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wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Ph: 5332 4894
Or speak with Fr Marcello

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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
Friday: 12:00 noon
(Opening Mass St Columba's School)

Mass times: Wendouree
Saturday: 6:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am Rural
10:00 am OLHC
Thursday: 10:00 am
7.30 pm (Miners Rest Mass)

Readings for next weekend:
Is 6:1-8
Ps 137:1-5. 7-8. R. v.1
1 Cor 15:1-11
Lk 5:1-11

3rd February 2019 ~ 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Focus on the Scriptures

This week's gospel reading continues the story of Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth. At first he is universally accepted: the people of Nazareth marvel at the gracious words he utters. They identify him as Joseph's son. By the end of the story, however, these same people actually try to kill him. So, what happens in between to cause such a dramatic change of heart? These are religious people, not an unruly street mob. They are friends of the family. They are familiar with their sacred texts and traditions and presumably want to understand them more fully. In fact, they are like many of us who take time out on a weekly basis to come together for worship and prayer. The people of Nazareth seem to be carrying a sense of exclusive entitlement to God's favour, as well as some deeply entrenched prejudices against the neighbouring Syrians and Phoenicians. Their history is largely one of conflict with neighbours, of struggle for survival, and some are unwilling to relinquish their unhealed local and ethnic grievances. This story is about power and control. When Jesus suggests that God's prophetic and healing power is accessible to and may even be more readily received among foreigners than within Israel, the anger of those who consider themselves "the chosen" knows no bounds: it spills over into violence. They have little patience with the implicit criticism of their attitudes to outsiders and the challenge of his prophetic words. One of the problems with the narrative is that Jesus seems to be deliberately provoking a negative reaction. There are other problems as well: there is no cliff in Nazareth from which the enraged crowd could cast him to his death, and it is highly unlikely that people of this tiny town of two to four hundred Galilean Jews would resort to murdering one of their own for what they see as a verbal assault. So what is going on? It would seem that the gospel writer is putting elements of later stories about the violent treatment of Jesus and his followers into this episode in order to foreshadow what is to come. The story thus becomes a microcosm of the gospel as a whole. When the message is comforting, the messenger is well received. When it is less palatable, the messenger is in danger of being attacked or manipulated, more often than not at the hands of people who are basically good people like us. Unchecked assumptions, deep-seated biases, and uncontrolled emotions will function to bring the anointed prophet of the God of Israel to a violent death. This story invites us to check our assumptions and our biases lest we turn to physical, verbal, or emotional violence in the face of a prophetic challenge.
Veronica Lawson RSM



Responsorial Psalm: I will sing of your salvation.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Judie Cross (Bondi).
Anniversaries: We remember: Mary & Bill Martin
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.

World Day of Prayer 2019 will be at St Columba's Ballarat North on Friday 1st March 2019 at 2pm. If anyone from any Ballarat Parish would like to be involved in the prayer service as a reader, musician, greeter or could assist with the hospitality please contact Judith on 5331 1012 asap.



Stewardship Reflections "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous." (1 Corinthians 13:4)

Do you get jealous? Do you focus more on the things that other people have than on the gifts that God has given to you? Are you pompous? Do you acquire more possessions to impress others? At times we are all guilty of these things. Pray for more humility. Pray to become less "self-centered" and become more "God-centered".

Parish Stewardship Renewal, February - March 2019 The Ballarat North and Wendouree Parishes, together with the other 4 parishes of Ballarat are working together for a Parish Stewardship Renewal. Frank Schobben from the Development Office will facilitate this renewal with the assistance of our own Stewardship Renewal Team of Jim Kierce, David Fara, Kierce O'Loughlin, Lisha Hewitt, Peter Eddy, Bruce Chapman, Anthea Hinchey, Trish Simmons (Ballarat North) and Mike Beaumont, Adrienne Cove, Pauline and Tony Newman (Wendouree).

Parish 'Our Future' Forum All parishioners are warmly invited to special forums as part of the Program – the Our Future Forum - **Ballarat North: Tuesday February 26th** at 10.30am and 7.00pm in the foyer of St Columba's Church; **Wendouree: Thursday 28th February** at 10.30 and 7.00pm in OLHC Church. This is a great opportunity to make your contribution to the discussion. Please mark this date in your calendar. Full Program details will be available on the dedicated Program page on our parish website – which will be updated regularly throughout the Program.

Miners Rest Mass Thursday 7th February 7.30pm at the home of Rose & Brendan O'Brien.


Baptism Preparation—for those families who are wishing to have their child (under 7 years) Baptised, the next Preparation session will be held on Thursday 7th Feb at 10:00 am or 7:00 pm at the Cathedral Hall. Please contact Maree or Judith for more information.



The Diocesan Social Justice Commission was re-established by the then-Bishop Peter Connors after a gap of some years. Since then, it has continued to operate with the active participation of Bishop Paul Bird. Over the years, the Commission has conducted conferences dealing with such matters as the role of families, refugees and asylum seekers and domestic violence. It has organised ecumenical welcomes to social justice statements by the Australian Catholic Bishops and has corresponded with politicians. It is a sponsor of the Palm Sunday March in Melbourne in support of refugees and asylum seekers. It has set up a social justice noticeboard which is linked to the Diocesan website. Members of the Commission are: Bishop Bird, Anthea Hinchey (Chair), Tony Fitzgerald (Centacare), Sue Searls (Catholic Missions and Caritas), Jo Rix (Catholic Earthcare), Mary Rita Thomas (Saint Vincent de Paul Society), Rachel Smith (Executive Member), Stacey Atkins (Catholic Education Office), Fiona Tonkin (Minutes), Jim Ryan and Noel Gregory (Parishioners). The Committee would like to make contact with parish and other local groups interested in social justice issues for a number of reasons. First, to inform them of its activities. Secondly, to give publicity to their activities. Thirdly, to seek opportunities for co-operation and mutual support. (The Commissions has held joint meetings with parish groups in Ararat and Colac). The Commission would be grateful if you could give us contact information about any such groups with an interest in social justice. Noel Gregory, 5334 5544 pyramidhill@hotmail.com


OLHC Combined Ministries Roster for March to June 2019 is now being prepared. If you would like to be included in this roster for any of the Ministries, please contact Maree at OLHC (phone 5339 2302 or email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au). If those already included on the Roster have any specific requests, please contact the Ministry co-ordinator, or Maree.

Thirsting for God: Faith Seeking Understanding Venue: Mercy Gathering Room, Gent Street, Ballarat East. Dates: February 14, March 14; April 11; May 9; June 6. Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson invite parishioners to sign up for five two-hour sessions on faith commitment in the contemporary world. Simply contact Sr. Veronica by email (veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au) or by text (0408392297) before February 4. Kindly provide contact details (email and mobile) and indicate whether you wish to enrol in the afternoon sessions (1-3pm) or the evening sessions (7pm-9pm). Donation to cover costs is \$25. Note that this is a new course, not a repeat of sessions held over the past four years.

Sew'n'So Thursday 14th February at 1.30pm in the Church Foyer. Come along and start off the year with some pleasant company.  Enquiries Margaret 53314032

RCIC Baptism preparation sessions for children over the age of 7 will begin shortly. If you have a child seeking Baptism please contact one of the Parish Offices to register your interest.

OHLC Maintenance Any issues with broken equipment or facilities should be reported to the Parish Office (Maree) via phone (5339 2302), email (wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or reporting the issue by writing in the Maintenance book which is housed in the sacristy.

Holy Hour and Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament St Columba's Church Friday 8th February 7pm-8pm. All most welcome. 

Refugee Dads and Kids Weekend Registrations are now open for our next Refugee Dads and Kids Weekend which will be held from 22-24 March 2019 at Log Cabin Camp in Creswick. CatholicCare invites refugee dads to bring along one of their children between the ages of 8-16 for a FREE fun weekend experience, which acknowledges and celebrates the importance of a father in a child's life. If you know a family who would benefit from this experience, or if you would like further information, please contact me at Leanne.McKenner@ccam.org.au

Collections at St Columba's		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 689.20		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1432.85	Average for this financial year	\$ 1678.69

Collections at OLHC		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 580	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 257
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 781	Weekly Average	\$ 1,497

SC 9th/10th February	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's coming up:	OLHC 9th/10th Feb	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
WELCOMER	Margaret Schreenan	Geraldine Mugavin	Parish Council Meeting Thursday 14th Feb at 7pm in the Office Meeting Room	LEADER of SONG	Laureen Rhodes	Margaret White	
COMMENTATOR	Ann Lacey	Colleen Wakefield		MINISTER of the WORD	Ena Bruty	Marie McMillan	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Peter Dalton	Jim Kierce	Rite of Naming on Sunday 24th February during the 10am Mass in preparation for the Rite of Election.	MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Lia Yu, John Bourke, Joyce Jackson, + 2 volunteers	Marie McMillan, Harry Kennedy, Coralie Kennedy + 2 volunteers	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Ruth Marquand	Derek Streulens	Rite of Election For those on the RCIA journey, the Rite of Election to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, will now be held on Saturday 2nd March at 12.30pm. All welcome RSVP numbers for lunch to Judith by 20th Feb.	SACRISTAN	Joyce Jackson	Geoff & Marg McLean	
GIFTS	Simmons Family	Maureen & Hans		COUNTERS	Kath Connors & Helen Rieniets		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Trish Simmons, Kathleen Keogh, Jennifer Adams	Alison Thorpe, Torie Waight, Carole Barr		Rural Communities 8:30 am	This week -Waubra	Next Week-Learmonth	
OVERHEADS	Norah & Stephen	Judith		Minister of Word:	James Molloy	Roy Rhoderick	
SACRISTAN	Norah Moloney	Anne		Minister of Eucharist :	Tony McDonald	Bev Hayward	
				Church Cleaning:	Clare & Kerry Mullane	Bev Hayward	