Fr Dan for your continue ministry in the Parish.

**Advertisers** We take this opportunity to thank our advertisers for their ongoing support of St Columba's Parish. We encourage you to use their products and/or services during the year.

**Diocesan Christmas Appeal** There will be an opportunity to contribute to the Diocesan 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.

**Christmas Rosters** please see notice board for Christmas ministry rosters

**New Year Mass** Tuesday 1st January 9am OLHC Wendouree

**Are You Planning a Trip to Sydney in January?** Why not stay at Mary MacKillop Place, in the heart of North Sydney! 30 minutes from the Airport, close to Ferries, Trains, Sydney Harbour foreshore, Opera House and more! for Accommodation Enquiries please call 02 89124800



Collections	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 693.60	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1638.05	Average for this financial year \$ 1659.75

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	29th December	30th December
WELCOMER	Margaret Ranger	Alison Thorpe
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh (Snr)	Terry Grano
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Ruth Marquand	Brian Kennedy
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Maureen Mooney	Carmel King
GIFTS	Margaret R & Anne Caine	Colleen & Judith
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Kate Lawry, Troy Severino, Jan Mullaly	Georgina Hinchey, Colleen Wakefield, Bruce Chapman
OVERHEADS	Kathleen (if needed)	Sharon (if needed)
SACRISTAN	Volunteer	Josie



## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

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

**Plenary Council Reference Team:** Thank you to all those who have put forward your views about 'What God is asking of us in Australia at this time?' *Your contribution is valued.*

Don't forget there is opportunity to make your comments on-line at [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au) or fill in a sheet available from the Church gathering space. maybe during the quieter times of January. There will be more opportunity to put our thoughts in February. In the meantime have a Happy and Holy Christmas!

**Rotary Car Raffle Tickets** Please return the butts and money in a sealed envelope a.s.a.p. Envelopes can be place on the collection plate at Mass. Thank you. *Pauline Newman*

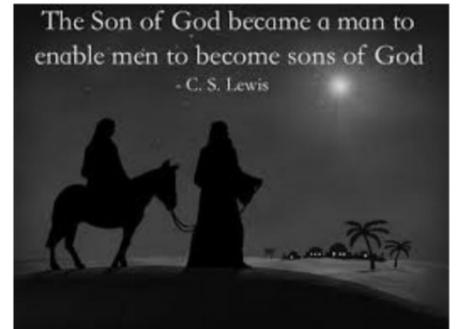


**Thank you** to the members of the various ministries of OLHC parish who have generously made significant contributions to the workings of the parish over the past 12 months.

**Sr Margaet Carmody S.J.S** celebrates her 50th anniversary of profession this coming January. Due to health issues Margaret is unable to join with the congregational celebrations during early December. Thus: all invited to Mass and supper on Tuesday 8th January, 2019 at 5:00 pm at St Mary's Church, Colac. For Religious Sisters and Priests: RSVP by January 7th (Fr. Michael O'Toole)

**Parish Office:** From Dec 21st until January 24th the Parish Office will be closed. Contact can be made via email: [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au). The Message Bank on the Parish phone (5339 2302) will be checked regularly.

*Marcello, Maree and Judith wish all parishioners of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish and St Columba's Parish the blessings of the Christmas season.*



Collections	We thank you for your generous support		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 667	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 147
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 1420	Weekly Average	\$ 1431

30th/31st December	6pm	10am
<b>LEADER of SONG</b>	Laureen Rhodes	Vin Dillon
<b>MINISTER of the WORD</b>	Margot Mulcahy	Anne Briody
<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	Lia Yu, Joyce Jackson, John Bourke + 2 volunteers	Christine Richardson, Sue Searls, Margaret White + 2 volunteers
<b>SACRISTAN</b>	Tony & Pauline Newman	Joyce Jackson
<b>COUNTERS</b>	Peter & Deanna Osman	
<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	This week: <b>Learmonth</b>	Next Week: <b>Lexton</b>
<b>Minister of Word:</b>	Ton Ryan	Tony Cini
<b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>	Bev Hayward	Sharon Moran
<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Bev Hayward	

