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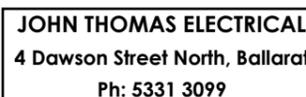
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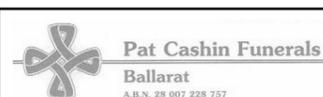
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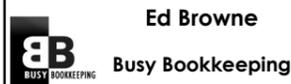
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Child Safe Church

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

Other notices:

2019 Class Reunions: Loreto College Ballarat

Past students and staff of Loreto College Ballarat, Marys Mount and Dawson Street are warmly invited to attend the following 2019 Class reunions:

- Class of 1979 Saturday 18 May 11am
- Class of 1999 Saturday 18 May 4pm

Full details and booking information <https://loreto.vic.edu.au/events-publications-media/loreto-event/>



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

12 May 2019 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter (C)

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 OLHC

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: OLHC

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:

Acts 14:21-27

Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

Rv 21:1-5

Jn 13:31-35



Focus on the Scriptures

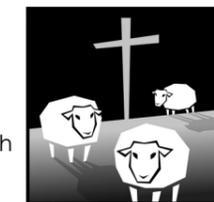
Throughout the Fourth Gospel a consistent question put to Jesus is, 'Are you the Messiah?' When the crowds ask this, they are thinking of a political leader like King David who would free them from the rule of Rome. Jesus does not accept the title 'Messiah' on these terms. In today's Gospel, we are given the only image of a Messiah that Jesus will accept, that of the Good Shepherd who knows his flock and gives them eternal life.

The issue of leadership lies behind this image. David was a shepherd and was regarded as Israel's greatest leader. This is why the shepherd image was later applied to Israel's kings by a number of Prophets. The shepherd image was later applied to God as the one who would really nourish, care for, gather and protect the sheep.

Because of Jesus' unique union with God, Jesus can call himself the Good Shepherd. John 10 continues a dispute that began in chapter 9 following Jesus' cure of a man born blind. The Jewish leaders could not accept that this was an action of God, since this cure took place on the Sabbath day (John 9:14), and it involved Jesus making clay to put on the man's eyes. The Pharisees drove the blind man out of the Synagogue and then enter into an argument with Jesus. In this context Jesus uses the imagery of the good shepherd and the hired hand who leaves the sheep when trouble comes. When Jesus speaks of himself as the Good shepherd and compares the Pharisees with the hired hand, he is really challenging their leadership.

In Australia, where flocks of sheep number in the hundreds, it is hard to have a real understanding of this image. In the land of Israel, a family might have a very small number of sheep, perhaps only seven. Being so small in number each sheep is known to the shepherd. In the winter months, the sheep come indoors to protect them from the bitter cold and to provide the family with warmth from the heat of their bodies – in a sense they are part of the family. The sheep do know the particular sound of their master's voice, just as the shepherd knows the individual markings and characteristics of his sheep.

The sheep/shepherd image tries to express that we are each known and valued by God. (Abridged) © Mary Coloe



Responsorial Psalm: We are his people, the sheep of his flock

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Chris Waight, Katherine Anderson

Anniversaries: We remember: Margaret Schmikering, Marlene Odlum

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes especially Saskiah Gallagher, Blake Dridan & Pat Hogan. We also pray for the children preparing for Baptism (RCIC) and for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

May 12, 2019 - 4th Sunday of Easter "The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit." (Acts 13:52). The disciples heard Our Lord's call and were able to spread the Gospel message with strength and vitality. We, too, can experience that same joy if we make room for the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts. When we use our gifts in the way that God intends, He fills us with supernatural joy. A joy that others notice and are attracted to.

Sacramental program the Confirmation program at OLHC will begin with an information night on Tuesday May 14th. At 7:00 pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Please contact Maree for further info



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 Volunteers to help: provide slices; to assist with set-up and pack-up; and help with serving. Contact: Noeline Smith ph: 0451 675 718

Baptism we congratulate Finn Donald Griffin, son of Hayden and Kellie and Louis La Franchi, son of Matthew and Nicole, who will be Baptized at St Columba's on Sunday morning. We pray they will grow in faith with the love and support of their parents, family and our parish community.



Easter water please feel free to bring a container and help yourself to the water of new life in the Easter font, which may be used to bless people, homes, vehicles, machinery, farming land prior to sowing seed for the forthcoming season etc. It's free!

Save the date Diocesan RCIA Conference "It takes a village" will be held on Friday 15 Nov 5.30pm—9pm and Saturday 16th November 9.30am—4.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Ballarat. Flyer on noticeboard—more information to follow.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries, employed or volunteers. Sacraments, scripture, social justice, youth ministry, liturgy and many other subjects available – a subject is completed in 5 weeks. Next study cycle starts June 2. Registration is now open. Contact us by May 16. Info: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph. 5337 7125.

Catholic bishops' federal election statement

The bishops call for respect in public debate, share Catholic social teaching and detail some key issues to reflect on before you vote. "Politics in service of peace: a statement by the Catholic bishops of Australia for the 2019 federal election" can be found on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news/feature-articles.cfm?loadref=102&id=670&categoryid=101>

World Day of Vocations Today is the World Day of Vocations. Pope Francis tells us: There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood.



St Columba's Men's Group this month's gathering will be held on Thursday 23rd May at 2pm in the Church foyer. Please note change of date. This will be the last gathering until the spring. If you need transport please contact Bernadette or ring Judith in the office.

Annual Mass count will take place over the four weekends in May. Collectors will count all Mass attendees at both Masses

Mother's Day Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of motherhood. Thank you for the blessing it is to be called "Mum." Thank you for the good plans you have in store for those who still wait to be a Mum. Thank you for the numerous spiritual children you have given to so many "spiritual mums" and mentors. We pray that you would fill this day with favour and grace as we honour all Mums.

We ask for comfort for those who are grieving loss and heartache, especially on this day. We ask for strength for those who wait for children to come back home. We ask for healing for those who have been hurt by relationships that were intended to be loving and nurturing. We ask for faith for those who will someday be Mums, who find themselves on a journey that seems so hard. We ask for great encouragement and grace to cover those who have made a brave and loving choice for adoption. We ask for incredible provision and care over every single parent mum who works so hard on behalf of her children. We ask that you would remind many of those who, though they do not have "physical" children, have the gift of being amazing hope-bringers to many spiritual children they've been blessed to nurture through these years.

God, thank you, for the gift of life. Thank you that your heart is for us, and that you are with us, in all our unique journeys and pathways.

Today we pray for refreshing, for joy, for grace, for wisdom, for great peace...for all mums, for mums to be, and for women who nurture and lead.

Amen



Collections at St Columba's		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 738.20		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,363.75	Average for this financial year	\$ 1674.55

Collections at OLHC		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 520	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 87
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 2,694	Weekly Average this Financial Year	\$ 1483

SC 18/19May	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's on:	OLHC 18th/19th May	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up in April
WELCOMER	Catherine Fara	Dan & Mern Coutts	Second weekend of Dismissals for our Confirmation candidates.	LEADER of SONG	Laureen Rhodes	Veronica Stott	Tues 14th Confirmation Information session 7pm - Meeting Room
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh	Bruce Chapman		MINISTER of the WORD	Kevin Murphy	Marie McMillan	Wed 15th PPC Discernment Meeting - Parish Centre at 7pm
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Ruth Marquand	Anne Rossiter		MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Bev Hayward, Pauline Newman, Lia Yu + 2 volunteers	Sue Searls, Margaret White, Helen Rieniets + 2 volunteers	Thurs 16th Mass at Kelaston at 11am
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Carmel McCormick	Derek Streulens		SACRISTAN	Joyce Jackson	Peter & Sapphire Osman	May 24th OLHC Feast Day Mass 9.30am
GIFTS	David & Catherine Fara	Sharon De Beer		COUNTERS	Helen Rieniets & Kath Connors		Other Collections to date:
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Annette Madigan, Ruth and Peter Marquand	Mary Kennedy, Irene Monigatti Kathy Bennetts	Holy Places \$ 539.25	Rural Communities 8:30 am	Learmonth	Waubra	Holy Places (Good Friday) \$ 327.90
OVERHEADS	Trish Simmons	Megan Bourke	Caritas Project Compassion \$ 2,914.40	Minister of Word:	Kerryn Gallagher	Phyllis Bourke	Caritas Project Compassion \$ 2381.35
SACRISTAN	Trish Simmons	Megan Bourke	Easter offerings \$ 756.50	Minister of Eucharist :	Bev Hayward	Kerryn Gallagher	Easter Offerings \$ 990.00
				Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward	Sharon & Marty Moran	