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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

BALLARAT NEWS

Prayer for Plenary Council

*Blessed are you,
God of all creation.
You have given us life and light
and all the wonders of the world.
You have sent your Son Jesus
to be our Saviour
and your Holy Spirit
to be our guide.
As we prepare for the
Plenary council,
we ask you to come into our hearts
with your Son and Holy Spirit.
Come to us and
make your home in us.
We pray for our local
community,
for the people of our diocese
and for the Church throughout
Australia.
May your wisdom show us the way,
for your word is a lamp for our feet
and a light for our path.
Come and fill the hearts of your
faithful and kindle in us the fire
of your love, that we may
live by your gospel
and share your good news
with all we meet.
Holy Mary, Mother of our
Saviour,
pray for us. St Mary
MacKillop,
pray for us. Amen*



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

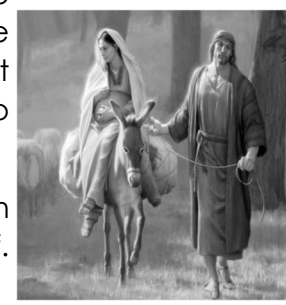
Mass times: St Columba's
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday: 10:00 am
Mass times: Wendouree
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am Rural
10:00 am OLHC
Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1
Col 3:12-21
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

22nd December 2019 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent (A)

Focus on the Scriptures
Joseph could not ignore Mary's pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him.
If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened.

You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message.
We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!
@ Michael Tate



Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God with us. Alleluia!

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 8.30am Christmas Day

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Kathleen McDaid (Gerry McBrearty's sister), Guiseppa Raschila, Sarah Tonkin
Anniversaries: We remember: Kerin Graham, David Fithall, Ronald Mark Edgar, Ronald Leslie Edgar, Stephen Head, Patrick Curran
We pray: for the sick of our Parishes, especially Saskiah Gallagher; for all those for whom Christmas is a difficult time, for the success of the Plenary Council and for those on the RCIA journey for 2019/2020.

The offices will be closed from Friday 20th December at 12 noon until 9am Wednesday 29th January. For any urgent matters please call Fr Marcello at the Presbytery—phone 5332 4324. The answerphones and emails at both parishes will be checked regularly for recent deaths & anniversaries.

Notice sheets & rosters Christmas Mass rosters are in the foyer. Also over January please be aware of any vacancies to rostered ministries. If you are at Mass and can help, please do so. There will be notice sheets in the foyer for each weekend over the holiday period. They will contain the current weekend roster. Rosters will also be on notice board. The first full notice sheet will be published on 1/2 February

Diocesan Christmas Appeal There will be an opportunity to contribute to the Bishops Christmas Appeal after Communion during the Christmas Masses, otherwise money for this appeal can be placed in an envelope clearly marked "Bishops Appeal" can be left on the collection plate. Thank you in advance.

St Joseph's Learmonth In October 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**

 I want to thank all the parishioners of St Columba's and OLHC for welcoming me into the Parish and I ask that you keep me in your prayers as I return to the Seminary for the remainder of my studies. **Matthew Restall**

St Columba's and OLHC Parishes thank Matthew for his time with us, the many parishioners he visited and his contribution to the life of our Parishes. We will keep him in our prayers wish him well for his future studies in the Seminary.

Baptisms Congratulations to Oliver Leigh and Noah Maxwell, sons of Mark and Joanne Thornton, 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 the parish community.



Baptism Preparation sessions these are offered to parents wishing to have their child (under 7 years of age) Baptised. The sessions are held monthly on the first Thursday at 10am and 7pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons Street. Please note there is no January session, the next one will be Thursday 6th February. For further info contact the Parish office.

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.

Wendouree West Exodus Community thanks the generosity of parishioners who have donated food and plastic containers throughout 2019. It has been much appreciated.

Wednesday 1st January 2020 Masses will be held at 9.00am at OLHC Church in Wendouree and 9.30am at St Columba's Ballarat North (held in the foyer)

Advertisers We take this opportunity to thank our advertisers for their ongoing support of the Parishes. We encourage you to use their products and/or services during the year.

Giving tree thank you to all those who so generously gave gifts and/or groceries for distribution by St Columba's SVDP. Your generosity has gone a long way in helping ease the pressures of Christmas for a lot of our families. God bless you all.

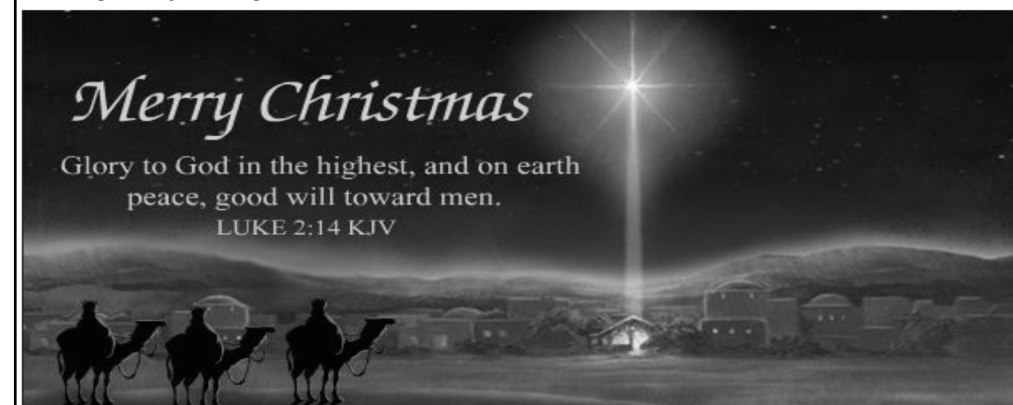


Wednesday Masses at St Columba's at 9.30am will continue through the holiday period. Many thanks to Fr Dan for your ongoing ministry in the Parish.

Plenary Council Bishop Paul is inviting us to nominate delegates from our diocese for the sessions of the Australian Plenary Council to be held in 2020 and 2021. Copies of the Bishops letter are available on the notice board or via the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. Nominations need to reach Bishop Paul by Friday, February 7th, 2020

Pastoral Care Education The South West Victoria CPE Centre is offering the opportunity for education and formation in Pastoral Care, with the option to have a CPE unit recognised as 30 points should you wish to enrol in theological studies with the University of Divinity. The Centre is registered through the Association for Supervised and Clinical Pastoral Education Victoria (ASACPEV Inc.) and supported by an advisory group, Frs Gerry Prunty, John Fitzgerald and Paddy Mugavin. Bernadette Wurlod is the Clinical Pastoral Supervisor and CPE Centre Director. For further information ph. 0455 033 321 or email bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au.

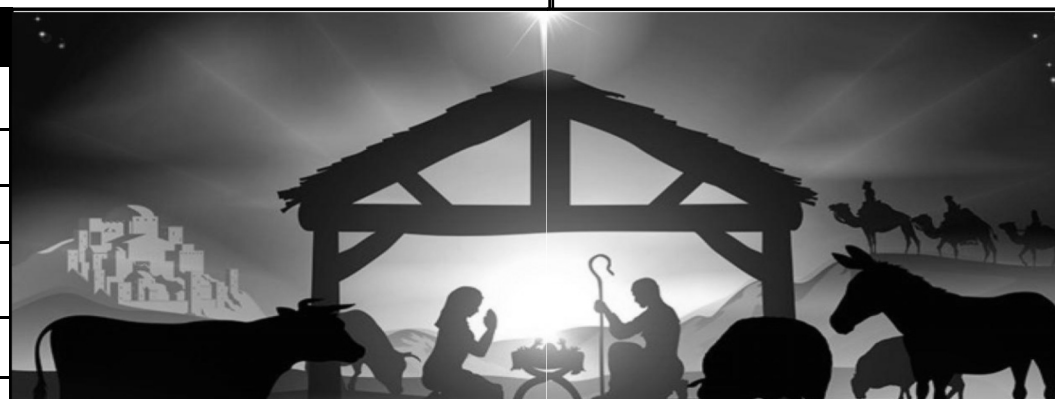
Fr Marcello, Fr Sajan, Maree and Judith would like to wish you a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to the many wonderful parishioners who quietly, many behind the scenes, contribute of their time and talent to the regular day to day running of the Parishes, without you we would struggle to continue. We pray that 2020 will be a year of blessings for you and your family.



Collections at St Columba's		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 575.80		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 2,709.55	Average for this financial year	\$ 1,799.30

Collections at OLHC		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 575.40	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 117.00
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 1,311.70	Weekly Average	\$ 1,438.52

S/C NEXT WEEKEND	SAT 28th Dec	SUN 29th Dec
WELCOMER	Tim Fithall	Helen Linane
COMMENTATOR	Eileen van de Laar	Judy Brown
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Volunteer please	Audrey Brown
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Trish Simmons	Bruce Chapman
GIFTS	Tom & Greta Kelly	Carmel King
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Jennifer Adams, Annette Madigan, + 1 Volunteer	Kathy Bennetts, Judy Brown, Margaret Martino
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Sharon
SACRISTAN	Maree	Josie



May you have the *gift of Faith*,
The *blessing of Hope*, and the *peace of His Love*
At Christmas and always

OLHC 28th/29th Dec	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Paul Hogan
MINISTER of the WORD	Sue Calistro	Harry Kennedy
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	John Bourke, Val Bourke, Trish Pearce + 2 volunteers	Coralie Kennedy, Harry Kennedy, Sue Searls + 2 volunteers
SACRISTAN	Pauline Howard	Joyce Jackson
Counters	Brendan Curran, Trish & Geoff Doery	
Rural Communities 8:30 am	Learmonth—22nd	Lexton—29th
Minister of Word:	Fon Ryan	
Minister of Eucharist :	Bev Hayward,	
Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward,	