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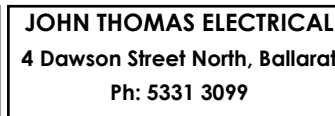
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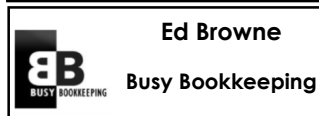
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards 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:

**Marriage Encounter Weekend** Invest in your most precious asset.....Your Marriage! Married couples, come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing! The weekend is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. **Next weekend is on 17-19 April 2020 in Melbourne Other weekends on 17-19 July and 13-15 November 2020. Starts 7pm on Friday ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.** Information/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.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



Office: 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth Phone: 5331 1012  
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or  
ballararnorthpastoral@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr  
School Phone: 5332 4894

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302  
Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
P O Box 192, Wendouree  
School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw  
School Phone: 5339 4726

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

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: OLHC

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:30 am Waubra  
(1st & 3rd Sunday, Lexton 5th Sunday)  
10:00 am OLHC

Readings for next weekend:

Lv 19: 1-2, 17-18  
Ps 102:1-4,8, 10, 12-13 R v 8  
1 Cor 3: 16-23  
Matt 5: 38-48



16th February 2020 ~ The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

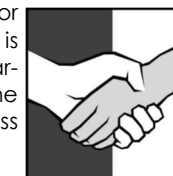
### Focus on the Scriptures

We sometimes forget that Jesus was a faithful Jew who observed the Law handed down within Israel from generation to generation. Today's gospel is from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus, the faithful Jewish teacher, addresses his Jewish disciples and the Jewish crowds who gather to hear his words.

The mission of Jesus is to fulfill the law ("I have come to..."), not to do away with it, and fulfilling the law is a question of "righteousness". The Greek term for righteousness, dikaiosunē, translates both the Hebrew *sedeqah* meaning "right relationship" and *mishpat* meaning "justice". The righteousness of the official teachers of the Law, the scribes and Pharisees, their manner of relating to others and their notions of justice, are judged to be quite inadequate for those who are part of God's reign, the kin-dom "of heaven" in Matthew's terminology. The righteousness of Jesus' followers is to "exceed" such minimalist interpretations and expressions of the Law.

Jesus, authentic teacher and interpreter of the Law, offers six examples of the righteousness that "fulfils" the Law. Four of these examples are included in today's reading. What was heard "of old" is contrasted with what Jesus wants to say to his hearers. In the first instance, they all know that the Law forbids murder. They may not have considered the connection between unrestrained anger or murderous thoughts and murder itself. In a series of cascading sentences, Jesus presents a charter for reconciliation and forgiveness. He reminds his audience that true worship demands a forgiving heart expressed in action. He includes a fairly pragmatic reason for settling out of court: you may actually find yourself in prison. There may be an implicit criticism here of the increasingly punitive legal system of the time, a reminder to us of the futility of incarceration for minor crimes.

The second example puts "lustful looking" on a par with adultery. In an age of easy access to internet pornography, this example has a particular resonance: any form of sexual depravity is destructive of right relationship. The third example on divorce is complicated by the exceptive clause, "except in the case of porneia". Porneia referred to any illicit sexual activity. Here it probably means marriages within degrees of kinship prohibited by Jews but not prohibited by Gentiles. The question seems to have arisen as to whether couples in such unions could stay together on becoming Christian. While Jesus presents the ideal (no divorce), we have to put this teaching into a broader context. Writing to the people of Corinth on this subject, Paul allows for exceptions, since "God has called us to peace". The fourth example is about swearing on oath. Righteousness calls for honesty and transparency in every day dealings. If the words we use are congruent with the intentions of our heart, we should not have to invoke God as a witness to the veracity of our claims. Veronica Lawson RSM



**Responsorial Psalm:** Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Brendan O'Loughlin

**Anniversaries: We remember:** John Rennie, Margaret Marshall, Eileen Hamilton, Nick Gowans,

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; for the Plenary Council process in Australia (Listening and Discernment Phase) and our RCIA & RCIC candidates

**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.

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

**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>

**OLHC needs volunteers to assist & support the Sacristans Ministry** The Sacristan Team have offered to explain the role/ duties to couples or individuals showing an expression of interest in this Ministry. The Sacristans have prepared an informative folder outlining all aspects of the role. Please contact Sue or John Calistro. Home: 53395329 or email [sue-johnncal@gmail.com](mailto:sue-johnncal@gmail.com)

**Welcome to all Newcomers at OLHC** On Sunday 1st March after 10am Mass you are invited to stay for the Timeout Family Group's Hospitality Hour. Especially we invite our Multicultural friends and new families joining our Masses. Please bring and share your special traditional finger food. (Small Plate). We all would love to sample new tastes & diverse offerings. This will be happening in the Church Foyer at 11am. Any queries contact Sue Calistro Ph: :0409426928 or Connie Greenhaigh Mob: 0449 053 647

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

**St John's Primary School Dennington – Centenary Celebrations** for St John's Primary School Dennington 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](mailto:100years@sjdennington.catholic.edu.au) or text on 0423 361 914

**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. Often this leads to a long term mentoring relationship. 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 & 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](mailto:mercyconnectb@gmail.com).



MercyWorks

**Plenary Council Listening and Discernment** next session will be held on Tuesday 18th February at 7pm in the St Columba's Church foyer. The topic for reflection is *How is God calling us to be a Church that is Prayerful and Eucharistic*. Please contact Judith in the office to register your attendance. All most welcome.

**Palms** we invite you to return your palms from last year to be burnt for Ash Wednesday. Containers will be in the foyers of the St Columba's & OLHC.

**St Columba's Ministry Rosters** are being prepared until end of September. We are always looking for people to join any of the ministries. Full training will be given for these roles. If you are interested, going to be away or would like to change your commitment please contact Judith email details to: [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph: 5331 1012

**Priest's Annual Retreat** will take place next week. Please keep them in your prayers that they will returned refreshed and renewed to continue their ministry

**Baptism** This weekend the community welcomes through the sacrament of Baptism Claire Patricia Townsend, daughter of Mark and Kara. May she continue to grow in the love of her family and the support of this parish community.



**Catholic Mission Diaries** are available for collection in the church foyer.

**An invitation to Lenten prayer** You are invited to join for prayer and exploration of the Word on Mondays during Lent. We will gather from 7.00pm until 8.00pm in the St Columba's parish meeting room on Monday 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 March. Come to all or to those you can manage. Resources provided. Contact Judith or Audrey for more information

**Stations of the Cross** during Lent you are invited to pray the Stations on the Cross on Fridays at 5.30pm at St Columba's Parish.

**Men's Group** will recommence on Thursday 27th February at 2pm cuppa and catch up in the St Columba's church foyer. Bring your ideas for 2020!

**Damascus College Ballarat 2020 class reunion dates** Damascus College Alumni (including past students or staff from Sacred Heart College, St Paul's College and St Martin's in the Pines) - it's time to celebrate your 2020 Class reunion: 50 Year - Class of 1970 on Sunday, April 19; 40 Year - Class of 1980 on Saturday, April 18; 30 Year - Class of 1990 on Saturday, March 21; 20 Year - Class of 2000 on Sunday, May 3; 10 Year - Class of 2010 on Friday, March 20. For details regarding your Class Reunion please contact the Damascus Alumni Officer at [k.hegert@damascus.vic.edu.au](mailto:k.hegert@damascus.vic.edu.au) (03) 5337 2352 or visit the Damascus College Website.

**Rite of Naming St Columba's** will take place on Sunday 23rd February during the 10am Mass. This is for our RCIA and RCIC candidates in preparation for the Rite of Election which will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday 29th February at 12.30pm. Please support our candidates as they prepare for this stage in their journey towards full communion with the Catholic Church.

**Rite of Election** will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday 29th February at 12.30pm. This is an important journey for our RCIA and RCIC candidates who will be presented to the Bishop. You are invited to support them by attending this celebration.

**Choir for the Rite of Election** All are invited to join the choir for the Rite of Election to be held on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at St Patrick's Cathedral 12.30pm

**Funeral Ministry Team** meeting at St Columba's in the church foyer on Thursday 27th February at 4pm. All interested parishioners welcome.

**Collections at St Columba's** *We thank you for your generous support*

1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese) \$ 769.55  
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish) \$ 1,196.95 Average for this financial year \$ 1742.98

**Collections at OLHC** *We thank you for your generous support*

1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese) \$ 580.35 Loose money (2nd collection) \$ 32.85  
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish) \$ 780.30 Weekly Average this Financial Year \$ 1,498.75

SC 22nd/23rd Feb	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's coming up:	OLHC 22nd/23rd Feb	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up	
<b>WELCOMER</b>	Catherine Fara	Volunteer	<b>Upcoming:</b> <b>26th February</b> 12 noon Ash Wednesday Mass <b>27th February</b> 2pm Men's group 7pm PPC Meeting <b>28th February</b> 5.30pm Stations of the Cross	<b>LEADER of SONG</b>	Corrie Harbour	Veronica Stott	<b>Wed 19th</b>	Liturgy Meeting at 10am—Parish Centre
<b>COMMENTATOR</b>	John van de Laar	Judy Brown		<b>MINISTER of the WORD</b>	John Schonfelder	Harry Kennedy	<b>Wed 19th</b>	Parish Pastoral Council 7pm—Parish Centre
<b>FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD</b>	Peter Dalton	Geraldine Mugavin		<b>MINISTERS of EUCHARIST</b>	John Bourke, Val Bourke, Mavis McNulty + 2 volunteers	Christine Richardson, Sue Searls + 3 volunteers	<b>Upcoming:</b>	
<b>SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD</b>	Volunteer	Jim Kierce		<b>SACRISTAN</b>	Pauline Howard	Peter & Sapphire Osman	<b>Tues 25th</b>	Eucharistic Ministers meeting at 7:00 pm
<b>GIFTS</b>	Kath Scanlon Family	Pat & Bernie		<b>COUNTERS</b>	Trish & Chris Pearce, Pauline Newman.		<b>Wed 26th</b>	9.15am Ash Wednesday Mass
<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	Jennifer Adams, Ann Lacey, Peter Marquand	Judith O'Sullivan, Mary Kennedy, Irene Monigatti		<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	<b>Waubra 16th February</b>		<b>Sun 1st March</b>	"Family Group morning tea. All welcome!
<b>OVERHEADS</b>	Volunteer	Judith	<b>Minister of Word:</b>	Kate Molloy				
<b>SACRISTAN</b>	Maree	Maureen	<b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>	Kerryn Gallagher				
			<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Phyllis & Pat Bourke				