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### Child Safe Church

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  
Wednesday: 10:00 am  
Thursday: 7.30 pm Miners Rest Mass  
Friday: 10:00 am

### Readings for next weekend:

Acts 5:27-32. 40-41  
Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v.2  
Rv 5:11-14  
Jn 21:1-19



### 28th April 2019 ~ 2nd Sunday of Easter (C)

#### Focus on the Scriptures

The first reading is one of the passages that forms the basis of the idealisation of the early Christian community (cf. Acts 4:32-35). Today's reading offers a collage rather than a picture of the community. It is less a coherent summary than a collection of motifs, even somewhat contradictory motifs. The great accomplishments of the early Christians certainly struck fear in the hearts of some; but they also attracted others. 'Signs and wonders' is a way of describing the mighty works of God (cf. Exod 7:3; Ps 135:9; Acts 2:22, 43; 4:30). Here it refers to the miracles that the apostles were able to accomplish through the divine power bestowed on them by Jesus (cf. Luke 9:1).

The responsorial psalm consists of excerpts from a song of thanksgiving. The refrain ('His mercy endures forever') establishes the psalm's congregational liturgical character. The psalm itself begins with a call to give testimony to the goodness of God. The Hebrew word for mercy (hesed), is a technical theological term, denoting God's steadfast love. The psalmist was under great duress, suffering at the hands of others and being overpowered. God stepped in and saved the psalmist from ultimate defeat. The rescue of the individual is linked to the salvation of the entire community. Although the salvation described occurred in the past, the psalmist insists that today is the day that the Lord made, today is the day that we rejoice in God's saving work.

The second reading is a report of a commissioning vision of the speaker, who was caught up by the Spirit and commissioned by God as were the prophets of old. The function of this vision was twofold: it clarified the nature of the speaker's task; and it conferred divine authority upon it. Since adherence to civil religion was considered the duty of every good citizen, preaching the gospel and testifying to faith in Jesus was considered a political breach that warranted severe punishment. Identifying himself as a Christian, this John makes himself a companion with the others in the suffering that they endure for the sake of their faith. The vision is clearly for the churches, not for any individual.

In the gospel, two resurrection appearances form a kind of diptych with Thomas as the connecting hinge. Thomas represents the second generation of Christians, those who are called to believe on the testimony of others. The faith required of him is, in a way, more demanding than that required of those who actually encountered the risen Lord. Viewed in this way, his doubt is understandable. While we may judge him harshly for it, Jesus does not. Instead, he invites Thomas to touch him, an invitation not extended earlier to the other disciples. The story does not say that Thomas actually touched the wounds, only that he cried out in faith: 'My Lord and my God.'



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**Responsorial Psalm:** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Eileen McLoughlan, Merle Lepper, Fr Jack Soulsby SM, Helen McMahon-Martino, Aileen Corpinsay

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Eric Myers, Mollie and Andy Mooney, Kathleen Filippi, Margaret Maher, Gerald Dobson

**We pray:** for the sick of our Parishes, Saskiah Gallagher, Blake Dridan, Max Franklin & Pat Hogan

**April 28, 2019 - 2nd Sunday of Easter** "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'" (John 20:21)

Peace – the first gift of the risen Lord. Just as Jesus sent the apostles out into the world, so too, He sends us. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be grateful and generous. Look for opportunities to share His peace, not only within our local parish boundaries, but outside of them as well. In giving, we receive the peace of Jesus Christ.

**Baptisms** we congratulate Leo John Answer, son of Jarrad and Melissa and Margo May and Harry Jack Ward, children of Simon and Samantha, who will be baptized at St Columba's on Sunday morning. We pray that they will grow in faith with the love and support of parents, family and our parish community.



**Youth Every Second Sunday** YESS is a dynamic group of young people aged 13-18yrs, who come together to share their faith and connect with other youth. We would like to extend a warm invitation to anyone interested in joining YESS in 2019. Youth group sessions will commence May 5th 6pm with a bbq and information gathering (parents are welcome) at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, and continue each fortnight onwards, during the school terms. If you have any questions or would like to contact the Youth Leaders please phone Felicity Liston on 0409 393 464 or email yessballarat@gmail.com.

**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 at 7:00 pm. Please contact Judith if you wish your child to be a part of this year's group. The OLHC information night is on Tuesday May 14th, at 7:00 pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Please contact Maree for further information.



**Miner's Rest Mass** Thursday May 2nd at 7.30pm at the home of Bill Loader, Learmonth-Sulky Rd., Blowhard.

**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

**Project Compassion** 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](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) #projectcompassion 1800 024 413



**Funeral of OLHC parishioner ~ Eileen McLoughlan** will be held at St Joseph's Catholic Church, in Charlton at 11 am on Wednesday 1st May, followed by interment at Ballarat Cemetery at 3:30 pm.

**Bulletin notices** we would appreciate it if we could receive any notices for the bulletin before 1pm on Thursdays. Thank you

"Anniversaries" are printed upon request. Please advise the parish offices.

**OLHC Parish Pastoral Council Discernment** meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th May at 7:00 pm in the Parish Centre. Parishioners interested in the future direction of this parish, and are willing to serve on this Council are encouraged to attend. Please register your interest with Maree at the parish Centre 53302302

**OLHC Volunteers for assistance with Funeral Catering:** This is a service provided by the OLHC community for bereaving families. Volunteers to help with: provide slices; to assist with set-up and pack-up; and help with serving. Contact: Noeline Smith ph: 0451 675 718

**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 Marcello*



**Rosters for St Columba's** will be completed and emailed out next week. If you do not receive one please contact Judith with your email address. 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

Collections at St Columba's	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 1,159.50	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,107.95	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)	\$ 702	Loose money (2nd collection) \$ 190
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 1,455	Weekly Average \$ 1,457

SC 4th/5th May	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am
<b>WELCOMER</b>	Greta Kelly	Pat & Bernie Kenna
<b>COMMENTATOR</b>	John van der Laar	Terry Grano
<b>FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD</b>	Ann Lacey	Carmel King
<b>SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD</b>	Peter Dalton	Irene Monigatti
<b>GIFTS</b>	Edgar Family	Colleen Wakefield
<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	Trish Simmons, Torie Waight, Maureen Eddy	Colleen Wakefield, Georgina Hinchey, Derek Streulens
<b>OVERHEADS</b>	Troy Severino	Sharon De Beer
<b>SACRISTAN</b>	Sullivan Sisters	Josie Crowe

What's on:
<b>May</b>
Wed 1st Parent Information meeting for Confirmation at 7:00 pm

OLHC 4th/5th May	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am
<b>LEADER of SONG</b>	Corrie Harbour	Paul Hogan
<b>MINISTER of the WORD</b>	Daryl Clark	Margot Mulcahy
<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	John Bourke, Joyce Jackson, Des Lloyd + 2 volunteers	Harry Kennedy, Coralie Kennedy, Tony Bruty + 2 volunteers
<b>SACRISTAN</b>	John & Sue Calistro	Geoff & Marg McLean
<b>COUNTERS</b>	Pauline Newman, Chris & Trish Pearce	
<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	<b>Learmonth</b>	<b>Waubra</b>
<b>Minister of Word:</b>	Bev Hayward	Fon Ryan
<b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>	Clare Mullane	Tony McDonald
<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Bev Hayward	Sharon & Marty Moran

What's coming up in April	
May 2nd	Miners Rest Community Mass at 7:30 pm.
<b>Other Collections to date:</b>	
Holy Places (Good Friday)	\$ 327.90
Caritas Project Compassion	\$ 1,958.40
Easter Offerings	\$ 889.00