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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:

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>

National Pastoral Ministry Conference Save the date for the National Pastoral Ministry Conference, July 9-11, 2020 at St Mary Star of the Sea College, Wollongong, "Alive in the Spirit". The Conference is coordinated by the NSW Association of Pastors, Pastoral Associates and Parish Workers (NAPPA) collaborating with the Christian Initiation Australia Network (CIAN). Keynote Speaker is Leisa Anslinger from the USA and a National Leader in StrengthsFinder work and in Parish Engagement & Stewardship. For further information contact Lisa Bright, email lisa.bright@parracatholic.org or ph. 0448 652720. Flyer on noticeboard



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

Friday: 11:45am School

Mass times: OLHC

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Tuesday: 5:00 pm

Thursday: 11:00 am Anointing

Readings for next weekend:

Is 35: 1-6, 10

Ps 145:6-10 R 35:4

Jas 5:7-10

Matt 11:2-11



8 December 2019 ~ Second Sunday in Advent (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

When John the Baptist performed baptism it was for the forgiveness of sin. The baptism he gave was a mark of the desire to enter into a new life of right action. It was not a baptism of initiation into community that is the case today. John had two key words that he is recorded as preaching: repent and prepare. His call for repentance was a call to turn away from sin; a call to have a change of heart; a call to turn one's life around and make a fresh start. His call for preparation is in the long line of prophets that includes the great prophet Isaiah from whom we take today's first reading. All of the prophets urged the people towards hope in the future. Isaiah and others spoke specifically of a person – a Messiah – who would bring that hope to reality. But the tradition demanded a readiness for the Messiah and that was the call to preparation that John the Baptist echoed at the beginning of the public life of Jesus.

John's taunting of the Pharisees and Sadducees is an indication of this need for preparation and readiness. He accuses them of being too confident of their own rightness. He demands proof from them of their honest repentance: 'but if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit'. Rather, he suspects that they think that salvation is assured for them by virtue of being a Jew; a son of Abraham. He warns them that an axe hangs poised to cut down any part of the Jewish tradition that is failing to produce good fruit. This is a theme that is picked up later by Jesus himself; you can't be complacent about your own position, you have to welcome the new truth revealed by Jesus and give yourself wholeheartedly to God.

© Greg Sunter

Responsorial Psalm: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Terry Carman, Mary McCauley (Gerry McBrearty's sister), Sinie Dam, Dorothy Vaughan (Vin Dillon's sister)

Anniversaries: We remember: Brian Fitzpatrick, Fr John Martin

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

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. See flyer on noticeboard

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. Pleaser return books with money in an named envelope, and put on the collection plate. Thank you for your support.

Young adult retreat Looking for a young adults retreat that will change your life? Registration is now open for next year's "Summer School of Evangelisation" (January 12-19, 2020). This unique event held in Bacchus Marsh will be a powerful week of encountering God, where you can experience great speakers, uplifting worship, beautiful liturgies and a vibrant community of 16-35 year olds looking to deepen their faith in Christ. Ballarat Diocese Youth Ministry is offering financial support to help cover the costs of attending this week-long camp. Anyone interested can contact Patrick on 5337-7160 or email patrick.kennedy@ballarat.catholic.org.au for more information.

Sew and So Thursday 12th December 2019 in St Columba's Church Foyer at 1.30pm. This will be the last time we gather together this year so come along for a cuppa and chat. Enquiries Margaret 53314032.

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition and it is also the spiritual preparation for Christmas and commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a series of nine masses on the days leading up to Christmas, which will be held at St James' Parish Church Sebastopol on Mon Dec 16 at 7pm, Tues Dec 17 at 7pm, Wed Dec 18 at 8pm (following Advent Reconciliation Service), Thurs Dec 19 at 7pm, Fri Dec 20 at 7pm, Sat Dec 21 at 7pm, Sunday Dec 22 at 7pm, Mon Dec 23 at 7pm, Tues December 24 at 2pm (Filipino Christmas Mass & Carols). The celebrant will be Fr Jorge De Chavez OSJ. All welcome. For further info contact: Connie, ph. 0449 053 647, Cynthia, ph. 0419 547 514, Sherley, ph. 5338 1266 (shop), 0417 331 756, Urbing, ph. 0419 558 965 and Dion, ph. 0427 876 533.

Christmas Rosters roster sheets are now out for St Columba's Christmas Masses of 6pm and 8pm Christmas Eve and 9am Christmas Day. If you will be at one of these Masses please put your name down for a ministry. We need you. Thank you

Giving tree once again we will be having a giving tree in the foyer of St Columba's Church. Please take an angel card from the tree and purchase a gift suitable for a male or female adult. Then wrap gift, tape the card you took onto the gift and return it to under the tree (up to or prior to the weekend of 14/15 December). There will also be a box for you to donate food or toiletry items. Your assistance with one or other or both these causes would be greatly appreciated.



Advent Retreat Sunday December 15th 2.00pm – 5.00pm at St Alipius' Hall, Victoria St Ballarat East. Rachel McLoughlin and Natalie Houlihan will lead a spacious advent time of Reflections, Readings, Music, Images, Silence and ending with Spiritual Conversation circles. All are welcome to join us.

Baptism Congratulations to Valda Joy Katalin, daughter of Emma and Andrew Agardy, and to Stassi Raine, daughter of Nathan and Rebekah Delmo who will be Baptized on Sunday morning at St Columba's Parish. We pray that they will grow in faith with the loving support of their parents, godparents and our Parish Community.



Reconciliation OLHC will be held on Wednesday, December 11th commencing at 7:00 pm. All Welcome.

Reconciliation St Columba's Wednesday 18th December 7:00pm in the Church. All welcome.

St Columba's Parishioners does anyone have a Pyx at home that you are no longer using. If you could return it to the Sacristy for others to take Holy Communion to the housebound it would be much appreciated.

SVDP End of Year Mass St Columba's branch will held their final Mass of thanksgiving on Monday 9th Dec at 7pm in the Church. All welcome

Making a Scene at Christmas All are welcome to visit the Making a Scene at Christmas displays at Ss Michael & John's Church Horsham from December 5-8 and Ss Peter & Paul's Church Buninyong from December 12-15. Thursdays and Fridays between 9.30am – 3.00pm we welcome school groups. Flyer on noticeboard.



Anointing Mass OLHC Thursday 12th Dec 11am followed by a cuppa. If anyone is requiring transport, please phone Corrie ph 0401478227.

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.

Holy Hour and Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Friday 13th December, from 6.00pm till 7.00pm in the church. All most welcome

St Columba's Communion to the Home Ministry all those who take Holy Communion to the homebound—we have hampers which have been kindly donated from the school for our homebound parishioners. If you would like to collect a hamper to deliver, you can collect one from the Parish office Wednesday to Friday 9am—1pm over the next two weeks. Contact Judith if you will be unable to collect one during office hours.

Christmas Mass Times:

St Columba's: Christmas Eve 6pm & 8pm; Christmas Day 9am

Our Lady Help of Christians: Christmas Eve 7pm; Christmas Day 10am

Rural: Waubra Christmas Day 8.30am

New Year's Day Mass Times: (Wednesday 1st Jan 2020)

St Columba's: 9.30am Mass in the foyer

Our Lady Help of Christians: 9am



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)	\$ 835.35		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,911.90	Average for this financial year	\$ 1,799.30

Collections at OLHC		<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 718.70	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 189.40
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 2,120.50	Weekly Average this Financial Year	\$ 1,438.52

SC 14/15 Dec	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's coming up:	OLHC 14/15 Dec	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up
WELCOMER	Catherine Fara	Alison Thorpe	Upcoming:	LEADER of SONG	Sue Searls	Veronica Stott	
COMMENTATOR	Shirley Edgar	Pat Kenna	Thursday 12th Dec 1.30pm Sew'n'so	MINISTER of the WORD	Laureen Rhodes	Helen & Colin Feely	11th Dec Reconciliation at 7:00 pm
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	John van de Laar	Terry Grano	Friday 13th Dec 6pm Holy Hour	MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Bev Hayward, Trish Pearce, Joyce Jackson + 2 volunteers	Helen Rieniets, Peter Briody, Maxine Rousch + 2 volunteers	12th Dec Anointing Mass & Cuppa at 11am.
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jennifer Adams	Irene Monigatti	Wed 18th Dec 7pm Reconciliation	SACRISTAN	John & Sue Calistro	Peter & Sapphire Osman	
GIFTS	John Madigan Family	Sharon de Beer		Counters	John & Sue Calistro		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Annette Madigan, Ruth Marquand, Peter Marquand	Shane Bruty, Anthea Hinchey, Judith O'Sullivan		Rural Communities 8:30 am	Learmonth 8th Dec	Waubra - 15th Dec	
OVERHEADS	Norah & Stephen	Megan		Minister of Word:	Roy Rhoderick	Tony McDonald	
SACRISTAN	Norah	Megan		Minister of Eucharist :	Kerryn Gallagher	Clare Mullane	
				Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward	Sharon & Marty Moran	