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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:

National Prayer Campaign for Drought The Catholic Bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for Drought to take place during November. People across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national – and so should the response be national. More details at www.catholic.org.au/drought

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants A low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries; employed or volunteers. Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Study over 5 weeks per subject. Next study cycle begins January 12. Registrations open now until December 23. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or e. kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph. 0407 523 424.



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

Assistant Priest: Fr Sajan Mathew

Visiting Priest: Fr Gary Jones

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: 10:00 am (Funeral)

Thursday: 11:00 am Kelaston

Friday: 10.00 am

Readings for next weekend:

2 Sm 5:1-3

Ps 121:1-5. R. see v.2

Col 1:12-20

Lk 23:35-43



17 November 2019 ~ Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Focus on the Scriptures

Fifty years ago there was no Sydney Opera House. A hundred years ago there was no Harbour Bridge. It is hard to imagine a time when they did not exist or a time when they will cease to be, such is the status these monuments have acquired over a very short span of history. They are a source of wonder for tourists and locals alike. They have their counterparts elsewhere in our contemporary world. Twenty years ago, New York's World Trade Centre was another such icon, seemingly indestructible and holding the pride of an economically and politically dominant nation, even if less aesthetically engaging than Sydney's monuments.

In first century Palestine, the newly refurbished Jerusalem Temple was both aesthetically stunning and symbolically charged. It functioned primarily as the centre of religious worship. It was also an important locus of financial and political power. Its significance can hardly be exaggerated and its destruction at the hands of the Romans in 70CE was a devastating blow for the Jewish people. Luke is writing some twenty years after this event. He wants to tell his communities that the destruction of the Temple did not signal the end of the world, though that is how it might have seemed at the time. There is life to be lived and there are struggles to be endured before God's final advent. Luke wants to offer hope and encouragement in the face of conflict and persecution and family division. He wants to offer his readers a caution not to listen to everyone who claims to know the time, the kairos, of God's visitation.

Like Jesus, disciples can expect to be "handed over" and brought before political authorities. They are to find in this an opportunity to give witness or "to testify". In his second volume, Luke has Jesus commissioning the disciples to be his witnesses "in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). They don't have to worry about what to say in their own defence: "I will give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict." Endurance or patience is the way to life. The Greek term used here evokes the parable of the sower: "as for that [the seed] in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance" (Luke 8:15). In our own times, when the life of our planetary home is at stake, when the political systems we have trusted are so often manipulated by the greed of the few and when families are torn apart, we are called to witness to a gospel way of life, to hold the word of God fast in honest and good hearts and to trust that we are not alone in the everyday struggles of life. Veronica Lawson RSM



Responsorial Psalm: The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Carmel O'Connell, Anthony Arundell, Jim Griffin

Anniversaries: We remember: Jack Scanlon, Ronnie Spratling, Barry Mitchell

We pray: Those in need of our prayers especially Saskiah Gallagher, 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

Remembrance Liturgy On Wednesday 20th November at 7pm in St Columba's Church, parishioners and friends are invited to gather together as we remember and pray for those who have died during the past year, as well as those who continue to grieve. Please invite other family members to join with us, or if you know of someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, please invite them to join with us. Following the liturgy, you are invited to join with us for a cuppa in the foyer.

Abide: Six: Thirty silent prayer, reflection and adoration Learmonth on Wednesdays 6.30pm (final gathering 4/12/2019). Matt on: 0417 991 387

St Joseph's Learmonth Recently the Learmonth community met to discern the ongoing sustainability of continuing to gather for worship on a regular basis. In view of the very small number of attendees, the community has decided to cease gathering for Mass on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month. Naturally there is some sadness in coming to this decision, hence it is appropriate that the final celebration of Mass be one in which we give thanks for over 140 years of gathering as a faith community. Bishop Paul Bird will celebrate the final Mass on **Sunday 12th January 2020 at 10.30 am** with lunch and refreshments to follow afterwards. Please note Mass in Wendouree that Sunday will be at **9.00 am**

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 & much more.

Raffle The OLHC annual raffle is being run again. Tickets will be on sale before and after Mass. \$2 a ticket. Please consider taking a book home to sell to family and friends if you are able. \$1.60 from each ticket sold will come back to our Parish. Please return books with money in a named envelope, and put on the collection plate. Thank you for your support.

Nazareth House Auxiliary Iconic Movie morning and High Tea "White Christmas" starring Bing Crosby. Regent Cinema on Thursday, November 28, 2019 at 10.00am. Tickets \$25.00 each, pre-booking essential. For further information contact Margaret, ph. 0419 003415.

Asylum Seeker fundraiser The House of Welcome Ballarat, Annual Garden party will be held on Sunday November 24th at 2pm. Venue - 30 Waller Ave. Newington. Fun for all the family. Lorne Holiday draw at 4pm. Entry \$20. Children free.. Inquiries 0401175045

Plenary Council thank you to those who joined us for this week's plenary discernment sessions. Just a reminder that these sessions are prayer, reflection and discernment and are different from the dialogue sessions held earlier in the year. The results from this second round will form the agenda for the Council itself. The next theme we will focus on is: "How is God calling us to be a Christ centred Church that is "...Open to Conversion, renewal and reform. Sessions will be at St Columba's: Today **Sunday Nov 17 following 10am Mass** in the foyer and **Tuesday 19th November 3.30pm** the St Columba's school hall. All welcome.

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch OLHC Parish Wendouree are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Transport is available. For bookings or further information ph. 0419 975914 or email christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com Flyer on noticeboard

The Wendouree West Exodus Community wish to invite you to our annual Advent Mass and Barbeque to be held on Wednesday December 4th 2019 at 14 Violet Grove, Wendouree West (Wendouree West Neighbourhood Centre), beginning at 6pm. All welcome



Voices of Hope and Challenge Conference In conjunction with Yarra Theological Union, Garratt Publishing is pleased to present an important conference designed to help faith filled people better understand some of the most important and complex issues that face the Australian Catholic Church and those that will be crucial to the success of the upcoming Plenary Council. The "Voices of Hope and Challenge" conference looks ahead to the Plenary and offers Catholics the opportunity to have their voices heard. November 15-17, 2019 at YU Box Hill. For more information go to <https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/blog/post/vohc-2019/>.

Catholic Social Services 2020 Conference – Early Bird Registration

Early bird registrations are now open for the CSSV Conference, "Serving Communities with Courage and Compassion" to be held from February 26-28, 2020 in Melbourne. For more information and to register go to <https://www.css.org.au/Serving-Communities>

Joan Chiffister osb – Live in Melbourne in 2020 Sr Joan is an American Benedictine and Practical Theologian who embodies the voice of wisdom and experience. Her prophetic views on justice and equality, especially for women in the church, challenge those who would silence women and people at the margins. Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at the Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne at 7.00pm. Ticket are \$25.00 each or early bird special \$20.00 each (before April 1, 2020) at www.trybooking.com/BFSNU. Flyer on noticeboard.

Can you help? Due to a recent resignation we are needing one person to take on the role of Sacristan on a Sunday morning at St Columba's. We also are looking for more people to operate the overhead—one on Saturday night and one on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in either role please speak with Judith or Josie. Full training will be given.

Mercy Pilgrimage with Oberammergau Explore the iconic pilgrimage sites of Eastern Europe in this 16-day pilgrimage led by Fr. Patrick Jackson departing on 08th August 2020. This pilgrimage features Warsaw, Krakow, Prague, Munich, and Oberammergau. Witness the famous Passion Play 2020 which takes place once-a-decade for an all-inclusive price of \$7900 + Tips. The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfast & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides + Entrances as per itinerary and more. For inquiries & bookings email: info@magiholidays.com.au or call 03 8839 6615. See flyer on noticeboard

St Columba's Men's Group final gathering for the year will be lunch in the foyer on Thursday 28th November. Please contact Judith in the Office for details or if you require transport.

Spring clean in St Columba's Church Saturday 23rd November from 9am bring cleaning materials, buckets, cloths etc All welcome

Collections at St Columba's		We thank you for your generous support		Collections at OLHC		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 720.25			1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 477.10	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 78.00
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 878.30	Average for this financial year	\$ 1,860.40	2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 784.30	Weekly Average this Financial Year	\$ 1,457.08

SC 23/24 November	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's coming up:	OLHC 23/24 Nov	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up
WELCOMER	Anne Caine	Geraldine Mugavin	17th November Plenary Session following 10am Mass	LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Vin Dillon	Sun 17th Appreciation Sunday
COMMENTATOR	Trish Simmons	Anne Rossiter	19th November Plenary Session 3.30pm in the School Hall	MINISTER of the WORD	Kevin Murphy	Anne Briody	Upcoming: Wed 27th PPC Meeting at 7:00 pm
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jim Kierce	Anthea Hinchey	20th November Remembrance Liturgy 7pm	MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	John Bourke, Val Bourke, Trish Pearce + 2 volunteers	Helen Rieniets, Peter Briody, Maxine Rousch + 2 volunteers	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Frank Sheehan	Min Myers	30th November 6pm All School Mass	SACRISTAN	John & Sue Calistro	Geoff & Marg McLean	
GIFTS	David & Catherine Fara	Carmel King	Upcoming: Tuesday 3rd Dec 2pm Anointing Mass	Counters	Trish & Chris Pearce, Pauline Newman		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Kathleen Keogh, Jennifer Adams, Annette Madigan	Judith O'Sullivan, Irene Monigatti, Kathy Bennetts		Rural Communities 8:30 am	Waubra 17th Nov	Learmonth 24th Nov	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer	Harry Chapman		Minister of Word:	Cate Molloy	Julia Cini	
SACRISTAN	Maree	Maureen		Minister of Eucharist :	Kerryn Gallagher	Bev Hayward	
				Church Cleaning:	Kerryn & L. Gallagher	Bev Hayward	