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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. 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. Travelling November 16-29. Enquire via email palms@palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533

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.

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



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

Tuesday: 11:00 am Hailey

House Anointing Mass

Wednesday: 9:30am

Mass times: OLHC

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Thursday: 11:00 am Kelaston

Friday: 9.30 am

Readings for next weekend:

Am 8:4-7

Ps 112:1-2. 4-8. R. see

vv.1. 7

1 Tm 2:1-8

Lk 16:1-13



15 September 2019 ~ Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Focus on the Scriptures

Diverse creatures of the earth as well as earth elements feature in the gospel for this third Sunday of the Season of Creation. These evoke, once more, the eighth work of mercy with its call to contemplate God's creation with gratitude and to engage in simple daily gestures that have the power to transform our world. There is joy in living this way. While all three parables in today's gospel reading invite us into the experience of loss, loss of a valued creature, of a woman's means of survival, of an adult child's respect and presence, they likewise invite us into an encounter with God who seeks and "saves" the lost, be they human or other-than-human, and who rejoices big time when the lost are found.

The parables are prefaced by an account of the criticism Jesus endured for hosting "the lost" of the human community, namely the toll collectors and those who were categorised as "sinners". The critics in the story are those who consider themselves "righteous". They have no room in their hearts for compassion or forgiveness and no capacity to accept the goodness of a prophet who acts in ways that cut across their expectations.

"What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it?" asks Jesus of his critics, who would eschew any identification with "unclean" shepherds. The lost sheep is found and ultimately embraced by the community. The ensuing celebration is likened to the heavenly banquet where there is more joy over one who repents than over those who have no need of repentance. Repent/repentance may seem a strange choice of words since all the action is taken by the shepherd. The lost sheep simply responds to the initiative of the shepherd who goes after it and returns it to the fold.

"Or what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it?" is Jesus' second question to his critics. The pattern is repeated. The drachma, representing a day's wages, is lost, sought, found and the community rejoices. Occasionally in the biblical tradition, as here, God is imaged as a woman. God is not only the good male shepherd as in the first parable or the good male parent as in the third parable. God is also the diligent female householder who seeks and saves what is lost. No single image can contain the compassionate, loving God presented in these parables. The invitation to the believing community is to find ways of opening our hearts and the hearts of the unforgiving in our world to God's action of seeking and saving the lost—here and now, not simply in the afterlife.

Veronica Lawson RSM



Responsorial Psalm: I will rise and go to my father.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Margaret Hall, Danny Frawley, Gwen Dobell,

Anniversaries: We remember: Elizabeth & Edmund Goodger, Giuseppe Finocchiaro, Michael Crowley, Joseph Davis, Nancy Davis, Basil Gregory, Walter Salo, Bill Armstrong, Chris Haintz Snr, Kevin McLaughlin, Kath Moran

We pray: Plenary Council and for the children receiving First Eucharist this weekend (St Columba's).

First Eucharist Congratulations to the 42 children receiving their First Eucharist at St Columba's this weekend. Thank you to all those who have supported the children through the preparation period.

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.

Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Ordination of Rev Shane Mackinlay as Bishop

St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on Wednesday, November 13th at 7.00pm, followed by supper in the Cathedral Hall. All welcome to attend. (Ordination in Bendigo, October 16th 12 Noon)

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

Social Justice Sunday – September 29 We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on September 29, 2019. This years theme is "Making it Real: Genuine human encounter in our digital world"

Men's Group at St Columba's will gather on Thursday 26th September at 12pm in the foyer for a light lunch. You are welcome to wear your footy colours! (Note change of time)

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



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 \$936.90 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

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.

Enrolment Information Evenings for Catholic Secondary Colleges for 2021 *Loreto College* -Monday, October 21st at 7.00pm. Further information www.loreto.vic.edu.au *Damascus College* -Tuesday, October 22nd at 6.30pm. Register your attendance at <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-visit-us> *St. Patrick's College* -Thursday, October 24th at 7.30pm. Register your attendance at www.trybooking.com/BDEBO

Global Rosary - October 13

The Global Rosary group has sent an invitation for people to pray the rosary particularly on October 13. This is a date associated with devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. People can join in this prayer by praying the rosary personally or by praying the rosary with others.

Abide: Six: Thirty please note there will be no gathering on 25th Sept. We will resume on 2nd October. For more info 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>

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 foyer or on www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Australian Pastoral Musicians Network Conference – October 1-3, 2019

The APMN National Conference will be held in Melbourne from October 1-3, 2019. The conference will feature keynote addresses from Tony Alonso and Diana Macalintal (two internationally acclaimed composers and liturgists), workshops, prayer and liturgy, showcase concert, conference dinner and resource display and sales.

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill Centenary Celebrations

Centenary celebrations will begin with a Parish Mass on November 10 at 10.30am and a school Mass on Monday, November 11 at 9.15am. Tours of the school and St Mary Mackillop College will also be held on both days. For more information to go www.smswanhill100years.com.

Final Mass- St Joseph's Church, Buangor All are welcome to attend the final Mass at St Joseph's Church, Buangor on Sunday, Sept 15, 2019 10am.

Collections at St Columba's

We thank you for your generous support

1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese) \$ 732.30
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish) \$ 1,132.60

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) \$ Loose money (2nd collection) \$
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish) \$ Weekly Average this Financial Year \$ 1,599.99

SC 21/22 Sept	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's on:	OLHC 21/22 Sept	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up
WELCOMER	Greta Kelly	Alison Thorpe	Thursday 19th September 7pm PPC meeting in the Parish Office meeting room	LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Paul Hogan	Wed 16th PPC Meeting at 7pm in Parish Centre Help required: Due to retirements, OLHC urgently need additional assistance for Sacristan Duty and to help with counting on Sundays. Thank you all who support the parish in many different ways Please contact Maree or Fr Marcello. 5330 2302.
COMMENTATOR	Ruth Marquand	Terry Grano		MINISTER of the WORD	Kevin Murphy	Deanna Osman	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Tom Keogh	Geraldine Mugavin		MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Val Bourke, John Bourke + 3 volunteers	Christine Richardson, Sue Searls + 3 volunteers	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Carmel McCormick	Jim Kierce		SACRISTAN	Tony & Pauline Newman	Marg & Geoff McLean	
GIFTS	J Madigan Family	Colleen Wakefield		Counters	Brendan Curran, Geoff & Trish Doery		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Jennifer Adams, Kate Lawry, Annette Madigan	Kay Merbach, Volunteer, Colleen Wakefield		Rural Communities 8:30 am	Waubra —15th	Learmonth —22nd	
OVERHEADS	Trish	Judith		Minister of Word:	Kerri Mullane	Bev Hayward	
SACRISTAN	Trish	Maureen	Minister of Eucharist :	Kerryn Gallagher	Tony McDonald		
				Church Cleaning:	Clare & Kerri Mullane	Bev Hayward	