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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 Wau- bra) 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

Other notices:

Parish Appointments: Bishop Paul Bird has announced:

- Fr Bill van de Camp will be retiring on weekend 4-5 May.
- Fr John Fitzgerald will become administrator of Koroit and Port Fairy in addition to St Joseph's in Warrnambool.
- Fr John Corrigan (Western Border Parish) will become assistant priest at Koroit, Port Fairy and Warrnambool.
- Fr Anthony Nagothu (St Patrick's Cathedral) will become assistant priest in the Western Border Parish.



Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Ballarat North, Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest, Wau- bra, 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 March 2019 ~ 3rd Sunday in Lent (C)

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante
Visiting Priests: Fr Gary Jones
Fr Anthony Nagothu
Fr Sajan Mathew
Fr Vincent Pham CSsR

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: 9:30am
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:
Jos 5:9-12
Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9
2 Cor 5:17-21
Lk 15:1-3. 11-32



Focus on the Scriptures

The Lenten theme of repentance (metanoia) is the central teaching of today's Gospel. As Jesus moves towards Jerusalem, he speaks with a sense of great urgency to the crowds who come to him. Time is short. Jesus gives the crowd two very graphic images of disasters: the first is of Pilate slaughtering some Galileans while they were offering their sacrifices, and the second is a tower near the pool of Siloam that suddenly collapsed. Jesus' message to the crowd is, 'Don't think this couldn't happen to you.' There was a tendency to see the hand of God behind such sudden, apparently haphazard disasters, and so to think that those caught up in these events were being punished for sin. In this way some could be thinking, 'This couldn't happen to me. They deserved it.' Jesus warns against such complacency. The parable of the fig tree reiterates this teaching. Time is running out. Today is the moment of choice.

The 'time is short' message is not meant to frighten us with thoughts of death, but to urge us to live authentically. Live fully. Live each moment purposefully. Are we people who choose life, or does life just happen to us?

Jesus often taught using parables, such as the one in today's Gospel. The point of a parable is that some comparison is being made between the image in the story and the life of Jesus' listeners. Paul also uses comparisons as a teaching technique. Today, speaking to the community at Corinth he reminds them of the experience of the Israelites in the Exodus. They passed through the waters of the Sea, they were guided by the pillar of cloud; they were fed by the manna – and yet, in spite of all these signs of God's lavish care, they all died; so be warned.



© Mary Coloe (Abridged)
Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.
Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: All who have died recently

Anniversaries: We remember: John McNamara, Annie Sullivan, Yvonne Cluff, Connie Vincent

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

March 24, 2019 - 3rd Sunday of Lent "He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" (Luke 13:7)

We can all be like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have or do you generously share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, we are called to develop and nurture our gifts and return with increase.

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 If you can assist at the Mass of the Oils as a reader, singer or musician or collector of oils please contact your Parish office.

Stations of the Cross will be offered on Fridays during Lent at 6.30pm in St Columba's Church. This will be followed by a time of reflection and sharing on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. All welcome to join in this wonderful preparation for Easter. For further info please contact Judith on 5331 1012



Exodus Community Donations. Please support this very worthwhile project via donations of non-perishable food stuffs. Donation basket in OLHC foyer.

Rosters for Holy Week St Columba's are now in the foyer for you to complete. Readers please take readings from the back of the clipboard. Palm Sunday Passion copy is only for the Narrator. Further rosters will begin after Easter please contact Judith asap for any changes. Thank you

2019 Celtic Winter Wonderland Tour of Ireland Nov 27th—Dec 11th, 2019. Flyer with tour details is in the foyer of each church.

Project Compassion 3rd Sunday of Lent Peter is thrilled to now have clean water on tap at his boarding school. Long walks to unsafe water sources were tiring for Peter, who is living with a disability. With more free time and fewer illnesses caused by dirty water, Peter can fulfil his hope of focusing on his studies, providing him with brighter future Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help young people with disabilities gain access to clean water in the Solomon Islands, providing hope for a brighter future. Lives change when we all give 100%! You can donate through Parish boxes & envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or ph 1800 024 413.



Developing Parents' Digital Literacy and Tackling Cyberbullying Damascus College presents this free community workshop discussing the strengths and challenges of navigating the online world as a young person. Learn about major social media platforms and the issue of cyberbullying, plus how you can use to support young people online. This session allows for an open Q&A at the end. Wed, May 1, 2019 from 7 8.30pm at the John Shannon Centre. Flyer in foyer. www.damascus.vic.edu.au.

St Columba's Men's Group next gathering will be Thursday 28th March at 2pm in the Church foyer. This will be a special celebration for one of our members having a special birthday. If you require transport please contact the Parish office.

Buy Chocolates made without Slavery this Easter. There is now a wide range of slavery-free chocolate and Easter eggs available, including a budget priced range of UTZ certified products in ALDI, Coles and a wide selection at Haighs and OXFAM shops. Information flyer is posted in foyer.

Time Out & Why worry Family Groups celebrated their 19th birthday last Sunday with lunch at the Wallace Hotel. In light of the tumultuous fortnight that we have all been living through it speaks volumes that 29 people wanted to come together and be with one another and celebrate all that is good in doing just that. Well done and it was good for me to be a part of it.Fr. Marcello

OLHC ~ Volunteers for the Easter Ceremonies. There are sheets for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday in the Foyer. Please consider what you could do.

Mercy Connect Ballarat – Supporting refugee and asylum seeker students in local schools. Volunteer mentors needed. Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students in Ballarat Schools, through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in the next few months. Contact Donna Stewart - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and application form.



Welcome to Matthew Restall who commences his internship and pastoral placement as part of his seminary formation. In his 4th year, Matthew will join us each fortnight and then in the second semester will be living in the Ballarat North and Wendouree parishes for the remainder of the year. Welcome Matthew!

Baptisms Congratulations to Chloe d'Hotman de Villiers, daughter of Jason and Britney who will be Baptized at OLHC on Saturday evening and to Leo and Sid, sons of Jason and Natalie Ingram who will be Baptized at St Columba's on Sunday morning and to We pray that they will grow in faith with the loving support of their parents, families and the Parish communities.



Parish Pastoral Council of OLHC provides leadership for the Parish. There will be three vacancies to replace retiring members mid-year. If you are interested in supporting OLHC parish and future directions, please make contact with current PPC members: Mario Cordioli; Val Bourke; Corrie Harbour; Clare Mullane; Sue Calistro; Daryl Clark; and Lia Yu. The PPC is a two year commitment for the benefit of the parish. Please consider!

OLHC Property Security The PPC seeking assistance to oversee the security of the property on weekends. John Calistro has volunteered to have his name on a list. The PPC is seeking ow more members of the community to be named on a list of contact people. If you can assist please notify Maree

Holy Hour for Vocations at Nazareth House Chapel, 218 Mill Street, Ballarat on Thursday, March 28, 2019 from 7.00pm -8.00pm. All welcome

Collections at St Columba's		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 700.75		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,657.15	Average for this financial year	\$ 1,711.26

Collections at OLHC		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 557	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 146
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 915	Weekly Average	\$ 1,497

SC 30th/31st March	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	Liturgy tips	OLHC 23/24th March	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
WELCOMER	Kate Lawry	Dan & Mern Coutts	<p>This week's tip: What makes good liturgy? To ensure that liturgies are of superior quality and celebrate the love God has for us and we have for God, then liturgical events must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be coherent • Be meaningful • Bring the Assembly into worship • Strengthen our love of God and others. • Lead the faithful to full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy. <p>Eco playgroup at St Columba's is now up and running. It is held on Fridays in the School Hall 9am—10.30am. As it is held on the school grounds, parents need a WWC card. For further details please see the flyer in the Church foyer or contact the School.</p>	LEADER of SONG	Laureen Rhodes	Margaret White	Mon 25th Feast of Annunciation
COMMENTATOR	Jan Mullaly	Jo-Anne van der Voort		MINISTER of the WORD	Pauline Newman	Harry Kennedy	Wed 27th St VdP Meeting at 11:45 am at Violet Grove.
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Vicki Moroney	Geraldine Mugavin		MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Des Lloyd, Trish Pearce, Mavis McNulty + 2 volunteers	Peter Briody, Pauline Newman, Marie McMillan + 2 volunteers	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Tony Beggs	Jim Kierce		SACRISTAN	John & Sue Calistro	Geoff & Marg McLean	
GIFTS	Tom & Greta Kelly	Pat & Bernie		COUNTERS	Kath Leonard & Kaye Stringer		Next Week:
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Peter & Ruth Marquand, Ann Lacey	Alison Thorpe, Bruce Chapman, + 1 other		Rural Communities 8:30 am	Learmonth	Lexton	
OVERHEADS	Kathleen	Sharon	Minister of Word:	Tony McDonald	Tony Cini		
SACRISTAN	Volunteer	Anne	Minister of Eucharist :	Bev Hayward	Sharon Moran		
			Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward			