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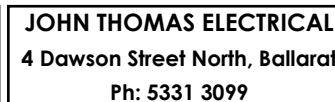
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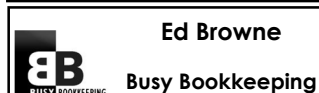
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as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

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

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: 7.30 pm (Miners Rest
Community Mass)

Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Gen 12: 1-4

Ps 32: 4-5, 18-20, 22 r v22

2 Tim 1: 8-10

Matt 17: 1-9



1 March 2020 ~ The First Sunday in Lent (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

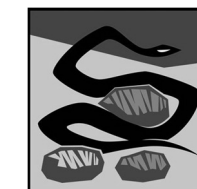
The readings for the First Sunday of Lent act as a kind of overture to the entire season. They enable us to engage in a double confession: a confession of sin and the repentance which follows; and a confession of praise for the mercy of God which is shown us in spite of our sin.

The very first reading reminds us of our fragility. We are made of the dust of the ground, the very stuff that represents death and decay. We were reminded of this when ashes were used to sign us on Ash Wednesday. At the beginning of Lent we are invited to acknowledge honestly and realistically our fundamental human weakness.

Despite our weaknesses, the situation within which we find ourselves is not hopeless. Somewhere deep within ourselves we know that we are not helpless prisoners of our limitations. God has not deserted us to our guilt. The form that God's compassion takes is outlined in the reading from Romans. It is in the death and resurrection of Jesus that we see the extent of this divine compassion. Its scope is first measured by the yardstick of human sinfulness, and then it outstrips those dimensions. God's gracious gift far exceeds the effects of human transgression

The gospel reading moves us from both the anthropological and the theological considerations to the crowning Christological reflections. As we look to Jesus, we see humanity at its best, tempted but not overcome. There will certainly always be human limitations, human weaknesses that will open the door to temptation. But Jesus shows us that we are not thereby doomed. Jesus is a model for our own journey to new life.

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Responsorial Psalm: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Steven Fitzpatrick (son of Betty)

Anniversaries: We remember: Kathleen Squire, Patrick Duffy

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.

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

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

OLHC Ministries Rosters. These rosters have been sent by email. Copies of the current roster are available in the Sacristy.

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 WWC Check is part of the application process. More information contact Donna Stewart, ph. 0417 624 330 or email mercyconnectb@gmail.com.

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

Miners Rest Community Mass on Thursday, 5th March at 7:30 pm at the home of Val & John Bourke

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 Sth, Ballarat** Entry off Dawson or Lyons St (parking available but restrictions apply)



Project Compassion Sunday 1st March Indigenous minorities in the Philippines face regular discrimination and disadvantage. Manide woman, Shirley faced challenges supporting her children and sending them to school. With Caritas Australia's support, Shirley's life has been transformed. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help people like Shirley, and her children gain confidence and respect within their community. 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.

World Day of Prayer this year the prayer service has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe. Services will be held on **Friday 6th March.**

10.00am: Alfredton One2One Church of Christ, 121 Gillies Street South.

2.00pm: Wendouree St Matthew's Anglican Church, 204 Howitt Street.

7.00pm: Buninyong Baptist Church at the Uniting Church, Buninyong.

7.00pm: Creswick St Andrew's Uniting Church, 130 Ballarat Road.

Pastoral Care Services Ballarat Following the appointment of Tracy Sillekens to another position, the Cathedral Parish has a vacancy for the position of Pastoral Carer at Ballarat Health Services. The position is part time, 12 hours per week, with flexibility as to when these hours are worked. The successful applicant will offer pastoral care to the Catholic patients and their families at the Hospital. A position description is available from the Cathedral Parish Office. Applications close on Friday March 6th.



Reach Beyond: Become Simply Rich.... All trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. They're not asking for money or gifts that contribute to degrading dependence. Your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation and support. You will be rewarded with riches greater than you might imagine. Look at www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0422472567, or email palms@palms.org.au

Collections at St Columba's		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 598.00 (16/2)	\$ 775.95 (23/2)	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 3,179.55 (16/2)	\$ 1,219.15	Average for this financial year \$ 1,742.98

Collections at OLHC		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 589.20	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 68.00
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 1941.20	Weekly Average this Financial Year	\$ 1,498.75

SC 7 & 8 March	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's coming up:	OLHC 22/23	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up
WELCOMER	Greta Kelly	Alison Thorpe	2nd March 7pm Prayer for Lent	LEADER of SONG	Veronica Stott	Margaret white	Upcoming: Sun 1st March "Family Group morning tea. All welcome! Thursday 5th Miners Rest Community Mass 7:30 pm Friday, 6th World Day of Prayer 2pm at St Matthew's Anglican Church Wendouree Sat 14th March Exodus BBQ
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh	Terry Grano		MINISTER of the WORD	Ena Bruty	Mario Cordioli	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Kathleen Keogh	Jo-Anne van der Voort		MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Trish Pearce, Mavis McNulty, Trish Lawson + 2 volunteers	Sue Searls, Robyn Clark, Peter Briody + 2 volunteers	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Kathleen Keogh	Fiona Newton		SACRISTAN	Pauline Howard	Peter & Sapphire Osman	
GIFTS	Margaret R, Anne Caine	Carmel King		Counters	Kath Connors, Helen Rieniets & Kevin Murphy		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Ruth Marquand, Ann Lacey, Trish Simmons	Kay Merbach, Colleen Wakefield, Georgina Hinchey		Rural Communities 8:30 am	Waubra 1st March		
OVERHEADS	Troy	Bruce		Minister of Word:	Trish Coleman		
SACRISTAN	Sullivan sisters	Anne	Minister of Eucharist :	Clare Mullane			
				Church Cleaning:	Trish & Steve Coleman		