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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:

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

Study Tour to the Biblical Lands with CTC The tour will travel to Jordan, Israel and Palestinian Territories and Greece plus the opportunity to add on 3 days in Crete and Delphi. The tour will depart November 14 returning December 7, 2020. Interested travellers are invited to an information session on Saturday, October 19, 2019, 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

Nazareth House Auxiliary Annual Fete All welcome to the Nazareth House Auxiliary Annual Fete on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at Mill Street, Ballarat starting at 10.00am. Cake and produce stalls, plants, spinning wheel and raffles, morning tea, sausage sizzle, horse rides and much more. For further information contact Margaret, ph. 0419003415



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

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

Thursday: 10:00 am

Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18

Ps 32:2-3. 17-19. 23. R. v.7

2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18

Lk 18:9-14



20 October 2019 ~ Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Focus on the Scriptures

Today's gospel begins with a reference to prayer, a favourite theme in Luke, and ends with a question about faith. If the parable were also about prayer, as the narrator suggests, then the unjust judge would image a God who has no respect for anyone and is slow to hear the cry of the poor! There are clearly problems with this, and scholars are divided on how to explain it. The most likely explanation is that, in the editorial process, the gospel writer has made three key additions to the story: the introductory statement that Jesus told them a parable "about the need to pray always"; the final instruction to pay attention to the judge's words; and the three questions at the end. The original parable was almost certainly told in another context and probably ended with the words of the judge. What difference might this make for us as 21st century readers? The parable has acquired different meanings as it shifted from an oral to a written context. The Lukan author fits the parable rather awkwardly to the issues he wants to address with his communities.

The scene for the verses representing the original parable is "a certain city", possibly suggesting that it is a story for any and every city. There are two main human characters, the judge and the widow. There is another non-speaking character in the wings, namely the widow's opponent. The hearer or reader is invited to fill the gaps. Who is this opponent? What sort of injustice is the widow experiencing? Since the judge clearly recognises the validity of the widow's claim, why does he refuse to hear her plea? Is it because he is accepting bribes from the woman's adversary? What sort of judge would admit to having no respect for anyone, even to himself?

A vital clue to understanding the parable lies in the translation of the final words of the judge. It literally reads: "so that she won't finish up giving me a black eye". Translators have consistently softened the impact of this with a metaphorical reading. Is Jesus drawing attention to the plight of widows in that society who can only get justice from a corrupt judiciary if they resort to violence? The widow in this story is one feisty woman: without the support of a husband or the benefit of social security payments, she has only her own personal resources to rely upon. The judge operates from the assumption that she is prepared to use her fists. A system that provides no other recourse for the vulnerable of the human community and for those endeavouring to save our endangered planet simply has to change. Jesus tells his hearers to pay attention to what the "unjust judge" has to say. It is not at all clear what the reader is meant to take from this story. One possibility is that those who seem to have little power can win out in the end if they have the courage to persist in their struggles for justice. Veronica Lawson RSM



Responsorial Psalm: Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Carmel Brinkmann (Maree Roache's sister), Thomas Rush, Walter Gercovich, Denis Gertz, Br John Neri Parker CFC and Ivan Klaric

Anniversaries: We remember: Wayne Libbis, Arthur Sowter (Snr), Nell Bourke, Eileen Gercovich, John Shaw

We pray: Those in need of our prayers, the sick, the homeless and those who are seeking employment, for the Plenary Council process in Australia (Listening and Discernment Phase) and our RCIA candidates

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.

RCIA Diocesan & State Conferences, "It takes a village" Registrations Now Open—"It takes a village" is

the theme of both the Diocesan and State RCIA conferences this year. The Diocesan Conference will be held on Friday, November 15 from 5.30pm – 9.00pm and the State Conference will be held on Saturday, November 16 from 8.30am – 4.30pm. Both events will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Precinct, Ballarat. Keynote speakers are Dr Kevin Lenehan, Master of Catholic Theological College and Sharon Brewer, National Centre for Evangelisation. Workshops on offer are: RCIA for children in your village (Mandy Robinson); Don't miss the dismissals (Mary Ann Payne); Dismissals During Advent - Understanding Matthew & Isaiah (Fr Andrew Hayes); How do we learn or come to faith (Anthony Kilmartin); Come and See: Exploring the practicalities and possibilities of the RCIA for your context (Jacqui Giuliano); Mystagogia: Humanity Limited (Justin Glynn SJ); Music is God's idea (Audrey Brown & Dr Susan Crowe); Sharing the Mission (Kim Butler); Heart Wisdom (Dr Julie Mitchell). Registrations are now open - go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. Those attending the Diocesan Conference are also welcome and encouraged to attend the State Conference.



Abide: Six: Thirty silent prayer, reflection and adoration held weekly in Learmonth Wednesdays 6.30pm (final gathering 4/12/2019). Afterwards, all are welcome for dinner across the road. Contact Matt on: 0417 991 387

175th Anniversary of the first Mass in Portland – November 1844 All are welcome to celebrate this anniversary Mass with Bishop Paul CSsR and Fr Gregory Tait on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 10.30am at All Saints Church, Portland, followed by a light luncheon at Bayview College. If you would like to attend the lunch after mass please call Di Kierce, ph. 0427 946 053 or reply to portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au or Invitation on notice board.

Catholic Mission Church Appeal October 2019—Envelopes are available for your donation

Sister Stan Mumuni is at the forefront of the Church's work in reaching out to children in need in Ghana. As the director of the Nazareth Home for God's Children, Sister Stan works endlessly to provide education, healthcare and a safe home for children rescued from life-threatening situations.



In line with traditional beliefs, in parts of Ghana, children born with a disability, or whose mother passes during childbirth, are considered to be 'spirit children' and thus at risk of being harmed or killed. The Church in Ghana is dedicated to protecting these children and educating families to ensure every child has a chance to live a full life. The Nazareth Home for God's Children is among the pioneers in this crucial mission.

Today you have the opportunity to personally partner with the Church in Ghana and offer monthly support to this essential work. All gifts will be directed to life-saving projects for children in need. Your one-off gift today is also very much appreciated and will make a great difference to those in need.

Freecall: 1800 257 296 catholicmission.org.au/Ghana

Baptisms we congratulate Alexander Trevor, son of Maree and Luke Cooper; Laura Mary, daughter of Susan and Bruce Vowles and Lyla May, daughter of Jessica and Shane Maulder, who will be Baptized on Sunday morning at St Columba's and to Kohen Stanley, son of Gabrielle and Christopher Caprio who will be Baptized at OLHC on Sunday.



Mass at Pootilla Cemetery will be celebrated at Pootilla Cemetery (Bungaree) on Sunday 10th November, 9.30am. All welcome. Some chairs provided; BYO if possible. Info: ph. 5334 0450

Plenary Council 2020: National Theme for Discernment – October:

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Humble, Healing and Merciful? 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.

Anthea Hinchey, Kim Butler, Judith O'Sullivan and Matt Restell will be facilitating St Columba's Discernment gatherings. There will be two opportunities for the first discernment session, (these are different from the dialogue sessions) the first will be held on **Tuesday 29th October from 7pm to 8.30pm** in the Church foyer and the second on **Wednesday 30th October 10am to 11.30am** (following the 9.30am Mass) in the foyer. There will be a cuppa available after the Mass. All welcome. To help you prepare for these discernment sessions we invite you to read the relevant Snapshot report. These are available in the foyer or online at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au. Contact the office for more info

Music Group for Mass of thanksgiving to mark the Ordination of Bishop Shane Mackinlay

Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for this Mass to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on Wednesday, November 13 at 7.00pm. Practice times to be advised. Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159

Loreto College Past Pupils are invited

Wednesday 6 November, 2019 High Tea: 2:00pm – 3:45pm, Past Pupils AGM: 3:35pm – 4:45pm, Mass of Remembrance: 5:00pm – 6:00pm. High Tea Tickets \$15 Please RSVP Friday 25 October for catering Book tickets here: <https://www.trybooking.com/BEGUB> or contact Jayde 53296137

Ballarat Friendship Walk

Ballarat Interfaith Network & Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia invite you to the Ballarat Friendship Walk on **Sunday October, 20, 2019 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm**. For information: Contact Elham, ph. 0411 493 327 To register: bin-jcma-friendshipwalk19.eventbrite.com.au

Collections at St Columba's		<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>	
1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 469.60		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,796.00	Average for this financial year	\$ 1,787.61

Collections at OLHC		<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 536	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 104
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 722	Weekly Average this Financial Year	\$ 1,491.89

SC 26/27 October	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's on:	OLHC 26/27 October	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up
WELCOMER	Margaret Ranger	Pat & Bernie Kenna	Men's group—next gathering Thursday 31st October more details to follow	LEADER of SONG	Sue Searls, Michael Goss	Paul Hogan	Help required: Due to retirements, we 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 the Parish office on 5330 2302. OLHC Liturgy Rosters for November to March (2020) will be prepared shortly. Any alterations to the current availability could be communicated with the Parish Office, or any additional volunteers would be welcomed
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh	Irene Monigatti		MINISTER of the WORD	Ena Bruty	Bill Jones	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	John van de Laar	Carmel King		MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Mavis McNulty, Pat Dillon, Des Lloyd + 2 volunteers	Coralie Kennedy, Harry Kennedy, Judith Potter + 2 volunteers	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jennifer Adams	Terry Grano		SACRISTAN	Tony & Pauline Newman	Marg & Geoff McLean	
GIFTS	Simmons Family	Colleen Wakefield		Counters	Peter and Deanna Osman		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Ann Lacey, Trish Simmons, Torie Waight	Kay Merbach, Colleen Wakefield, + 1		Rural Communities 8:30 am	Waubra	Learmonth	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Harry Chapman		Minister of Word:	Kerryn Gallagher	Tony McDonald	
SACRISTAN	Maree	Maureen	Minister of Eucharist :	Toni Cini	William Gallagher		
				Church Cleaning:			