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ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au Ph: 5331 1012 or wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au Ph: 5332 4894 Or speak with Fr Marcello

2019 Class Reunions Past students and staff of Damascus College and its foundation colleges, Sacred Heart, St Paul's and St Martin's in the Pines are invited to celebrate the following reunions:

- Class of 1969 Sunday 24 March 12.30pm
- Class of 1979 Saturday 23 March 2pm
- Class of 1989 Saturday 16 March 2pm
- Class of 1999 Friday 15 March 6.30pm
- Class of 2009 Friday 22 March 6.30pm

Full details and booking information www.damascus.vic.edu.au/past-students-reunions-events



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)

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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

17th February 2019 ~ 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

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: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Tuesday 5:00 pm

Thursday: 11:00 am Kelaston

Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

1 Sm 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

1 Cor 15:45-49

Lk 6:27-38



Focus on the Scriptures

We are unlikely to consider ourselves blessed or happy when we cannot pay our bills or put food on the table. We are likewise slow to count our blessings, much less dance for joy, when we find ourselves in tears or when we are excluded, rejected, and treated with contempt. We are more likely to consider ourselves blessed when we do not have to be constantly worried about money or food and when others treat us with respect. So why does Luke's Jesus declare the poor and suffering happy or blessed? And why does he seem to be so hard on those who enjoy economic security and the respect of others? What does the gospel say to those of us who are somewhere between the destitute who are declared blessed and the wealthy who are told to watch out? What does this gospel offer to those who attract neither praise nor blame? There are no easy answers to any of this, beyond the clear evidence that Luke's Sermon on the Plain engages the theme of reversal that permeates this gospel.

The poor are told that the reign of God is theirs. In other words, it is a present rather than a future reality. The poor can at least know that they are acceptable to God in ways that may be incomprehensible to the wealthy who, in their turn, are challenged to share their wealth. It is not much consolation for the hungry or those who weep to know that their "reward will be great in heaven" if heaven is a place enjoyed only in the afterlife. "Heaven" is better understood as a way of talking about God's empire of justice and compassion. Reversal is expected in this life rather than the next. Weeping is usually connected in the prophetic literature with the disasters that flow from "ungodly" decisions. In our times, there are many weeping over "ungodly" decisions in relation to asylum seekers and carbon emissions. Laughter seems a remote possibility for many displaced people of our world. We are reminded today of the gospel imperative to work and pray that war-torn and climate affected countries will once again resonate with the sound of happy laughter.

Finally, our experience makes us wary of those who flatter us or put us on pedestals. It is generally only a matter of time before we fall from favour and find ourselves on the receiving end of criticism or even attack. It is ultimately better to be misunderstood and to be at peace with one's conscience in the pursuit of compassion and justice than to be the object of adulation and praise. I suspect it is only in handling life's challenges with dignity, grace, and single-minded focus on the gospel that we find blessing or happiness.

Veronica Lawson RSM



Responsorial Psalm: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Valerie Lavery, John Rennie, Margaret Marshall

Anniversaries: We remember: Maureen Daly, Mary Squires

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 & RCIC journey for 2018/2019.

Stewardship Reflections "Blessed are you when people hate you,... exclude and insult you, and denounce your name...on account of the Son of Man." (Luke 6:22)
 All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time, the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Pray for the strength and courage to proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations.

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.

World Day of Prayer 2019 will be at St Columba's Ballarat North on Friday 1st March 2019 at 2pm. Please contact Judith on 5331 1012 if you can assist on the day with music, hospitality, reading or greeting. Your help would be greatly appreciated.



Sacred Concert with David Parkes Irish singer, David Parkes, is a renowned international singer and witness on the great mercy of Our Lord through the intercession of Our Lady. David will be performing a Sacred Concert on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at Nazareth House Chapel, Ballarat. Holy Mass will be held at 6.30pm, followed by the Sacred Concert at 7.00pm. All welcome

OLHC 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 writing the issue in the Maintenance Book, which is housed in the sacristy.

Plenary Council 2020 Submissions for the Plenary Council are open until March 6, 2019. Bishop Paul has filmed a short video which can be viewed on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. Catholic School Parents Victoria are holding Listening and Dialogue Sessions on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat Mary Glowrey Room. There are two sessions from 1.00pm – 2.30pm and 5.00pm – 6.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Blessing of Rivers Saturday 16 February saw a blessing of rivers at the Murray-Darling river system to raise awareness of the climate emergency. We need to pay attention to the precious gift of water for the life of the entire Earth Community, and to pray for the healing of river systems. Of particular concern is the Murray-Darling river system where up to a million fish, including 100-year-old Murray cod, died on 6-7 January in one of the biggest environmental catastrophes to ever hit the river. This follows the fish kill before Christmas and local people have since reported that a third fish kill occurred overnight on 27 January.

'Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry...' (Pope Francis, Laudato Si', #28)



Rite of Naming RCIA—The Rite of Naming will be held on Sunday 24th February during the 10am Mass. This is for our RCIA and RCIC candidates in preparation for the Rite of Election which will be held on Saturday 2nd March 2019 at 12.30pm in the Cathedral. All welcome to attend. Please keep our candidates in your prayers.

Joy Spreading with Bishop Paul The next Joy Spreading event for young adults (18–30 yo) featuring Guest Speaker Bishop Paul Bird with Q&A, will be held on Friday, February 22, 2019 from 6.30pm-8.30pm at the Lake View Hotel Ballarat. An opportunity for young adults to share ideas and views in a friendly environment. This is a free event. Snacks and drinks provided. More info: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7125.

Mission: one heart many voices 2019 Conference in May Mission: one heart many voices 2019 is for those who are inspired to strive creatively for justice, peace, reconciliation and God's mission of love. As we journey together towards Plenary Council 2020, the conference is a unique opportunity to listen, converse and experience the many and diverse voices that are an expression of the one heart of mission. The conference will explore the complexity and issues surrounding leadership, formation, theology and the practice of mission. All those who are passionate about mission and in leadership roles in parishes, communities, organisations and agencies are invited to come together and join a conversation that may enable us all to live the joy of the Gospel and lead mission.

World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend 2019 Melbourne weekend dates: 29-31 March 2019, 31 May-2 June 2019, 23-25 August 2019, and 15-17 November, 2019. Information in the foyers of both churches.

OLHC Combined Ministries Rosters are now available. Emailed copies have been sent to participating ministers. Hard copies are available in the OLHC Sacristy.

Loreto College International Women's Day Breakfast Guest Speaker will be Danielle James (class of 1999) – co-founder and Director of Pipe Pro Directional Drilling. Friday, March 8 at 7.00am at the Ballarat Golf Club <https://loreto.vic.edu.au/events-publications-media/loreto-event/>

Catholic Women Responding to the Spirit The Council for Australian Catholic Women warmly invites you to their 2019 National Colloquium from February 22-24 in Adelaide. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

PALMS Australia information session for anyone interested in an immersive cultural experience (April 7th—19th, 2019) in Timor Leste. Information flyer is posted in Church foyer. Web address: Palms.org.au/encounters

The Catholic Man Breakfast 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 info from Chris Liston, ph. 0437 318 251 or chris.listo2@gmail.com

Collections at St Columba's		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 719.35		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1241.00	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)	\$ 690	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 139
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 995	Weekly Average	\$ 1497

SC 23/24th February	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's coming up:	LHC 23/24th Feb	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
WELCOMER	Mary & Margaret Sullivan	Helen Linane	Rite of Naming on Sunday 24th February during the 10am Mass in preparation for the Rite of Election.	LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Veronica Stott	Wed 20th Liturgy Meeting
COMMENTATOR	Eileen van der Laar	Pat Kenna		MINISTER of the WORD	Darryl Clark	Anne Briody	Thurs 21st Mass at Kelaston at 11 am
FIRST MINISTER OF THE	Jan Mullaly	Min Myers	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.	MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Mavis McNulty, Pat Dillon, Pauline Newman + 2 volunteers	Judith Potter, Sue Searls, Margaret White + 2 volunteers	Next Week:
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Trish Simmons	Jo-Anne van der Voort		SACRISTAN	Pauline Howard	Joyce Jackson	Thurs 28th OLHC Forum -Stewardship Program at 10:00 am & 7:00 pm.
GIFTS	David & Catherine Farra	Sharon de Beer		COUNTERS	Des Lloyd and John Calistro		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Jan Mullaly, Annette Madigan, Peter Marquand	Anthea Hinchey, Irene Monigatti, Judith O'Sullivan		Rural Communities 8:30 am	This week -Waubra	Next Week-Learmonth	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Judith		Minister of Word:	Cate Molloy	Bill Keating	
SACRISTAN	Maree Phelan	Maureen	Minister of Eucharist :	Sharon Moran	Bev Hayward		
				Church Cleaning:	Clare & Kerry Mullane	Bev Hayward	