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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.eud.au (03) 5337 2352 or visit the Damascus College Website

St John's Primary School Dennington – Centenary Celebrations 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 text on 0423 361 914 or email 100years@sjdennington.catholic.edu.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

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

15 March 2020 ~ The Third Sunday in Lent (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

A woman of Samaria comes to draw water from the well of Jacob, Israel's great ancestor in faith. She belongs in a long line of women whose lot as women is to undertake the burdensome, often dangerous, daily toil of carrying water so that their families might simply survive. Jesus asks the woman for a drink and elicits a bewildered response. She responds, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" This response provides the opportunity for Jesus to move into an extended and constantly deepening exchange in which the woman proves herself a knowledgeable and worthy dialogue partner. The pursuit of water, a key baptismal symbol in the gospel tradition, provides the catalyst for her journey to faith in Jesus as the Messiah/the Christos and her engagement in the mission of proclaiming the good news to her people.

Commentators tend to focus on the woman's marital status, usually in negative terms. Because she is said to have had five husbands, many presume that she is a sinner: there is nothing in the text to support this position. Successive husbands may have died. Financial, religious or societal constraints may have functioned in her decision to remarry. The "husbands" may refer to the strange gods that claimed the allegiance of the Samaritans. There is no consensus on this among scholars.

At the outset, the woman views Jesus simply as a Jew who breaks with established custom by asking her for water. She comes to accept him as the provider of living water. Jesus understands her life story and opens up the way for her to accept him as a prophet. She takes the risk of sharing her own convictions about the locus of worship and is gifted with new understanding and with Jesus' further self-disclosure. She leaves her water jar behind and brings others to faith in Jesus as Messiah and saviour of the world. She becomes both disciple and missionary prophet. (Abridged)

Veronica Lawson RSM



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

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

Thursday: 11:00 am Kelaston

Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

Ps 22 R. v.1

Eph 5:8-14

Jn 9:1-41



Responsorial Psalm: If today you hear his voice, open not your hearts

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: All those who have died recently

Anniversaries: We remember: Sr Mary Lynch rsm, Bryan Deady

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

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 info contact Margaret, ph. 0419003415.



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.

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.

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

Appointments Bishop Paul has recently announced: Following Fr **Eric Bryant's** recent retirement as Parish Priest of Stawell, Fr **Andrew Hayes** is the new Parish Priest of Stawell in addition to his exiting appointment as Parish Priest of Ararat. Following Fr **Michael McKinnon's** move to take up an appointment in Peru, Fr **Matthew Thomas** is appointed Parish Priest of the Parishes of Mildura, Merbein and Red Cliffs and Fr **Anthony Nagothu** is appointed Administrator of the Parishes of Robinvale and Ouyen. Both appointments take effect after Easter.

Stewardship Program Your contributions in support of our parish is sincerely appreciated. Envelope for those who contribute this way sets are available for collection in the foyer. Thank you!

Ballarat Cares with A Hall Full of Help Friday 27th March 10am - 3pm St Patrick's Hall Dawson Street Sth, Ballarat Entry off Dawson or Lyons St (parking available but restrictions apply) 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.

Mass of the Oils 2020 Monday 6th April 6.30pm St Patrick's Cathedral

PROJECT COMPASSION
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

Caritas Australia Third Sunday of Lent

Barry grew up in a tough environment. With the support of a program from Caritas Australia's partner, Red Dust Healing, Barry has overcome many of life's challenges. He is now an inspirational father to his four girls and a leader in his community. Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help vulnerable people like Barry, so that they are empowered to assist members of their communities in Australia. Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or ph 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 in the Pastoral Ministry Office julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

Rosters for Holy week/Easter for St Columba's will be in the foyer from this weekend. If you are available for a ministry please sign up. Readings will be available under each day. Thank you

Anointing Mass:

Ballarat North: **Tuesday 31st March 10.00 am** followed by a cuppa;

Wendouree: **Tuesday 7th April 11.00 am** followed by a cuppa

Reconciliation:

Ballarat North: **Wednesday 1st April 7.00 pm**

Wendouree: **Wednesday 8th April 7.00 pm**

(If you can assist with the Liturgy for either of these celebrations in Ballarat North please contact Judith in the Parish Office 5331 -1012)

Welcome to the Mini Vinnies who will be commissioned during the 6pm Mass on Saturday evening at St Columba's. Thank you for all you do!

Hymns & High Tea The Salvation Army invite you to attend Hymns & High Tea on Sunday, March 22 at the Ballarat Community Church, 102 Eureka Street Ballarat at 2.30pm. See flyer for details

Centenary of the Brigidine Sisters involvement in education in

Horsham Celebrations will be held in Horsham from June 5-8, 2020 (long weekend) and will include: An Expo in the Parish Centre from Friday, June 5 - Monday, June 8; a visit to Brigidine gravesites on Saturday, June 6; a centenary function on the Saturday evening at Coughlin Park Community Centre; celebratory Masses at Murtoa and Horsham on Sunday, June 7; open days and tours at Our Lady Help of Christians PS, Ss Michael & John's PS and St Brigid's College on Sunday, June 7; a centenary wall-hanging; memorabilia available for purchase, including a Centenary Book and dvd; opportunities for groups from various eras to get together and reminisce. Register your interest now by emailing 100@stbc.vic.edu.au. More details, including how to book tickets and pre-purchase memorabilia through Eventbrite, will be shared via the Ss Michael & John's Parish Bulletin, St Brigid's College Facebook Alumni page, social media sites associated with the three schools and local media as the celebrations draw nearer.

Liturgical implications—Coronavirus (COVID 19) with the well-being of parishioners in mind, the Diocese of Ballarat has issued the following directives:

- In those parishes and communities in the diocese where Holy Communion is distributed under both kinds (Host and Chalice), this practice will cease. The Host can be distributed to all but Communion of the Precious Blood will be for the celebrant only. Given that one of the easiest ways to transmit a virus is by the transmission of saliva, Communion will be received in the hand and not on the tongue.

- At the Sign of Peace, parishioners with coughs and sneezes, the vulnerable and those parishioners who may feel uncomfortable about shaking hands at the Sign of Peace, may wish to exchange the Peace of Christ with a smile or a bow, and should be encouraged to do so.

- All ministers of Holy Communion (both ordinary and extraordinary) are to use hand sanitisers before the distribution of Holy Communion commences, and are not to physically touch anyone in the act of blessing.

- Holy water fonts are to be emptied or removed

Collections at St Columba's

We thank you for your generous support

1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese) \$ 649.95

2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish) \$ 1,036.50

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) \$ 564.75

Loose money (2nd collection) \$ 55.00

2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish) \$ 627.80

Weekly Average this Financial Year \$ 1,507.41

SC	21 & 22 March	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's coming up:	OLHC	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up
WELCOMER	Catherine Fara	Helen Linane			LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Vin Dillon	Upcoming: Sat 14th March Exodus BBQ
COMMENTATOR	Jennifer Adams	Bruce Chapman	16th March 7pm Prayer for Lent		MINISTER of the WORD	Darryl Clark	Colin & Helen Feely	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jim Kierce	Terry Grano	31st March 10am Anointing Mass		MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Pauline Newman, Joyce Jackson, Pat Dillon + 2 volunteers	Tony Bruty, Harry Kennedy, Coralie Kennedy + 2 volunteers	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Frank Sheehan	Irene Monigatti	1st April 7pm Reconciliation		SACRISTAN	Sue & John Calistro	Helen Rieniets	
GIFTS	Glenane Family	Maureen & Hans			Counters	Sue & John Calistro		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Peter Marquand	Anthea Hinchey			Rural Communities 8:30 am	Waubra 15th March		
OVERHEADS	Trish	Judith			Minister of Word:	Tony McDonald		
SACRISTAN	Trish	Maureen			Minister of Eucharist :	Margaret McDonald		
					Church Cleaning:	Trish & Steve Coleman		