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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:

Help Palms Achieve a World Free of Poverty Share your skills with a community organisation in Asia or the Pacific to contribute to sustainable solutions to poverty. Our community partners have requested teachers, nurses, tradies and more to work alongside a local counterpart in 2020. We welcome all those who envision volunteering their skills overseas in the next few years to join our next training course, starting in Sydney on July 6th. Visit palms.org.au or call Palms now on 02 9560 5333 for more details

New Diocesan Appointment Bishop Paul has announced that Carole Gan (from Sydney) is the newly appointed Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator, following Amanda Smith's conclusion in the role.



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

26th May 2019 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter (C)

Focus on the Scriptures

Some people have the idea that God is awfully remote, dwelling beyond the edge of the cosmos. We make contact by sending a prayer like a long range rocket, hoping it will find its target. And many religions teach that in order to be united with Supreme Being we have to be transported to some mystical realm, a realm which leaves the body behind. But this is totally wrong. The Creator is the deep down 'inscape' of every particle of matter, of every dynamism of energy. And the idea of a remote God is far distant from Our Lord's teaching in today's Gospel. 'If anyone loves me and keeps my word, my Father and I will make our home with that person.' Jesus was Jewish, and there is a long Jewish tradition which he draws on and then deepens in a remarkable way. Jewish slaves escaped from the despotic rule of the Pharaohs and wandered through the desert. Like the nomads of North Africa, or Tibet, they were tent dwellers. They carried with them a Tent of Meeting which was a special dwelling place of the God who rescued them. So, God, 'tented' amongst them.

And then, St John's Gospel, right at the beginning, says that the Word of God was made flesh and dwelt among us. The actual Greek is 'pitched his tent amongst us'. You can see that wonderful Tent imagery coming through. In today's gospel, Our Lord is saying to his followers: Even though my ordinary physical presence is to be withdrawn, that is not something to trouble you, because my heavenly Father and I regard you as a tent. You, personally, are the place in which we want to dwell. God wants to be at home in the hearts of believers, wants to dwell at the very heart of my personality and your personality, wants to make my heart and your heart more generous, more whole hearted. Our Lord is saying it is not in outer space, but in inner space that Divine Love will make a home – in your inner space.

And the inner space is not some purely mental state. I read recently that Australia's leading poet, Les Murray, became a Catholic because of the sheer physicality of its understanding and practice of Christianity. And there is nothing more physical than Holy Communion. What turns a house into a home, a mere residence into a home? I think you will agree that it is in sitting around a table sharing a meal. Jesus knew that, knows that.

So, he created a sacred meal for us – heavenly bread and spiritual drink – and he invites us to share in that sacred meal. And when we do, we find, in the words of St John Paul II, that we 'digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection'. As Our Lord said at the Last Supper: 'Take, eat, this is My Body.' We take into ourselves the Real Presence of the Risen Lord.

In Holy Communion, Our Lord makes his home with us as he promised in today's gospel. There is a saying: Home is where the heart is. If you keep coming to Communion, or come back after even a long time away, you will find that the yearning of your heart is satisfied because Divine Love has chosen to dwell in your heart. Home is where the heart is. Divine Love desires nothing more than to dwell in the home of your heart.

© Fr Michael Tate



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

Monday: 10:30 am Funeral

Wednesday: 9:30am

Mass times: OLHC

Saturday Vigil 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:

Acts 1:1-11

Ps 46:2-3, 6-7, 8-9. R. v.6

Eph 1:17-23

Lk 24:46-53



Responsorial Psalm: O God, let all the nations praise you!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Claire Carroll

Anniversaries: We remember: Nancy Colasante, Garnett Gregory, James McNamara, Mavis Taylor, Anton Kors,

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

May 26, 2019 - 6th Sunday of Easter "...do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27)

Our limited human understanding cannot begin to understand the immense power of God. Instead of trusting in God, we think we can control every outcome. Do you want to make God laugh? Tell Him your plans. The next time worry, anxiety or fear creeps in, thank God for all He has given you and trust that He has a better plan for you.

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

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.

Annual Mass count This is the final weekend for our Mass count. Collectors will count all Mass attendees at both Masses

Asylum Seeker Fundraiser Wednesday June 19th Refugee Week Soup and Sandwich Luncheon at Nazareth House Hall, Mill Street, Ballarat. Entry \$20. Speakers and Entertainment. Stall and Competition. Inquiries 0401175045 - anneka1234@gmail.com

Thank you to everyone who has completed a Parish Groups and Ministry Form – It is pleasing to see both continuing and new participants contributing to our parish life. For people new to a ministry you will be contacted by your new ministry Team Leader over the coming weeks.

Confirmation Masses will be held over the weekend of 1/2 June at St Columba's and 15/16 June at OLHC. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.



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.

Sponsorship opportunity for the APMN Conference "Listen to the Spirit and Sing" The Ballarat Diocesan Liturgical Commission is offering sponsorship for six people from across the diocese to attend the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network, Inc (APMN) Conference Listen to the Spirit and Sing to be held in Melbourne from October 1 – 3, 2019 at the Catholic Leadership Centre. APMN promotes the art of Religious Music in the service of the Church in Australia through education, support, networking and advocacy, with a special focus on supporting the use of Australian compositions. The APMN aims to actively assist parishes, schools and other Church agencies to have educated, skilled musicians and composers available for the vital ministry of providing suitable quality music for worship, church life and religious education. The conference intends to provide the knowledge, resources, encouragement and motivation for lay people to be ministers of music in their parishes. It is an opportunity to broaden networks and meet people who are also trying to make their parishes vibrant places of worship through the appropriate use of Liturgical, Catechetical and Religious music. From the six people selected, we would anticipate that two from each zone would attend. Contact the Parish office for application forms.

Life in the Spirit Prayer Group You are invited to join 'The Life in the Spirit Prayer Group' for a Catholic Bible seminar beginning on Tuesday June 25th. This will be held over a period of 5 weeks on Tuesday nights from 7pm till 9pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral. To indicate your interest phone Maree on 0429 965999.

CAPSA National Week of Prayer and Action, 16-23 June 2019 A National Week of Prayer and Action for the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) will be held from June 16 – 23, 2019. During this week, the CAPSA network (schools, parishes and organisations) will join together across the country to pray, advocate and raise awareness for people seeking asylum in our communities. Activities are focussed on the recent cuts to basic material and case management support for people seeking asylum. For more information go to <https://capsa.org.au/>

Collection for OLHC school Safeway (Howitt Street) have a sticker collection for the school. Stickers can also be left at the school office.

Mums 4 Refugees (M4R) is a network of women working with and for people seeking asylum. We wish to work towards an Australia that is fair, just and inclusive, treating asylum seekers and refugees with dignity and compassion. Message us to get involved email: mums4refugees@gmail.com, facebook: Mums 4 Refugees, website: www.mums4refugees.org

Grief to Grace Program - Spiritual and Psychological Healing from Abuse

Since 2005, the international program Grief to Grace has been assisting people wounded by abuse - whether clergy, spiritual, sexual, physical, domestic, spousal, or emotional abuse - to restore their dignity and their relationship with a loving God. Grief to Grace will be available on Sunday, July 14, 2019 at Safety Bay, WA. For more information www.rachelsvineyardministriesperth.wordpress.com or the international website www.grief-to-grace-lsi.squarespace.com. Email g2gperth-wa@gmail.com, phone (SMS/voicemail only) 0490 956 745.

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

Baptisms We congratulate Matilda Faye Biddle, daughter of Patrick and Elizabeth and Reuben Alec Flanagan, son of Xavier and Rachael; 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 their parents, family and our Parish Community.

Rosters the new ministry rosters for St Columba's have been emailed out and are now available to view on the website. If you did not receive one please check with Judith that we have your email address. There are printed copies available in the foyer if you need one. Thank you for those who have joined the roster for the first time, we appreciate you using your time and talent!

OLHC Rosters for July-November will be compiling the new rosters shortly, if you wish to amend your availability please contact your team leader. Anyone wishing to join a ministry please contact Maree in the office (ph: 5339 2302) Thank you

Collections at St Columba's

We thank you for your generous support		
1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 714.90	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,253.85	Average for this financial year \$ 1,674.55

Collections at OLHC

We thank you for your generous support		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 638	Loose money (2nd collection) \$ 92
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 1,260	Weekly Average this Financial Year \$ 1483

SC 1/2 June

Sat 6pm

Sunday 10am

What's on:

WELCOMER	John Madigan Family	Geraldine Mugavin
COMMENTATOR	Vicki Moroney	Colleen Wakefield
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Carmel McCormick	Jo-Anne van der Voort
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Shirley Edgar	Anthea Hinchy
GIFTS	Confirmation family	Confirmation family
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Maureen Eddy, Kathleen Keogh, Jennifer Adams	Kay Merbach, Carole Barr, Georgina Hinchey
OVERHEADS	Judith	Judith
SACRISTAN	Sullivan sisters	Josie

Final weekend of Dismissals for our Confirmation candidates.
Caring group meeting Tuesday 10.30am at Bodega in Howitt Street.

OLHC 1/2 June

Sat 6 pm

Sun 10:00 am

What's coming up in April

LEADER of SONG	Vin Dillon	Sue Searls
MINISTER of the WORD	John Schonfelder	Bill Jones
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Trish Pearce, Mavis McNulty, Pat Dillon + 2 volunteers	Harry Kennedy, Coralie Kennedy, Tony Brutty + 2 volunteers
SACRISTAN	John & Sue Calistro	Geoff & Marg McLean
Counters	Des Lloyd & John Calistro	
Rural Communities 8:30 am	Learmonth	Waubra
Minister of Word:	Margaret McDonald	Kerri Mullane
Minister of Eucharist :	Sharon Moran	Margaret McDonald
Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward	Phyllis & Pat Bourke

Second weekend of Dismissals for Confirmation candidates.

Next Week:

Catholic Education Week: Theme: "Listen with the ear of your heart".