



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

Communities of Ballarat North, Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree



306 Gregory St, Ballarat North **Phone:** 5331 7131

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

School Web: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au

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

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

Visiting Priest: Fr Barry Ryan

Staff at St Columba's

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Parish Secretary: Ruth Marquand

Wed 9-1.30pm, Thurs & Fri 9-2.30pm

Staff at Wendouree

Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache
Wed-Friday 9:00am—1:00pm

Exodus Community: 5338 2118

Mass times: St Columba's

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am

Mass times: Wendouree

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC



Readings weekend:

for next

Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14

2 Peter 1: 16 - 19

Matthew 17: 1-9

30th July, 2017. 157h Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scripture:



Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: treasure and delight. The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realise that the treasure is ours. A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others.

The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it.

Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found the pearl of great price. What we have been given, we must now give to others. In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the kingdom of God.

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Responsorial Psalm: Lord, I love your commands

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: David Carter

Anniversaries: We remember: Carol Collins, Ella, Hugh & Lawrence Deady, Jacqueline & Patrick Curran and Tess Sheehan

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes especially Blake Dridan (pupil at St Columba's School), Lesley Bigarelli

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

Fr Marcello is on Annual Leave. Over the coming weeks weekend Masses will be celebrated by visiting priests from the Diocese. This week we welcome Fr Gary Jones who will be celebrating Saturday evening Mass at St Columba's this weekend.

Children's Newsletter We now have a separate newsletter for our children. There is some activities and colouring for them and some questions for parents to help with discussion. We are hoping to make this a regular feature so we would appreciate your feedback.

First Eucharist/First Reconciliation we will commence preparation for Grade 4 students with an information evening to be held on Wednesday 2nd August at 7pm. For further information please contact Judith in the Parish Office.



Wednesday Masses—no Wednesday morning Masses throughout August.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival - Early Bird registration closes 18 August. Do you know anyone who would like to go to the Youth Festival in Sydney 7-9 December? The Festival is for youth and young adults Year 9 - 30 year olds. Registration for the 3 days is \$190 for Early Birds (register and pay by 18 August.) Ballarat Diocese Youth and Young Adult Ministry is facilitating affordable accommodation in Sydney for groups from the diocese as well as free bus travel to Sydney and back. Contact Amanda to find out more. If you don't have a group to go with but would like to attend the Festival contact Amanda on 0427 748 867.



Liturgy Help We have now subscribed to Liturgy Help website for resources for Liturgy Preparation, Music, Readers etc. If you wish to access this website you need a username and password. To obtain one of these please contact Judith in the Office 5331 7131.

Readers please note that the readings from the Lectionary read at Mass are now available on our website. If you have difficulty finding them or would prefer a hard copy, please contact Judith.

ODC Please take your copy of the latest Our Diocese Community magazine.

Thanksgiving	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 649.95	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1920.00	Average for this financial year \$2075.73

THIS WEEKEND	SATURDAY 29th July	SUNDAY 30th July	What's on this week:
WELCOMER	Anne Caine	Geraldine Mugavin	
COMMENTATOR	Ruth Marquand	Kate Lawry	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Mary Dinning	Kierce O'Loughlin	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jan Mullaly	Anne Rossiter	
GIFTS	Margaret Ranger & Anne Caine	Sharon DeBeer	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Peter Marquand, Torie Waight, Judith O'Sullivan	Judy Brown, Margaret Martino, Kay Merback	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Megan	
SACRISTAN	Volunteer please	Maureen van der Ploeg	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

Fr Marcello is on Annual Leave or the next few weeks. Over the coming weeks weekend Masses will be celebrated by visiting priest from the Diocese. This week we welcome Fr Bill Melican.

Raffle Tickets are available for the support of our Seminary. First prize: Travel Voucher to the value of \$15,000. Cost per ticket: \$10. Please contact Joyce Jackson. One book of tickets remaining!



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Exodus Community: There is a basket for donations of canned, dried or packaged food stuffs to be collected by the members of the Exodus community. This basket is available in the church foyer. Donations will be gratefully accepted. Toiletries would be greatly appreciated.

First Communion preparation for parishioners of OLHC parishes will commence with a parent information evening on Wednesday, August 16th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Meeting Room. OLHC First Communion dates are set for Saturday, September 17th at 6:00 pm and Sunday September 23rd at 10:00 am. Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will occur at the same time. The Reconciliation ceremony will occur on Wednesday, September 13th.



Stewardship Update: Receipts for 2016-2017 are now available. Please collect from the foyer of OLHC Church. Any enquiries: Chris ph. 0419 178 919

Updated **Church Cleaning Rosters** are available in the sacristy. Please collect for your information.

Collections:	<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 451	Weekly Average:	\$ 1557
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 728	Total since 1st July , 2017	\$ 5529
Direct Debit	\$ 130		
Loose Money	\$ 65		

NEXT WEEKEND	6pm	10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Margaret White	
MINISTER of the WORD	Margot Mulcahy	Mario Cordioli	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Maxine Rousch, Pauline Newman, Trish Pearce, Pat Dillon + 1 volunteer	Tony Bruty, Pauline Howard, Sue Searls + 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	Joyce Jackson	Geoff & Mary McLean	
COUNTERS		Brendan Curran, Geoff & Trish Doery	
CHURCH CLEANING	Maxine Rousch, Catherine Clifford, Leonie Hogan		
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend - Lexton	Next Weekend— Waubra	
Minister of Word:	Lexton	Bill Keating	
Minister of Eucharist :	Kerryn Gallagher	Tony McDonald	
Church Cleaning:		Phyllis & Pat Bourke	

BALLARAT NEWS

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Proposals In April this year, the bishops of Victoria published a pastoral letter in response to proposals to introduce legislation allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide. As a follow-up to that letter, a group of lay people has prepared a flyer encouraging people to write to parliamentarians and express their opposition to such legislation. Copies of the flyer have been made available for your consideration. You are invited to write to parliamentarians as suggested.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BALLARAT FOUNDATION In June the foundation held its 31st Annual General Meeting, so it is timely to remind parishioners of the purpose of the Foundation and to update the diocese on the activities of the Foundation during 2016.



The Foundation was established in 1986 to raise funds to assist the Bishop fund the pastoral needs of the Diocese of Ballarat. Over the last twenty years in particular there has been a shift in the demographics of our diocese with declining population in many rural areas, population growth in regional towns, and a continuing decrease in mass attendance. Our diocese comprises 51 Parishes with 109 church communities within those Parishes. We are faced therefore with an increasing challenge to provide services to people within our Diocese. The Foundation is in its 32nd year of assisting the Bishop in providing these services.

The objectives of the Foundation are:

to financially assist the Diocese in its mission to grow Christ's kingdom here on earth; to financially assist the charitable works of the Diocese; and to provide for relief, support and comfort of those suffering from disadvantage within the Diocese, inter alia from unemployment, low income, age, physical or mental disability, language difficulties or social or economic isolation. **In June the foundation held its 31st Annual General Meeting, so it is timely to remind parishioners of the purpose of the Foundation and to update the diocese on the activities of the Foundation during 2016.**

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