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The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) 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

Pre-Election Forum

To hear the viewpoints of the **Candidates for Ballarat** on Issues for a **Compassionate and Just Society.**

And then to ask questions.

Monday 29th April

6:00 pm—7:45 pm

Ballarat Central Uniting Church Corner Dana Street and Lydiard Street South. Ballarat



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 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 ANZAC
Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Acts 5:12-16
Ps 117:2-4. 22-27. R. v.1
Rv 1:9-13, 17-19
Jn 20:19-31



21st April 2019 ~ Easter Sunday (C)

Focus on the Scriptures

John's Easter story is closer to our real experience than many of the other Resurrection stories. Here we have no angels announcing 'He is raised'; no Jesus present to change sadness into joy. Resurrection is more subtle in this Gospel. Mary and Peter miss the signs. They remain locked in grief still carrying the painful burden of Golgotha. It is the disciple named 'beloved' who first experiences resurrection in his openness to believe in God's power to raise Jesus. Easter calls for faith. Those who know the loss and pain of death know too well the hard, long search to find signs of life. We don't experience a sudden glorious moment of life returned. Like the anonymous disciple, we often stay some time within the tomb before finding grace to turn and enter into life. Such grace is found in simple signs of a love that does endure. Perhaps this is why 'the beloved' disciple first reaches Easter faith.

Naming this day as 'the first day' of the week, is not simply an indicator that it is the day of the Jewish Sabbath (7th day), but is also a hint that in John's Gospel the resurrection is the dawn of a new creation. If you recall the Passion reading on Friday, which is always from John's gospel, you might have noticed that Jesus was arrested in a garden, and then was buried in a garden. We so frequently mix all the gospel accounts together we can sometimes miss seeing the unique theological vision and artistry of each individual evangelist. Only John has Jesus arrested in a garden, and only John has Jesus buried in a garden. Also John emphasises that the Cross is placed 'in the middle' which is the same phrase used to describe the tree of life in Genesis 2, which was also placed 'in the middle of the garden'. Then at the foot of the Cross John has a man and a woman, who is only called 'woman' and 'mother' in this Gospel. These were the names given to Eve. These differences to the Synoptic gospels are deliberate. John is setting the crucifixion within the garden of creation. For John, the cross marks the end of one creation – remember Jesus' words, 'It is finished' – and the beginning of a new creation.

© Mary Coloe (Abridged)



Responsorial Psalm: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Margie Meerbach, Peter Taffe

Anniversaries: We remember: Sharon Kastin, Sr. Maureen Connolly, Val Dooley, Jack Moran, Therese Head, Stephen Head

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



April 21, 2019 - Easter Sunday "He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." (Acts 10:38)



On this Easter Sunday, open your hearts to receive God's love, mercy and forgiveness. God is love and we are made in His image and likeness. Let our lives reflect His light to others. Pray for guidance on how to live your life and give thanks for all that He has given you.



Project Compassion Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia! Thank you for supporting us this year as we showcase the many ways we work around the world with our local partners to offer hope to people most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Caritas is working with communities providing hope for a just and fair world for all generations, backgrounds, cultures and communities, who are part of one human family. You are empowering communities to break free from the cycle of poverty whilst ensuring they are the architects of their own development. Lives change when we all give 100%. Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2019 Lenten appeal. www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion #projectcompassion 1800 024 413

Congratulations to Charissa Chetcuti, Debra Harris and Michelle Harris who were received into the Church at the Easter Vigil and to Patricia and Brianna Harris who were Baptized.

MAY THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD
GUIDE YOU, PROTECT YOU AND
SURROUND YOU IN ALL THE DAYS OF
YOUR LIFE.

Happy Easter

Thank you to all those who have assisted with the various ministries over the weekend, to the flower arrangers team, readers, musicians, liturgy teams and all helpers. You all contributed to a very uplifting and prayerful Triduum. Wishing you and your families a blessed Easter
Fr. Marcella

"Life in the Spirit Prayer Group" - flyer in the foyer.

2019 Celtic Winter Wonderland Tour of Ireland Nov 27th—Dec 11th, 2019.

Flyer with tour details is in the foyer of each church

ANZAC Day there will be a 10am Mass at OLHC, Wendouree to commemorate ANZAC Day, Thursday 25th April. The Parish offices will be closed all day.

Rosters for St Columba's the first weekend of rosters is below. Other weeks will be sent out when they are completed. I am currently awaiting updated information for Ministries and Groups data from the recent Stewardship program.

In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop 25th Anniversary National Pilgrimage The Sisters of St Joseph invite you to join the 25th anniversary National Pilgrimage, giving you the opportunity to journey to places in Australia made holy by St Mary MacKillop. The Pilgrimage commences in Melbourne 22 October visiting Penola, Adelaide and other significant places, and concludes in Sydney 2 November 2019. Cost \$3,575 – \$4,390 (twin share) depending on capital city of departure (Australia or New Zealand). Single supplement for all areas \$685 pp. For a brochure, application form or further information please email national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au or call Sr Therese Leydon rsj on 0417 683 123, or Sr Annie Bond rsj on 02 8912 4818

Eco playgroup at St Columba's 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

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.

Sacramental program The Confirmation program at St Columba's will begin with an information evening for parents on Wednesday 1st May in the school hall. If you wish your child to be a part of this year's program please contact Judith for an enrolment pack. The OLHC information evening is on Tuesday May 14th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Please contact Maree for further information



Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator Bishop Paul is inviting applications from appropriately qualified and experienced persons for the position of Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator, to support the development of parish life, assist with pastoral planning and promote formation in faith for people throughout the diocese. This is a full-time one year contract position, with ongoing contract after review. Information about the position and how to apply can be accessed on the diocesan website at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or by contacting the bishop's office at bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au or by phoning (03) 5337 7121. Queries can be directed to the Vicar General, Fr Kevin Maloney, on 0419 305 848. The closing date for applications is Friday 26 April 2019 at 5.00pm.

2019 Stewardship Renewal Program results Thank you to parishioners who participated and responded to the invitation to support the Parish by volunteering for Groups & Ministries, and by making a financial pledge to Our Lady Help of Christians and St Columba's Parishes. Currently, the Catholic Church has many critical challenges - we are afflicted by the loss of moral credibility and trust due to the sexual abuse crisis; the fall in religious practices and the decline in Sunday worship.

Your ongoing hope, faith and support though has meant that the 17% fall in our Stewardship income experienced over the past two years has been arrested. Our Lady Help of Christians Pledged Stewardship income is now **\$1,497.00** per week from **155 givers** (i.e. 129 existing givers and 26 new givers), and 34 parishioners have volunteered for our Groups & Ministries. St Columba's Pledged Stewardship income is now **\$1,988.00** per week from **166 givers** (i.e. 150 existing givers and 16 new givers), and 40 parishioners have volunteered for our Groups & Ministries. Your generous response and contribution will enable us to meet our priorities for the next three years. Your generous response and contribution will enable us to meet our priorities for the next three years. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of the Program Leadership Teams of both parishes: Mike Beaumont; Pauline and Tony Newman; Adrienne Cove and Leigh Bradshaw (Wendouree) and Bruce Chapman; Trish Simmons; Anthea Hinchey; Peter Eddy; David Fara; Jim Kierce; Kierce O'Loughlin; our school co principals Shaun Mohr and Kim Butler (Ballarat North). Thank you also to all the volunteers who offered their assistance.
Fr. Marcella

Both Parish offices will be closed on ANZAC Day.

Collections at St Columba's		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 625.40		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,767.35	Average for this financial year	\$ 1,670.02

Collections at OLHC		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 596	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 76
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 844	Weekly Average	\$ 1,457

SC 27/28th April	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am
WELCOMER	Anne Caine	Catherine Fara
COMMENTATOR	Shirley Edgar	Kim Butler
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	John van der Laar	Jo-Anne van der Voort
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jennifer Adams	Brian Kennedy
GIFTS	Simmons Family	Lorna & Carmel
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Annette Madigan, Ruth & Peter Marquand	Margaret Martino, Kay Merbach, Carole Barr
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Harry Chapman
SACRISTAN	Maree	Maureen

What's on:

ANZAC Day Mass 25th April will be held at 10:00am at OLHC Wendouree

OLHC 27th/28th April	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up in April
LEADER of SONG	Sue Searls	Paul Hogan	
MINISTER of the WORD	Sue Calistro	Mario Cordioli	Wed 24th Liturgy Committee 10:00 am
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Pat Dillon, Lia Yu, Pauline Newman, + 2 volunteers	Pauline Howard, Marie McMillan, Judith Potter + 2 volunteers	PPC Meeting at Parish Centre 7:00 pm.
SACRISTAN	Joyce Jackson	Peter & Sapphire Osman	Thurs 25th ANZAC Day Mass @10:00 am
COUNTERS	Trish Pora, Catherine Clifford, Brian Ratcliffe		
Rural Communities 8:30 am	Waubra	Learmonth	
Minister of Word:	Margaret McDonald	Bev Hayward	
Minister of Eucharist :	Kerryn Gallagher	Clare Mullane	
Church Cleaning:	K & L Gallagher	Bev Hayward	