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True scale of Australia's cost of living crisis exposed in new report

Continued from front page

Social service groups are now calling for a jump in Jobseeker and Austudy payments, to closer match the pension, which is about \$1000 per fortnight. The cost of that would be about \$5 billion dollars per year to the federal budget.

"Where is the Prime Minister and his government to say we will not put up with this level of destitution in one of the wealthiest countries in the world," Ms Goldie said.

The Albanese Government points to Consecutive tax cuts and backing above inflation increases in the minimum wage. But, as the reserve bank weighs up a rates decision, three-quarters of welfare recipients say they don't have \$500 for emergencies.

"The people on lowest incomes are the ones that are doing it the hardest," Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young said.

[True scale of Australia's cost of living crisis exposed in new report](#) (By Karishma Sarkari, 9news.com.au) accessed 16th September 2026



St Vincent de Paul Appeal

more people than ever before are facing homelessness and poverty in Australia. Your generous gift helps the homeless and those in most need.



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Ballarat

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Praying with the Holy Father For the care of water.



Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.
Lord hear us.



Centralized Baptism Preparation Session

Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session.

The next session is **Thursday October 1st** at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St. South, Ballarat. **Time:** 10.00 am or 5.30pm

The St James Sebastopol Conference of St Vincent de Paul

Invites present and past members and their families and parishioners, who support our 'Good Works', to celebrate 70 years of the Conference. Mass will be held on Friday, October 2, 2026 at 9.30am at St James' Church, cnr Albert & Vale Streets, Sebastopol (also the monthly Anointing Mass), with morning tea to follow.

Ministry District of Wendouree, Creswick & Daylesford



Our Lady Help of
Christians
480a Gillies Street,
Wendouree



St Augustine's

117 Napier St,
Creswick



St Peter's

13 Duke Street
Daylesford

Wendouree Office

Office Hours: Wednesday—Friday
P: 5339 2302 9am—1pm
wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Creswick/ Daylesford Office

13 Duke St Daylesford P: 0448 220 685
daylesford@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office hours -

Wednesday 8.30am - 2.30 pm
Thursday 8:30am - 2.30 pm
Friday 11.30am - 4.30 pm

Our parishes are committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land on which our Parish communities meet: the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation of first peoples.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 19th September, 2026

True scale of Australia's cost of living crisis exposed in new report

It shows 75 per cent have cut back on fresh meat, fruit and vegetables and 90 per cent feel socially isolated.

[Karishma Sarkari](#)

September 14, 2026 - 12.01am

The annual Raise the Rate survey of 1560 non-disability support recipients has been released and shows 97 per cent are in housing stress. 9News

Cassandra Goldie, CEO of Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), the organisation is behind the survey, said it can impact day-to-day interactions.

"When someone says let's go out for a coffee you don't go because you can't even afford to pay for your own," she said.

The survey includes a growing number on jobseeker payments as unemployment rises and people who are currently studying, like young mum Brianna Cowie.

"I'm trying to do my study to get the better paying jobs for me and my family, but it's definitely been challenging to get to that point," Cowie told 9News.

"There are times when I'm worried I might have to drop out because I'm just not able to earn enough money to make ends meet."

Independent MP Zali Steggall said many Australians "feel left behind by a system that is not supporting them".

Social Service groups are now calling for a jump in Jobseeker and Austudy payments, to closer match the pension, which is about \$1000 per fortnight.

The cost of that would be about \$5 billion dollars per year to the budget.

"Where is the Prime Minister and his government to say we will not put up with this level of destitution in one of the wealthiest countries in the world," Goldie said.

The government points to consecutive tax cuts and backing above inflation increases in the minimum wage. But, as the reserve bank weighs up a rates decision, three-quarters of welfare recipients say they don't have \$500 for emergencies.

"The people on lowest incomes are the ones that are doing it the hardest," Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young said.

Cowie said the struggle would shock some people. "I honestly challenge you to live on these payments for even just one month, in the same sort of circumstances that a single parent is under and tell me that it's enough, cause its not," Cowie said.

The latest Australian Council of Social Service annual survey of 1560 non-disability support recipients shows 97 per cent are in housing stress. Source: 9news.com.au.

The Raise the Rate survey shows 75 per cent have cut back on fresh meat, fruit and vegetables and 90 per cent feel socially isolated.

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Independent MP Zali Steggall said many Australians "feel left behind by a system that is not supporting them".

Continued on back page .

Staffing
Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

Finance Officer:
Jackie Wrigglesworth

OLHC Parish Co-ord & Safeguarding Officer: (tba)

MASS TIMES
Saturday: **5.30 pm** Vigil Wendouree
Sunday 9.00 am Creswick
10.30 am Daylesford

Waubra
1st Sun of the month 8:30 am

Weekday Mass
No Mass this week

Readings for Next Weekend:
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28
Psalm 24:4-9. R. v.6
2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-11
Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32



Contact Information
Our Lady Help of Christians
Communities of Learmonth, Lexton,
Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree
Parish Office: 480a Gillies Street,
Wendouree
Phone: 5339 2302
P O Box 192, Wendouree
Email:
wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Prayer Line: 5339 2302

School Principal: Jaci Commons
School Phone: 5339 4726
www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au
Email:
enquiries@olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au

Parish Financial Support:
First Collection
– for support of Clergy
Name of Account:
Presbytery Account
BSB: 633-000
Account Number: 150 335 065

Second Collection
– for Parish Expenses
Name of Account:
OLHC Parish Wendouree
BSB: 083 – 526
Account Number: 51566 – 7031
Reference: Surname or Envelope Number

Responsorial Psalm The Lord is near to all who call him.
Gospel Acclamation. Alleluia, Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your son.Alleluia

Recently Deceased: Lorraine Beaumont (Funeral Monday 21stn September at 2.00 pm
Lorraine Kelly (Funeral Tuesday 22nd September at 2.00pm
Anniversaries: Rev. Peter Claridge, Sue Briody, Florrie Mallia, Kerry Mullane,
We pray: for peace in our world, especially in areas of conflict, oppression, war and natural disasters and for all those In need of our prayers.

26th Sunday in Ord Time	Saturday 5.30 pm (next week 26 Sept 2026)
LEADER OF SONG	Paul Hogan
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Ena Bruty
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Bev Hayward, Val Bourke
SACRISTAN	Mary McAloon, Maureen McAloon
Waubra Church cleaning	September Trish and Steve Coleman

Collections: Thank you for your contributions
Presbytery \$ tba **Parish** \$ tba



Laudato Si'

Please pray for the Earth: Adapted from Joseph Carver's Ecological Examen
All creation reflects the beauty and blessing of God's image: in our climate, the weather that shapes our planet, the seasons that give a rhythm to our life, and our own internal fluctuations.
Where were you most aware of these today?
We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land on which we live, work and worship.

We extend a warm welcome
to Fr. Eugene McKinnon who is celebrating
Mass with us during the next three weeks.
Fr Marcello is on holidays.

**Admission to Candidacy for Ordination as Deacons and Priests**
Diocesan Seminarians Simon Zakari and Channa Tilikarathna, will be admitted as candidates for ordination to the diaconate and later to the priesthood. Bishop Mark Freeman will celebrate Mass on Sunday, September 27, 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 5.00pm and during this Mass, Channa and Simon will publicly express their intention to receive ordination as a deacon and priest. All welcome to attend.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) 2027
The South West Victoria CPE Centre is offering the opportunity for education and formation in Pastoral Care. The program is supported by the University of Divinity and Mercy Health and the Centre is registered through the Association for Supervised and Clinical Pastoral Education Victoria (ASACPEV Inc.) Applications for 2027 close on October 30, 2026. For more information, contact Larissa Haramis, email LHaramis@mercy.com.au

Do you have a calling for Canon Law?
The Australian Women's Canon Law Scholarship is a collaborative initiative being developed by a group of women religious congregations & religious institutions in Australia. It responds to a shared concern about the future availability of canon lawyers who understand women religious, religious life, governance, Public Juridic Persons, stewardship, safeguarding, and the civil–canonical interface. This scholarship is intended to support the formation of a woman or women to undertake formal study in Canon Law, with the Licentiate in Canon Law qualification through Saint Paul University, Ottawa. The initiative is not simply a study scholarship. It is a formation pathway that includes academic study, mentoring, conference participation, engagement with congregations, governance exposure, regular reflection and post-study service. More information available at the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Ballarat Week of Peace events— Poster on noticeboard.
There is a week of events marking the United Nations International Day of Peace on 21 September. There is a poster outlining several event of interest for everyone from Morning Tea, Peace walk, Art to a "Cuppa with a Cop" on Tuesday 22nd at Stocklands Wendouree from10.00 am. Full program at Foundation website

Waiting in Line
Reflection on the Gospel-25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
(Matthew 20:1-16a)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

From 1973 to 1975, I was a student at the Ecole Biblique in East Jerusalem. Until women were admitted as resident students there in 1974, I lived at the Chaldean Patriarchate. Early each morning, I would cross the road from the Patriarchate and greet the Palestinian day labourers lined up beside their vehicles, waiting for employment in the vacant lot that divided Israel from occupied Palestinian territory. In the wake of the Yom Kippur War, these workers were living through hard times. In the morning, they were chatty and cheerful. Those who found work no doubt remained cheerful: they had the means to support their families and could find some meaning in their lives. Those still waiting for work at midday or later were dejected and shamed, not least by the prospect of returning home without the means to purchase their daily bread. Those who were hired found honour in the society and the means to sustain themselves and their families. Those who missed out on work suffered hunger, indignity and a sense of powerlessness. Confronted by this spectacle day after day, I began to understand the parable of the labourers in the vineyard.

In Matthew's parable, those who have worked all day grumble because the underemployed are made "equal" to them. Jesus makes it clear that people's worth is not to be measured in terms of their capacity for economic production. Pope Leo XIII, writing in 1891 about the condition of the working class, echoes this aspect of the parable. Those who cannot find work and those who cannot work on account of disability or visa restrictions understand something of the experience of the Palestinian workers. Their needs are no less urgent than the needs of those who have productive and well-paid employment. Minimal social security benefits might address their basic material needs but are less than effective in addressing the underlying issues of human dignity.

Parables yield meaning differently in different contexts. We may want to consider the corrosive effects of "envy". Faced with the dramatic disparity between rich and poor in our world, we may wish to raise questions about the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the landowner. Those who are conscious of the plight of many of our First Nations People, of refugees or migrants, as well as those ineligible for benefits, may come with questions about "generosity" offered from a base of power over against equal access to Earth's resources. In the face of climate crisis and the effects of war and pandemic, many of those who used to be safe in economic terms now find themselves with huge debts and diminishing security. Many in our world are every bit as desperate as the Palestinian day labourers, waiting in line as never before. As we celebrate this third Sunday of the Season of Creation, we might accept the invitation of today's gospel story to live in ways that promote quality of life for every one of Earth's inhabitants.

