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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 John's Primary School Dennington – Centenary Celebrations will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2020 beginning with Mass at 10.00am and celebrations to follow. If you have any memorabilia or stories, please contact Sharon Easley by email 100years@sjdennington.catholic.edu.au or text on 0423 361 914

Ireland Tour—Eat Pray Love Joyce Clery and Emma Coburn (Ararat parishioners) are co-hosting a tour of Ireland from 1-13 September 2020. For more information go to www.eatpraylovetravel.com.au

St Joseph's Church Nullawil Final Mass All are welcome to attend the Final Mass at St Joseph's Church Nullawil on Sunday, April 4, 2020 at 12.30pm. A light luncheon will follow. For further information please contact Kaylene James, ph. 0428 935270.



Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Ballarat North, 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

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

Waubra 1st & 3rd Sun

Lexton 5th Sunday

10:00 am OLHC

Thursday: 7:30 pm Miners Rest

Friday: 10.00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Is 58:7-10

Ps 111: 4-9 r v4

1 Cor 2: 1-5

Mt 5:13-16



2 February 2020 ~ The Presentation of the Lord

Focus on the Scriptures

This year the Feast of the Presentation falls on a Sunday and takes precedence over the celebration of the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. We might ask why this feast is of such importance in the liturgical calendar. Between the story of Jesus' birth and the beginning of his ministry, Luke inserts three stories. The first tells of Jesus' circumcision on the eighth day after his birth. The third story has Jesus teaching in the Jerusalem Temple at twelve years of age. He has come with his parents on pilgrimage to Jerusalem to celebrate the great feast of Passover. Luke notes that the family makes this pilgrimage from Nazareth in Galilee to Jerusalem every year. The second story, today's reading, has Mary and Joseph presenting their child in the Temple forty days after his birth, in observance of the Law of Moses (as prescribed in Leviticus 12:2-8). This Sunday marks the fortieth day since the celebration of Jesus' birth: it is not a moveable feast. All three stories locate Jesus and his parents firmly within the tradition as law-observant, faithful Jews.

Luke introduces into today's story two faith-filled wisdom figures, first a man, Simeon, and then a woman prophet, Anna. Both witness to the identity and future ministry of the child presented this day in the Temple. Their witness provides a microcosm of the gospel story. Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, comes into the Temple, takes the child in his arms and utters some of the most memorable words in the Christian scriptures. The child is to be God's saving presence in the world, a light to give revelation to the nations and glory to Israel. There are echoes in this proclamation of Isaiah 49:6 which speaks of God's servant bringing light to the nations and salvation to the ends of the earth. There is also an echo of Isaiah 46:13 where God is said to bring salvation to Jerusalem and glory to Israel. Simeon declares that this child is destined for the rising and the falling of many, that he will experience opposition and that his mother too will know deep sorrow.

Anna, like Simeon, raises her voice in the courts of the Jerusalem Temple, the heart of Israel's religious, political and economic power. While Simeon is given direct prophetic speech, Anna's prophesying is recounted indirectly. While Elizabeth and Mary proclaim prophetic words, Anna is the only woman in Luke's gospel to be named as "prophet". This woman prophet proclaims the good news of salvation in Jesus. The verbal form used indicates that Anna "keeps on speaking" about the child to "all who await the redemption of Jerusalem." The invitation here might be for us to emulate Anna's courage and persistence as we enter the halls of power and seek to move the hearts of religious and political leaders to compassion and justice for all those displaced within the Earth community.

Veronica Lawson RSM



Responsorial Psalm: Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Stuart Robertson

Anniversaries: We remember: Bill & Mary Martin, Pauline Buscovey Segun,

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

Commissioning Mass for St Columba's School Staff there will be a commissioning of the staff from the school during the 10am Mass on Sunday 9th February. We will especially welcome the new co-principals Bambi Afford and Shaun Mohr. There will be a cuppa after Mass and a time to meet and greet with the staff. Please bring a plate for morning tea. Thanks.

Invitation to join 2020 Roundtable Conversations on Ecological Theology with Sr. Veronica Lawson and Fr Barry Ryan at Mercy Gathering Room, 16 Gent Street, Ballarat East (side entrance). Wednesday Evening Series: 7-9pm, February 26, March 25, April 22, May 20, June 17, July 15; Thursday Afternoon Series: 1-3pm, February 27, March 26, April 23, May 21, June 18, July 16. Registration: email veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au (kindly include contact details). Donation (to cover expenses and to make a contribution to ecological justice): \$5 per session.

Plenary Council Delegates from the Diocese of Ballarat 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 Bishop Paul's letter are available through parishes, through the diocesan website at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au and are also attached. Nominations need to reach Bishop Paul by Friday, February 7, 2020.

St Vincent de Paul St Alphonsus conference would like to thank all for the generous support of the Vinnies Bushfire appeal last weekend. \$1441.65 has been banked into the Vinnies appeal account - a wonderful response from OLHC parish. Thank you!

Senior Reconciliation @ St Columba's for children in Grade 6 or over. There will be an information night for parents on Wednesday 19th February at 7pm in the St Columba's School Hall. Contact Judith 5331 1012 for more information

Catholic Social Services 2020 Conference – Registration Registrations are 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 Biennial Liturgy Conference Save the date for the National Biennial Liturgy Conference, March 12-14, 2020 in Parramatta, "Liturgy: Forming a Prayerful and Eucharistic Church." This conference is organised by the National Liturgical Council and National Liturgical Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and aims to provide those working in liturgical ministry in parishes, schools and other communities with enriching opportunities for liturgical education, prayerful celebration, professional networking and fellowship. Keynote presenter is sacramental theologian Fr Paul Turner STD from the USA. Visit our website for more info [bit.ly/nlc2020event]

Mercy Works recruits volunteers to support students from a refugee/asylum seeker background in Ballarat Schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The project aims to provide mentoring for young people to optimize their literacy development, academic and social learning. Mercy Connect volunteers work with students during school hours and the volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but volunteers receive on-going training and support. Obtaining a current Working with Children Check is part of the application process. More information contact Donna Stewart, ph. 0417 624 330 or email mercyconnectb@gmail.com.

OLHC Minister's Rosters are now being prepared for the next 4 months. New Ministers (Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Musicians are urgently needed—please consider if you are able to assist) Please contact the parish Office Ph 5339 2302 or email : wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

CWL Cathedral Branch will meet for February at Nazareth House Parlour on TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4TH AT 1.30PM. This will be a Social Afternoon and all ladies of the Parishes are invited to come along. Anna Krohn will give an update of Branch events for the year along and the installation of the Catholic Womens League of Australia at the inaugural Mass at St Patricks Cathedral, Melbourne on February 9th. Inquiries 0401175045

OLHC Eucharistic Ministers meeting on Tuesday 25th February at 7:00 pm in the church.

Miners Rest Community Mass on Thursday 6th February at 7:30 pm .

The Community of St Joseph's Learmonth expresses its sincere gratitude to the communities of St John the Baptist Waubra and St Joseph's Lexton for their support and understanding in deciding to cease gathering for worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

The support and contributions of both communities have been invaluable in ensuring that we could accommodate the various ministries required for the celebration of Mass. The final Mass on Sunday 12th January was a wonderful way to conclude worshipping on a semi regular basis at Learmonth with the BBQ lunch catered for by the Mt Bolton Lions Club. A big thank you to you all as we continue worshipping our God together at Waubra.

World Interfaith Harmony Week in Ballarat All are invited to events form World Interfaith Harmony Week in Ballarat (flyer on noticeboard):
 · The Civic Flag Raising on Tuesday, February 4 at 11.00am. Meet at Queen Victoria Square opposite the Town Hall.
 · Walk and Talk in the Wetlands, at which Hedley Thomson, Community Member who assisted in the City Council planning of the wetlands at Lake Wendouree and Deanne Gilson, Indigenous local artist who created the Indigenous Sculpture nearby, will both be speaking on Saturday, February 8 at 10.00am. Meet at the Indigenous Sculpture Park, Wendouree Parade.

Bushfire Appeal thank you to those who gave so generously to the leaving collection last weekend to the appeal organised by Vinnies for distribution to the conferences in the effected areas. **St Columba's \$1,046.20 - Our Lady Help of Christians \$ 1,241.65**

Sew and So Thursday 13th February 2020, at 1.30pm in the St Columba's Church Foyer. It will be good to have a catch up after the Christmas break. Enquiries to Margaret 53314032.

Cosy Koala Fundraiser hosted by the YESS Youth Ballarat. BBQ, bake sale and live music on Sunday 2nd February 11.30am-5pm. Proceeds to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal. Donated goods can be dropped off on the day. See flyer in church.

Men Alive see notice board for more information

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)	\$ 662.15			1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 475.95	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 92.00
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,217.40	Average for this financial year	\$ 1742.98	2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 778.85	Weekly Average this Financial Year	\$ 1,498.75

SC 8/9 Feb	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's coming up:	OLHC 8/9 Feb	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up
WELCOMER	Greta Kelly	Helen Linane	Upcoming: 13th February 12 noon Welcome Mass for St Columba's school. All welcome 13th February 1.30pm Sew'n'so 14th February 6pm Holy Hour 26th February 12 noon Ash Wednesday Mass	LEADER of SONG	Laureen Rhodes	Sue Searls	6th Feb Miners Rest community Mass—7:30 pm <u>Venue:</u> Bill Loader's home.
COMMENTATOR	Ann Lacey	Colleen Wakefield		MINISTER of the WORD	Trish Pora	Peter Dwyer	Upcoming:
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Vicki Moroney	Audrey Brown		MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Pauline Newman, Mavis McNulty, Joyce Jackson + 2 volunteers	Coralie Kennedy, Harry Kennedy, Tony Bruty + 2 volunteers	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	John van de Laar	Terry Ranger		SACRISTAN	Tony & Pauline Newman	Helen Rieniets	26th February 9.15am Ash Wednesday Mass
GIFTS	David & Catherine Farra	Pat & Bernie Kenna		Counters	Trish Pora, Catherine Clifford, Brian Ratcliffe		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Annette Madigan, Peter Marquand, Ruth Marquand	Georgina Hinchey, Bruce Chapman, Alison Thorpe		Rural Communities 8:30 am	Waubra 2nd Feb		
OVERHEADS	Norah & Stephen	Judith		Minister of Word:	James Molloy		
SACRISTAN	Norah	Anne		Minister of Eucharist :	Sharon Gallagher		
				Church Cleaning:			