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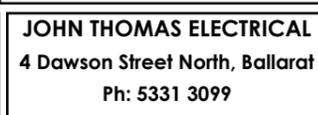
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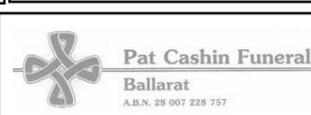
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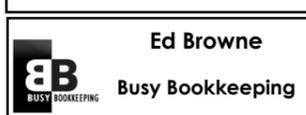
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Open from 7.30 am to 5 pm weekdays
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards 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:

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 (03) 5337 2352 or visit the Damascus College Website

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

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (select Parish)

Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324



Office: 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth Phone: 5331 1012
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ballaratnorthpastoral@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

8 March 2020 ~ The Second Sunday in Lent (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

Last week's gospel invited us into a confronting habitat, namely the wilderness. This week, we follow Jesus and three of his companions to a high mountain, eventually a cloud-covered mountain. Both wilderness and mountain link Matthew's story of Jesus with the story of the Israelites of old. Wilderness and mountain also remind us that God's creation is the locus of wonder and mystery. The world we inhabit has an integrity of its own that has not always been acknowledged in our tradition. It is, in a very real sense, God's dwelling place. It is, in addition, the place of human-divine encounter and the place of human encounter with the other-than-human material world. Attention to habitat can lead us to a clearer understanding of our own place in the scheme of things and to ever deeper understandings of our relationship with God

The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he comes to terms with the fate he is likely to meet: if he confronts the forces of oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. Jesus has struggled with that realisation in the wilderness, at the outset of his ministry. On the mountain top, he comes to terms with what that involves. The disciples see Moses and Elijah, the key prophetic figures of Israel, speaking with Jesus, God's new and definitive prophet. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to a mission that elicits hostility. That is not, however, the way of discipleship. Rather, Peter and his companions are called to "listen" to Jesus, the beloved of God, as are all who follow in the way of discipleship.

Matthew's account of the "transfiguration" is followed by a reminder that Jesus is soon to meet a violent death (17:23). Jesus' companions get a glimpse of God's glory shining on his face and penetrating even his clothing, a hint that God's grace is more life-giving than the forces of violence that oppose God's reign. Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We need the good sense to listen and to follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we experience from the most unexpected quarters. If we are to sustain the struggle for a healthy, safe, and peace-filled world, we have to resist the temptation to hold on to the moments of glory, and come to terms with the personal cost of being faithful to the gospel mission of justice and compassion with all its painful demands.
Veronica Lawson RSM



Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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
Wednesday: 9:30 am
Thursday: 10.00 am (Funeral)

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

Readings for next weekend:
Ex 17:3-7
Ps 94: 1-2, 6-9 R v 8
Rom 5: 1-2, 5-8
Jn 4: 5-42



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Marija Gavranic, Brian Perkins, Margaret Pearson, Michael Mahar

Anniversaries: We remember: Kevin Tardrew

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

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 office 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.

Nazareth House Auxiliary St Patrick's Day Celebrations Tuesday March 17, 2020 at 218 Mill Street Ballarat, 1.30pm. Musical entertainment, afternoon tea, lucky door prize, cake and produce stalls. Entry \$10.00. For further information contact Margaret, ph. 0419003415.

EXODUS Community Barbecue to celebrate their 16th birthday on Saturday March 14th at Wendouree Community Centre, Violet Grove, commencing at 12 noon. All welcome. A small salad to share would be appreciated.

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

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

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 or ph: 5331 1012

Peaceful Parents Program offered by OLHC School to support parents, carers and grandparents to build resilience in primary-age children. Information flyer is posted in the church foyer. Further information email: hatwood@olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au

Sew'n'So Thursday 12th March at 1.30 pm in the foyer of St Columba's Church. Come along and bring any paper pieced patchwork objects that you would like to show. We were shown how to start this work with our group in 2007. Enquiries Margaret 53314032

"Lifeboat" Chair St Simon's Parish Rowville has a chair which needs to be delivered to a person in Ballarat. If anyone has a SUV, Ute or trailer and is going to Melbourne and is able to assist kindly contact **Fr. Kevin Dillon** on **0421777360**

Congratulations to Emily Grace and Zoe Dianne Maree, daughters of Adam and Lucy Slater, who will be baptized on Sunday morning at St Columba's parish. We pray that they will grow in faith, with the love and support of their parents, godparents and our parish community.



Ballarat Cares with A Hall Full of Help Friday 27th March 10am - 3pm
A wide range of organisations within Ballarat provide assistance and advice for the those in need in our community. Enjoy a unique opportunity to discover the available help all under one roof.

Meals Programs, No Interest Loans, Mental Health Assistance, Crisis Accommodation, Utility Hardship Assistance, Migrant and Refugee Support, Legal Help, NDIS, Relationship and Parenting Support, Grief Counselling & more.

***Morning & Afternoon Information Sessions - Utility Energy (power, gas & water) Support Free entry and sausage sizzle - Coffee Van on site**
WHERE: St Patrick's Hall Dawson Street 5th, Ballarat Entry off Dawson or Lyons St (parking available but restrictions apply)

Caritas Australia Second Sunday of Lent Twenty-seven-year-old Phany was a struggling farmer and was forced to leave her daughter to take up construction work in the city. Her life has been transformed since joining a Caritas supported program, learning crop growing skills and better water management, to combat drought. Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help mothers like Phany continue to uplift their communities, and provide food for their families. Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/ projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



Choir for Mass of the Oils 2020 Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 6, 2020 (please note incorrect date sent last week). Practice times are Sunday, March 29 and Sunday, April 5 from 6pm - 7pm (following 5.00pm Mass). Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

National advice on liturgical implications in light of coronavirus (COVID-19)

The following recommendations are believed to be proportionate to the current understanding of the coronavirus and the risks outlined by health authorities. They are consistent with the Catholic Church's prerogative to protect those who are most vulnerable.

- Individuals should consider their own health, including any potential to infect others with a contagious disease, before attending a public liturgical celebration.
- Holy Water should be temporarily removed from stoups at the doors of churches to reduce the possibility of transmission of the virus. Holy Water should continue to be available for people to take home.
- When exchanging the Sign of Peace, individuals should avoid shaking hands but say "Peace be with you" and offer a smile, wave, nod or bow.
- All Ministers of Holy Communion should take particular care to wash their hands before and after distributing. Appropriate means should be made available.
- Parishes should cease distributing Holy Communion from the Chalice until further notice. The faithful are reminded that Christ is fully present under either species
- The coronavirus is easily spread through saliva. In celebrations of the Ordinary Form of the Latin Rite, it is therefore recommended that the Body of Christ only be administered in the hand because of the high risk of transmission if people continue to receive on the tongue. Ministers should seek to avoid contact with the communicant's hands.
- The faithful who are too unwell to attend Sunday Mass - whether due to coronavirus or some other condition - or are at particular risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus can honour their Sunday obligation by participating in a time of prayer within the home, reading the Scriptures or watching Mass on television or online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>)

Catholics may be reassured that, should they contract COVID-19 and become seriously ill, priests will continue to ensure they receive the sacraments and other appropriate pastoral care.

Collections at St Columba's		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 740.85		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,770.25	Average for this financial year	\$ 1,751.00

Collections at OLHC		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 685.10	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 172.00
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 2,169.00	Weekly Average this Financial Year	\$ 1,507.41

SC	14 & 15 March	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's coming up:	OLHC	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up
WELCOMER	Mary and Margaret	Dan and Mern Coutts		2nd March 7pm Prayer for Lent	LEADER of SONG	Veronica Stott	Margaret white	Upcoming: Sat 14th March Exodus BBQ
COMMENTATOR	Vicki Moroney	Anne Rossiter			MINISTER of the WORD	Ena Bruty	Mario Cordioli	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Carmel McCormick	Kim Butler			MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Trish Pearce, Mavis McNulty, Trish Lawson + 2 volunteers	Sue Searls, Robyn Clark, Peter Briody + 2 volunteers	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Shirley Edgar	Carmel King			SACRISTAN	Pauline Howard	Peter & Sapphire Osman	
GIFTS	Tom and Greta Kelly	Colleen Wakefield			Counters	Kath Connors, Helen Rieniets & Kevin Murphy		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Peter Marquand Jennifer Adams,	Bruce Chapman Alison Thorpe, Shane Bruty			Rural Communities 8:30 am	Waubra 1st March		
OVERHEADS					Minister of Word:	Trish Coleman		
SACRISTAN	Sullivan sisters	Anne		Minister of Eucharist :	Clare Mullane			
				Church Cleaning:	Trish & Steve Coleman			