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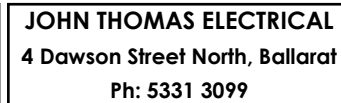
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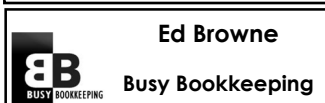
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Open from 7.30 am to 5 pm weekdays  
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email: olivia\_fs@yahoo.com

**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. 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

### More notices:

**Encounter Myanmar** Encounter Myanmar: Still two places left on an enlightening journey with the Executive Director of Palms Australia. Traveling November 16-29. Enquire via email palms@palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533



**Catholic Secondary Schools—Information evenings** Loreto College: Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7.00pm at the Mary's Mount Centre. St. Patrick's College: Thursday, October 24, 2019 at the OCA Pavilion. Damascus: Wednesday 4th September at 5pm Please arrive at 4.45pm for registration OPEN MORNING: Thursday 12th September, 9am – 10.30am Tours leave every 15 minutes

**2019 Australian Catholic Youth Festival** The next Australian Catholic Youth Festival will be in Perth from December 8-10, 2019! The Ballarat Diocese is partnering with the Melbourne Office for Youth to offer all-inclusive packages to the festival which will cover transport, accommodation, registration to the festival and meals. The event is for those in Year 9 up to 30 years old. Interested parishioners can find more info on the Youth & Young Adult Ministry page of the diocesan website or contact Patrick, ph. 5337 7160.



## 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 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 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:**  
Ex 32:7-11. 13-14  
Ps 50:3-4. 12-13. 17. 19. R.  
Lk 15:18  
1 Tm 1:12-17  
Lk 15:1-32



### 8 September 2019 ~ Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

#### Focus on the Scriptures

For some weeks now Luke has been telling us about the cost of discipleship. As a commentary on what was happening in his community and a preparation for what was to come, today's gospel used the hyperbole of hatred to drive home the point. For the earliest Christians a choice for faith in Jesus could be this stark and dramatic: families split up and sometimes people who had loved each other turned their brother or sister, mother or father over to martyrdom. This is the context in which Luke's community produced this Gospel.

It is always good for us to recall that for some of our brothers and sisters beyond these shores the perils of public belief are still like those of Luke's community. Luckily for us the threat of death for our faith is only a very remote possibility. The power of this Gospel is that even if we are not faced with physical death, there are many other dyings that see us share in the cross of Jesus and follow in his way.

We often think we could never live without most of the things to which we have become accustomed or attached. But we can. We know from people who have lived through some of the worst events of last century that there are very few things that are essential to a happy life: human dignity; meaning and purpose; love of others; a sense of security. These are the essentials. Each person has a right to them and we have obligations to do our bit to see that they enjoy them. Everything else, as good as it might be, is icing on the cake. The problem is that we 'want our cake and eat it too!'

As Christians we cannot have it both ways. We cannot say we are baptised into the life and death of Christ and not be prepared to sacrifice anything. If material riches come our way, with them come an even greater obligation to share with the poor. If we have talents and energy we are called to put them at the service of improving the world in any way we can. If we want the hope of the resurrection, we have to first carry the cross. So riches, a better world and hope come with a price.

Many of us, however, do not need to be reminded about all this because we carry crosses every day. For some it comes through mental, physical or spiritual ill health. For others it can be in our homes where we have to deal with illness, dysfunction or violence. It can be in our places of employment where we are overworked, undervalued or bullied. Whatever our particular crosses may be we are one with all those who have 'gone before us marked with the sign of faith' and who found Christ in the midst of their suffering. This Gospel promises us that Christ walks beside us bearing the burden of the struggle. May this Eucharist give us eyes to see Christ present in our most difficult moments and make us more compassionate so we never add to the weight of another person's burden, but help carry it as best we can.  
© Richard Leonard SJ (Abridged)



**Responsorial Psalm:** In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Mark Milne, Michael Franc, Maryanne Rawlings, Genoveva Jurisic, Fr Gavin O'Sullivan SJ

**Anniversaries: We remember:** May O'Donnell, Paul Mahar, Anne Nutthall, Noreen Earl

**We pray:** for the sick of our Parishes especially Saskiah Gallagher, for the next phase of the Plenary Council (Listening and Discernment) and for the children receiving First Eucharist (OLHC) and those still preparing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist (St Columba's).

**First Eucharist Congratulations** to the 15 children receiving their First Eucharist at Our Lady Help of Christians this weekend.

**Lydiard Park 906 Lydiard St Nth** The townhouses to be erected have been released for sale. If Parishioners are interested in purchasing, kindly contact Jim Kierce or David Fara for further information.

**The Episcopal Ordination of the Bishop of Sandhurst** Bishop-Elect Shane Mackinlay will be celebrated on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 12.00 noon in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo and on Wednesday 13th November. Bishop Paul Bird has invited the newly ordained Bishop Shane to celebrate Mass and share supper with us. It will be an opportunity for us to give thanks with Shane for his ordination as bishop and to wish him well and pray for blessings upon him in his new role. The Mass will be in the Ballarat Cathedral at 7pm followed by supper in the Cathedral Hall. All are invited to join us for this special occasion.

**John Molony Tribute** A special day is to be held to honour the memory of John Molony who was a priest in the Ballarat Diocese during the 1950's and early 1960's. John's energy and commitment was an inspiration to many people, especially the young people, during his time in the diocese. A day to remember his dedication to the issues of his time is being held on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat Hall. Speakers will begin the day with comments regarding John and on a theme on topics of interest to people of today. Discussion groups will challenge those in attendance to think of issues that are in the forefront of peoples mind today, including the environment and the future of Democracy. For more information contact Phillip Moore, ph. 0448 623 142 or phill.moore1@bigpond.com or Frank Sheehan, ph. 0429 347 345 or email franksheehan@bigpond.com

**Mercy Place** Open day to celebrate their first birthday. Saturday 14th September 11am-2pm see flyer in the foyer

**Holy Hour and Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament** St Columba's Church Friday 13th September 6pm to 7pm. All welcome.

**Social Justice Sunday – September 29** We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on September 29, 2019.



**Ballarat Clergy Support Fund** Collection for Sick and Retired Priests Last year St Columba's contributed \$1,869.00 and Our Lady Help of Christians was \$497 to this collection, which raised nearly \$47,000 throughout the Diocese. The collection in St Columba's parish this year has raised \$741.90 And at Our Lady Help of Christians \$340.00 to date. The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund". A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US – THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

**Summer in the Forest** A highly acclaimed documentary film about the work of Jean Vanier. This showing has been organised by St. Matthew's, Wendouree through FanForce and is a fundraiser for Ballarat Specialist School. Book at fan-force.com/screenings. . MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 6PM, SHOWBIZ CINEMAS, BALLARAT see flyer on noticeboard

**Season of Creation** Pope Francis at his address on the World Day of prayer for Creation has urged all join the ecumenical "Season of Creation" initiative, which runs from the Sept. 1 day of prayer through the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4. An ecumenical service for the Season of Creation is being held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Wendouree on Sunday 29th September at 2pm. Refreshment to follow. All welcome. Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese extends an invitation to attend a lecture " Fire and aboriginal Agriculture in Victoria" by Fred Cahir, Associate Professor of Aboriginal History, Federation University to be held at the Mercy Centre on Thursday 3rd October from 7-8pm. Entry via Gent Street, Ballarat East.

**Sew and So** Thursday 12 September 2019 at 1.30pm in St Columba's Church Foyer. We are having a guest speaker and the talk is all about "My Aged Care". It should be very informative so we are asking anyone who may be interested to come along. You don't have to be a regular Sew and So attendee. Enquiries Margaret 53314032.

**St Joseph's Church Warrnambool Celebrations** weekend 13/14 September. For more information contact the Parish Office, ph. 5562 2231.

**Abide: Six: Thirty** is a Eucharist Adoration prayer group meeting in Learmonth every Wednesday. Afterwards, all are welcome to the Stag Hotel opposite the Church. For more details, call Matt on: 0417 991 387

**Leadership for Mission Program (for women aged 25-35)** Leadership for Mission is a joint initiative of the Council for Australian Catholic Women, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Mission and the Australian Catholic University. It is designed by and for women who are inspired by the Gospel vision of justice, freedom and the dignity of the human person. Across a series of educational and formative encounters, this unique program brings the leadership experiences of women within the Church together in the context of an academic and collaborative learning environment. Applications close October 14. More details at <https://www.opw.catholic.org.au/projects/leadership-for-mission>

**Child Protection Sunday** The Parishes of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Columba's and the Diocese of Ballarat are committed to the care, well-being and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: [www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)

**Plenary Council 2020: National Theme for Discernment – September:** How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Missionary and Evangelising? This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared a passion for participating in the missionary nature of the Church and desire stronger support, involvement and formation among all the baptised who make up the Church. Our parishes will be conducting a Listening & Discernment experience soon. Watch this space. Please take time to read the snapshot report before attending. Copies available from the parish or on [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

**Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese** extends an invitation to attend a lecture " Fire and aboriginal Agriculture in Victoria" by Fred Cahir, Associate Professor of Aboriginal History, Federation University to be held at the Mercy Centre on Thursday 3rd October from 7-8pm. Entry via Gent Street, Ballarat East.

**Collections at St Columba's**

*We thank you for your generous support*

1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese) \$ 646.60  
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish) \$ 1,848.50 Average for this financial year \$ 1,964.34

**Collections at OLHC**

*We thank you for your generous support*

1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese) \$ 539 Loose money (2nd collection) \$ 127  
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish ) \$ 2,578 Weekly Average this Financial Year \$ 1,599.99

SC 14 & 15 Sept	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's on:	OLHC 14/15 Sept	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up
<b>WELCOMER</b>	Anne Caine	Pat & Bernie Kenna	Rehearsal for First Eucharist for <u>all</u> children 4pm in the Church on Friday 13th September.  First Eucharist will be in celebrated next weekend Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September.  Please keep the children and their families in your prayers  Men's group restarts Thursday 26th Sept 2pm	<b>LEADER of SONG</b>	Sue Searls	Veronica Stott	Fri 6th Rehearsal for 1st Eucharistic at 3:45 pm.
<b>COMMENTATOR</b>	Trish Simmons	Alison Thorpe		<b>MINISTER of the WORD</b>	Margot Mulcahy	Harry Kennedy	Sat 7th First Eucharist
<b>FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD</b>	Ruth Marquand	Anne Rossiter		<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	Bev Hayward, Pat Dillon, Mavis McNulty + 2 volunteers	Marie McMillan, Maxine Rousch, Peter Briody + 2 volunteers	Sun 8th First Eucharist
<b>SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD</b>	Kathleen Keogh	Bruce Chapman		<b>SACRISTAN</b>	Pauline Howard	Joyce Jackson	<b>Next Week:</b> Wed 16th PPC Meeting at 7pm in Parish Centre
<b>GIFTS</b>	1st Eucharist family	1st Eucharist		<b>Counters</b>	John Calistro		
<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	Judith O'Sullivan, Shane Bruty, Shaun Mohr	Judith O'Sullivan, Alison Thorpe, Torie Waight		<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	<b>Learmonth</b>	<b>Waubra</b>	
<b>OVERHEADS</b>	Norah & Stephen	Megan	<b>Minister of Word:</b>	Kerryn Gallagher	Kerry Mullane		
<b>SACRISTAN</b>	Norah	Megan	<b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>	Bev Hayward	Kerryn Gallagher		
			<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Bev Hayward	Clare & Kerry Mullane		