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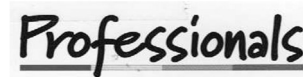
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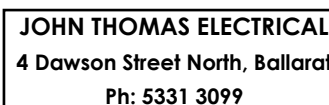
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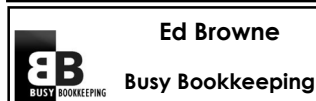
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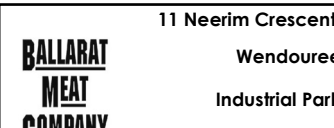


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### Child Safe Church

Here at the Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office. Our Safe Guarding Officers are Peter Marquand (SC) and Maree Roache (OLHC) and you can download our Code of Conduct and Child Safety Policy from the Parish website or on the foyer notice board. If you have any concerns whatsoever—please contact the Parish Office, Fr. Marcello or one of the Safe Guarding Officers at ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

### More notices:

**Catholic Women's League Retreat** Father Thomas Casanova (Confraternity of Christ the Priest) will be giving a three day retreat at Nazareth House on Monday 18th march through to Wednesday 20th March (Lent) Daily Mass and Confessions. This retreat will be hosted by the Catholic Women's League, Cathedral Branch but will be open to all. Details next week. Inquiries 0401 175045



## 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

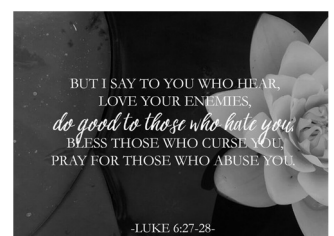
24th February 2019 ~ 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

### Focus on the Scriptures

Perhaps one of the most difficult lessons to learn is forgiveness of those whom we consider our enemies, those who have wronged us. As challenging as this may be, the Gospel calls us to a very high standard: we must be merciful as God is merciful. If such perfection can become a reality in our lives, we will be able to forgive. Paul assures us that we can indeed attain such perfection, not by ourselves, but through the power of the risen Lord whose image we bear.

Paul plays with the theology of creation. In the beginning, we were made like the first Adam, earthly, limited, weak, concerned about the things of this world, and committed to our own well being. Through baptism we have been fashioned after the image of the second Adam, Christ the risen Lord. Being like Christ, we become godlike, empowered with his saving power, transformed with him into new beings. It is now in our power, which is really the power of the resurrection, to be merciful as God is merciful. In the risen Lord we experience a mystical transformation. From now on, all of our actions can flow from this new reality.

Transformed by the power of the resurrection, we are capable of unprecedented good works. We can live without retaliation; we can render good for evil. We can be prodigal in our generosity toward others; we can relinquish any rights of proprietorship that we might enjoy. We can live with others without unfairly judging them. We can be like God, boundless in our forgiveness.



© Dianne Bergant CSA

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: 10:00 am

Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Sir 27:4-7

Ps 91:2-3, 13-16, R. See

v.2

1 Cor 15:54-58

Lk 6:39-45



**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Mary Mahar, Kevin McLaughlin, Mary McCluskey, Elaine Drake (sister of Robert Rhodes)

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Rod Lacey, Patrick (Joe) Duggan

**We pray:** for the sick of our Parishes, especially Sasskiah Gallagher, Blake Dridan, for the success of the Plenary Council and for those on the RCIA & RCIC journey for 2019.

**Stewardship Reflections** "But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without expecting anything back." (Luke 6:35)

Easier said than done, right? But, if we are to imitate Christ, most of us need to practice mercy and compassion more frequently. Start with the little daily annoyances that we experience, the unkind word or hateful glance we receive. Instead of plotting revenge on that person, try saying a quick prayer for that person. Mercy and compassion will put us on the path to holiness


**Parish 'Our Future' Forum** All parishioners are warmly invited to special forums as part of the Program – the Our Future Forum **This week- 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. Also check the Program page on our parish website – is being updated regularly throughout the Program.



**St Columba's Men's group** will be held on Thursday 28th February at 2pm in the Church foyer. Men welcome to join us for a cuppa and a chat. For further information or if you need transport please contact Judith 5331 1012.

**Plenary Council 2020 - Have you had your say?** Last chance to have your say. Please submit your responses by Ash Wednesday, March 6 2019 at [www.plenarycouncil.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.org.au) or contact the Pastoral Ministry Office ph 5337 7159

**Rite of Election** is an important part of the process of a person's journey to full membership in the Catholic Church community and one which is greatly appreciated by all who participate. This applies to both adults and children of catechetical age. The Rite of Election for catechumens, candidates and children of catechetical age will take place on Saturday, March 2, at 12.30 pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. The presider will be Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, ph. 5337 7159 or [pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

 **Ash Wednesday Masses** (Wednesday 6th March) will be at 9.15am at OLHC and 11am at St Columba's.

**RCIA**—At St Columba's This weekend our three adult and six children will make the next step in their journey towards full acceptance into the Church by signing the Book of Enrolment. This Book is then taken to the Rite of Election next Saturday at the Cathedral (12.30pm—all welcome) and is presented to the Bishop. At this rite, upon the testimony of sponsors and catechists and the catechumens' affirmation of their intention to join the Church, the Church makes its "election" of these catechumens to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. Now the catechumens are called "the elect". They now begin a Period of Purification and Enlightenment — the final, intense preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. Please keep them in your prayers.

**Palms** please return any palms you received last year on Palm Sunday so that they can be prepared for Ash Wednesday. There will be a box in the St Columba's church foyer next weekend for you to place them in. There will be a basket in OLHC foyer to place your palms in ready for the school ceremony on Shrove Tuesday.



**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](mailto:Leanne.McKenner@ccam.org.au)

**Nazareth House Ballarat - Auxiliary Membership** Nazareth House Auxiliary would like to welcome new members. If you feel you would like to contribute in some way in supporting Nazareth House, please come and join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 1.30pm. For more info contact Margaret, ph. 0419003415 (Secretary). Everyone most welcome.

**Liturgy preparation** St Columba's Parish is looking for people to assist over Holy week. If you can assist please let Judith know in the Office. Rosters for these ceremonies will be put out during Lent.



**World Day of Prayer 2019** For 92 years Australia has enthusiastically shared in this inspirational, international, intercultural and interdenominational tsunami of prayer around our planet within 24 hours. This year, Slovenia has prepared the prayer service for the whole world with the theme: "Come – Everything is ready." You are invited to join with them, and three million Christians around the world, at a service near you. For our area this service will be on Friday 1st March 2019 at 2pm (St Columba's Church) All welcome. Please bring a plate of afternoon tea.

**Mass of the Oils: Monday, April 15, 2019** The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday, April 15, 2019. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2019 – the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. All members of the diocese are invited to participate in this celebration which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church. Ministries required for the Mass of the Oils include ushers, readers, oils bearers, presentation of the gifts, collection of oils, musicians and singers. For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, ph. 5337 7159 or [pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Exodus Community Donations** The leadership team of Exodus are now able to receive donations of food to support their community. Please support this very worthy project.


**Project Compassion** will commence with the beginning of Lent. Donation boxes and envelopes are available in the foyers of both churches.

**Sacramental Programs 2019** Advance notice. OLHC and St Columba's parish communities will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation in June. Enrolment and preparation will be held in the early Term 2 (May). More details to follow.

**Visiting Group:** Thursday March 14th at 1:30 pm—2:30 pm. at OLHC Parish Centre; Invitation to any parishioners who do any visiting in the parish. A guest speaker will make a presentation. All welcome

Collections at St Columba's		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 717.60		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 2,936.90	Average for this financial year	\$ 1,731.25

Collections at OLHC		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 704	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 65
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 819	Weekly Average	\$ 1497

SC 2nd/3rd March	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	Liturgy tips	OLHC 2nd/3rd March	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
<b>WELCOMER</b>	Catherine Fara	Geraldine Mugavin	 <p><b>This week's tip:</b> Ministers of the Word: Do you know that the readings are uploaded on our website for you to practice before Mass at the weekend?</p>	<b>LEADER of SONG</b>	Lauren Rhodes	Margaret White	Wed 27th St V d P. 11:45 @ Violet Grove 10:30 am
<b>COMMENTATOR</b>	Tom Keogh (Snr)	Jo-Anne van de Voort		<b>MINISTER of the WORD</b>	Margot Mulcahy	Mario Cordioli	Thurs 28th OLHC Forum - Stewardship Program at 10:00 am & 7:00 pm.
<b>FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD</b>	Ruth Marquand	Brian Kennedy		<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	Lia Yu, John Bourke, Joyce Jackson + 2 volunteers	Peter Briody, Marie McMillan Pauline Howard, + 2 volunteers	<b>Next Week:</b>
<b>SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD</b>	Maureen Mooney	Carmel King		<b>SACRISTAN</b>	John & Sue Calistro	Mick & Helen Rieniets	Sun 3rd Cuppa after Mass hosted by the Time Out Family Group
<b>GIFTS</b>	Kath Scanlon	Pat & Bernie		<b>COUNTERS</b>	Des Lloyd & John Calistro		Tues 5th Ashes Ceremony 11:40 am
<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	Ann Lacey, Maureen Eddy, Kathleen Keogh	Kathy Bennets, Judy Brown, Eleanor Kennedy		<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	<b>Learmonth</b>	<b>Waubra</b>	Wed 6th Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:15 am.
<b>OVERHEADS</b>	Troy Severino	Sharon de Beer		<b>Minister of Word:</b>	Bill Keating	William Gallagher	
<b>SACRISTAN</b>	Sullivan sisters	Josie	<b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>	Bev Hayward	Margaret McDonald		
				<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Bev Hayward	Anne Dalton	