

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish

communities of
LEARMONTH * LEXTON * MINERS REST * WAUBRA * WENDOUREE
480A Gillies Street North P.O. Box 192 Wendouree 3355

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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. 30th August, 2015

Reflection

The overarching theme of the readings for this Sunday is 'words spoken in truth'. On one level, the laws are the words of the covenant. They are part of the contract that was drawn up between God and the people. They are words of truth, because they are the reliable revelation of God and because they genuinely reflect righteous living. The biblical covenant laws are truly humane. Obedience to the words of the covenant leads to life and blessings, while disobedience results in the opposite.

Our religious customs always carry some profound religious meaning, but we may not know or care what it is – and yet we perform them. Do people know or care why we stand or sit or kneel during liturgy? Do people have a 'church' wedding because it is a religious event, or because 'that's the way we have always done it'? Religious practices do not always flow from a deep religious conviction. But once we realise our need for God, these practices become genuine expressions of religious sentiment.

When the word of God has taken root in us, everything becomes a religious practice. This word can come to us through the teachings of our faith, through the example of good people around us, through the wonder and mystery of creation. When it does take hold of us, our inner eye is opened, our hearts are softened, and we turn instinctively to God like a flower turns to the sun. When we are brought to birth in this way, covenant law becomes sacred, religious practices are cherished, and we are filled with the power that saves.

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Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si*

Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences in the short and long term. Large cities dependent on significant supplies of water have experienced periods of shortage, and at critical moments these have not always been administered with sufficient oversight and impartiality. Water poverty especially affects Africa where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts which impede agricultural production. Some countries have areas rich in water while others endure drastic scarcity.

Celebration of the First Eucharist in our Parish

at 6:00 pm Mass on Saturday 29th August and at 10:00 am Mass on Sunday 30th August.

We would like to express my gratitude to parents, teachers, catechists and those who have helped and guided our students during the preparation of First Eucharist. I also express my sincere thanks to our parishioners who have prayed for our students in this significant journey of their faith.

Frs. Peter Sherman and Peter Danh.

Parish Contacts Parish Priest Fr Peter Sherman

& Assistant Priest Fr Peter Danh 5339 2302

Mercy Sr. Maureen 5331 5504

Exodus House: 8 Primrose St, 5338 2118

Parish Centre Bookings: 0439 106 399

Baptism Team: Parish Office 5339 2302

Parish School Principal: Stephen Russell, 5339 4726

Senior's Helpline: 0419 975 914

Funeral Ministry: Margaret White

Gentle Dove Prayer Line Val 53331776, Sue 5339 4440

Responsorial Psalm: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: The Father gave us birth by his message of truth that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.

Looking Forward 2015 Gatherings

The 2015 *Looking Forward* gatherings have commenced and will be held weekly each Tuesday around the Diocese until September 15. The Looking Forward Gathering at Wendouree will be **Tuesday, September 1 from 7.00pm - 9.00pm** at the Parish Hall. All welcome. Members of Parish Pastoral Councils and Leadership teams are particularly invited to these workshop-style gatherings. Full information and a preparation guide have already been emailed to parishes and can be downloaded from the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au -(please note that Wendouree is the venue for all the Ballarat and nearby parishes).

Church without Frontiers, Mother to All 101st World Day of Migrants and Refugees

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, in his message for the 101st World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2015, has chosen the theme "*Church without frontiers, Mother to all*". It is part of our Christian mandate from Jesus Christ to care for others and in particular the most vulnerable (c.f. Mt 7:12 and 25:35-36). The Holy Father, wishing to draw attention to and remind us of this, has chosen this theme. He wishes us to go beyond ourselves, to live an authentic Christian life, and show compassion and solidarity to those at the furthest fringes of society. In particular, Pope Francis has identified migrants and refugees to be in need of our special attention and care, as they are our brothers and sisters "who are trying to escape difficult living conditions and dangers of every kind."

This 101st World Day of Migrant and Refugees let us be aware that

- 51.3 million people are displaced globally;
- 3 million are refugees from the Syrian war;
- 6 1/2 million, or one-third, of Syrian people are displaced; • Half of these refugees are children.

As people of faith, are our values in order?
What do the values of today's Gospel say to us as we celebrate World Day of Migrants and Refugees in Australia?

Clinical Pastoral Education Program

St John of God Hospital Ballarat is hosting a Clinical Pastoral Education program from October 1, 2015 to January 29, 2016.

For further information about the CPE program please contact: Bernadette Wurlod, CPE Centre Director St John of God Victoria, PO Box 136 Warrnambool. Ph.: (03) 5563 4588. Mob: 0417 954 663 Or Email:

Bernadette.Wurlod@sjog.org.au

OLHC School, Wendouree

The school is conducting a Family Photo Fundraiser. Family Photo sessions will be conducted by Vision Portraits on Saturday 12th September at OLHC in the Mercy Performing Arts Centre. For \$30 you receive your photo sitting and two photos with frames (same image). You have the option of purchasing additional photos if you wish. Bookings can be made by families and is open to extended family and friends too. The more bookings made, the more funds raised for the school. Online bookings can be made via the following link www.trybooking.com/IFES. If you are unable to do online bookings, please complete the booking form on the flyer and return it to the school office by Friday 4th September (flyers are available from the school office). Contact Vision Portraits on 9596 9400 if you have any queries.

Parish Luncheon

OLHC Parish get-together luncheon on Wednesday, September 16th at the Ballarat Golf Club Bistro, 12 noon. All welcome.

For booking purposes, please add your name on the list in the church foyer.

Recent Deaths:

Mervyn Trower and Patricia Roberts

Anniversaries:

Dadraig O' Siochain, Michael Ferguson.

OLHC PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

AUGUST 2015 UPDATE

MEMBERSHIP

Discerned Members:

Andrew Black	Ena Bruty
Peter Dwyer	Frank Hogan
Margaret McDonald	Stephen Molloy
Kevin Murphy	Deanna Osman

Ex-Officio Members:

Fr Peter Sherman (Parish Priest)
Fr Peter Dahn (Assistant Priest)
Fr Frank Smith (Exodus)
Stephen Russell (School Principal)

ROLE

Our Lady Help of Christian's Parish Pastoral Council's role is to promote the Church's mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ in the world around us.

Our Lady Help of Christian's Parish Pastoral Council represents the parish and shares in the responsibility for the ongoing life and growth of our parish community, working together with parishioners to provide support, nourishment and structure for their efforts to live as followers of Christ.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

16th September 21st October 18th November

FORMATION

Formation is essential if the PPC is to develop and strengthen during its term of office. During 2015/6 the Council will be studying the book 'Rebuilt'. This is the story of the renewal of a Catholic Parish in the United States, growing it into a healthy community built on the radical call of Gospel hope, focused upon making disciples, and committed to reaching the lost. Through its study it is anticipated that the PPC will be exposed to many ideas of how to creatively build up our parish and its mission. At each meeting a discussion led by two PPC members focuses upon two chapters of the book.

CHANGES TO PPC GUIDELINES

During the first period of office of the revised Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) it became apparent that some small changes were necessary to the guidelines promulgated in July 2012. These mainly related to terminology, number of elected members, provision of the Exodus priest as an ex-officio member, PPC Members' roles. These changes were formally approved at the August meeting. The revised guidelines are displayed on the Church foyer noticeboard and will shortly be put up on the parish website.

PRESBYTERY BUILDING WORKING PARTY

The PPC has established a Working Party to make recommendations to the Council regarding the future use of the current presbytery / parish office building. Members of the Working Party are Peter Dwyer (PPC) Chairperson, Kevin Murphy (PPC), Chris Pearce (Finance), Adrienne Cove (Finance), Pauline Newman (Office), Peter Sherman (Parish Priest). It is the wish of the PPC to have final recommendations tabled at its 18th November meeting.

LOOKING FORWARD

PPC Members will be attending the Diocesan 'Looking Forward' gathering which is to be held at Wendouree on Tuesday September 1st. A report on the activities of the parish will be given at this meeting.

PPC EXECUTIVE

The current Executive of Andrew Black (Chairperson), Kevin Murphy (Deputy Chairperson) and Fr Peter Sherman will continue in the role until Father Peter's return from leave. A new Executive will be discerned at the October meeting.

MULTI PURPOSE COMPLEX USAGE

This wonderful parish asset is used by a wide range of school, parish and outside groups. The PPC is sponsoring a gathering in late September of all the stakeholders of the complex. This will be an opportunity to evaluate the current usage, identify any issues and to look at future opportunities. All the relevant groups will be contacted in the near future advising them of the details of the gathering.

**If any parishioner has an item they wish to place on the PPC agenda please contact Vin Dillon
53448442 / vindillon@gmail.com at least one week prior to the meeting**

Upcoming Events



Family Group Time Out

- **Sunday 6th September.**

Invite parishioners to join with them in a "cuppa and conversation" after Mass.

- **Sunday 20th September**

Mass at Buninyong's new Church, Fiske Street. 10.30 am. Followed by lunch in Buninyong, (venue to be confirmed). Please advise Sue & John if attending.



The Exodus community is seeking the help of a book keeper for their accounts. If you are able to help please phone Exodus on 5338 2118

Exodus Visitation team Meeting

is meeting on Sunday 13th September at 11.30am. If anyone is interested in joining with us please phone Fr. Frank on 5338 2118

5/6th September, 2015

Saturday OLHC 6.00pm

Minister of the Word: Pauline Howard
Communion Ministers: Trish Pearce, Mick Rienets, Des Lloyd, Kath Leonard, Mavis McNulty.

Sacristans: Val & John Bourke
Leaders of Song: Laureen Rhodes

Sunday OLHC 10.00am

Ministers of the Word: Peter Dwyer
Communion Ministers: Peter Dwyer, Sue Searls, Joy Lange + 2 volunteers.
Leader of Song: Veronica Stott

8.30am Mass at the Rural Communities

This weekend - Lexton

Minister of the Word:
Communion Minister: Sharon Moran

Next weekend - Waubra

Minister of the Word: Anne Dalton
Communion Minister: Gwen Molloy

Church Cleaning:

OLHC: Ena and Tony Bruty
Waubra: Anne Dalton, Damien Ferguson

Counters: Trish & Chris Pearce, Francis Dorrington

Sunday Mass Times

St John the Baptist, Waubra 1st & 3rd Sundays 8.30 am **St. Joseph's Learmonth** 2nd & 4th Sundays 8.30am
St Joseph's Lexton 5th Sundays 8.30am **OLHC Wendouree** Saturday 6.00 pm Sundays 10.00 am

Collections - Thank you

1st Collection - Presbytery: \$ 719
2nd Collection - Parish
Envelopes: \$ 616
Loose \$ 138

Mass Times this week

Tuesday 5:00 pm
Wednesday 10:00 am
Thursday 10:00 am & 7:30 pm *Miners Rest Mass
celebrated at Helen & Colin Feely's home.*
Friday 10:00 am



Ed Browne

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