

**ROSTERS**

We thank you for the wonderful works you do!



**LITURGY for 7/8 January**

**6pm** **Welcomers:** Beks Family **Gifts:** M&U Williams Family **Readers:** A&G McMeel  
**Ministers:** C Ryan, P Smith, C Smith, J Tankard, T Treffry, C White  
**9am** **Welcomers:** J&B Van Baren **Gifts:** G Howland Family **Readers:** T Kenny, F Lamb  
**Ministers:** H Goddard, P Nevill, J O'Grady

**CHURCH CLEANING:**

**Week commencing**

1 January Group 4: J O'Grady, J Hales, R&M Greene, T Woolley, M&J McLean  
 8 January Group 5: M McDonald, J McCarthy, J Carroll, S&T Bolden

**COUNTING TEAMS:**

1 January Team 10: Nybyiah & Darren Cross  
 8 January Team 1: Paul & Marcia Glynn, Pam & Gavin Nevill

**LAWN MOWING:** For fortnight 1 January Group 4: John Tankard, Michael Soulsby

**COMMUNION TO LYNDPOCH:** 8 January: Louise & Michael Taggart



**Making Connections:** Mary is honoured as the model of discipleship for the Church and for all believers. This week, be very conscious of responding to situations and to peoples as a faithful disciple of Jesus. Each time you feel you have acted as a disciple should, say a brief prayer of thanks to Mary.

**Marriage Tip:** For no particular reason make tonight's dinner special: light candles, sip a glass of wine, and turn on soft music. Relax and enjoy each other's company.

**Daily Prayer:** God of peace, whose providence guides the changing seasons of every year and of all our lives; in the fullness of time, you fashioned in the Virgin Mother Mary a dwelling place for your Word made flesh among us. Bless with the joy of your Holy Spirit the first day of this new year, that through all days allotted to us, we may, like Mary, rejoice in grace and embrace your will. Bless and keep, in this new year, all who cry out to you "Abba!" Make your face to shine on all who have been adopted in Mary's Son. Lift up your countenance, and in the power of you Spirit, give us peace.

**A Vocation View:** Mary, Mother of the Priest Jesus, is especially Mother to all Priests. Pray to Mary to ask her guidance in your life.

**Pope's Prayer Intentions for January**

**Christian Unity.** That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

**PARISH PRAYER:** Loving God, **Good Shepherd** to us all, Gather us and form us into a welcoming parish **family**. Touch our hearts with your love so that we, in turn, may reach out to love one another, in a **neighborly** community. **Our Lady Help of Christians**, guide us as we seek to do Christ's will. Bless us in service, strengthen us in support of each other, and unite us as we grow in faith & love, to be a **welcoming**, caring Parish **community**. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Saints Carthage and Mary MacKillop, pray for our Parish family.

"Life in a Whole new Light and Clothed with Power from on High"

Today we welcome with great joy  
*Dylan Thomas*  
 who is being **baptised** into the family of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

"Spread light this Christmas from here...to the places others do not reach."

"Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure" St John Paul II

**Parishioners Email Addresses** To help the efficient circulation of Parish Rosters, please send your name and email address to [olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au](mailto:olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au)

*"Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life."*



"I AM THE WAY,  
 THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE"  
 JN 14, 18.

*Our Lady Help of Christians Parish  
 East Warrnambool - Allansford  
 'A Star in the East'*



**PARISH BULLETIN**

**Mary Mother of God—1st January 2017**

P.P.: Fr Lawrence O'Toole - Phone 5561 1533  
[olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au](mailto:olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au) [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
 OLHC Primary School: Eugene Dalton - Phone 5562 5559  
[www.olhcwarrnambool.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olhcwarrnambool.catholic.edu.au)

Facebook: *Our Lady help of Christians Parish*  
 Emmanuel College: Peter Morgan - Phone 5560 0888  
 St. Carthage's Church—Grauers Rd, Allansford

**"PEACE TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE"**

**Recent Deaths:** Claire Ryan, Lorraine Bolden, Ray Mugavin  
**Anniversaries:** Inez Wright, Christopher Everard, Mary McNeil, Margaret O'Keefe, Bishop Joe Grech, Sister Phillip Gleeson, Alison Arundell, Karen Finn, Cyril McNamara

**Mass Times:** Monday 10.00am at St Pius  
 Tuesday 10.00am  
 Wednesday 9.30am  
 Thursday 9.30am (Celebrant Fr Madden)  
 10.00am Lyndoch Living Chapel  
 Friday 9.30am  
 Saturday 10.00am at St Pius  
 (Rosary 20 minutes before weekday Masses)



**THE LORD'S DAY** *Saturday* **6.00pm** **THE EPIPHANY** *Sunday* **9.00am**

*White is the colour of rejoicing*

**The Word of God:** This Week: Nm 6: 22-27, Gal 4: 4-7, Lk 2: 16-21  
 Next Week: Is 60: 1-6, Eph 3: 2-3a. 5-6, Mt 2: 1-12

**Sacraments: Baptisms and Marriages** by Appointment Please phone 5561 1533  
 Reconciliation—Friday 10.00am, St Pius Saturday 10.20am

**Welcome Prayer**

Lord, our God, source of all life, you reveal yourself in the depths of our being drawing us to share in your life and love. Bless each of us as we respond to your Spirit's invitation to open wide the doors to Christ. Make the doors of our hearts, our homes, and communities wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out envy, prejudice and pride. Let us hasten to welcome the stranger, and so welcome your Son. We make this prayer in his name, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

**The Way of Mercy – endings and beginnings**

Isn't it wonderful how often after Jesus offers healing; he invites people to continue on their journey. "Pick up your mat and walk" or "Go, and sin no more." The encounter with the God of Mercy is not an end in itself, but rather a **doorway into renewed life** of being merciful to self and others. **The Eucharist** offers the greatest of these **gateways**, inviting us to be taken up with the gifts of bread and wine, to offer our whole selves, so that we may be broken from our old life and **made whole** as we are shared with the world through union with Jesus Christ. Bishop Vincent Long (Paramatta) encourages not to see the closing of the Holy Door as an end to our efforts to be merciful, but rather that God's mercy has seeped into our bones and can be **carried forth** into 2017 and beyond, being faces of God's mercy to others.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Keep for Daily Prayer)



**May God bless us in his mercy.**

God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Word of Truth and Life. Praise the Word who lived among us, made us children of the Kingdom.

**HYMNS: (From the Christmas Book)**

Entrance	8	Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Gifts	21	While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
Communion	22	Silent Night
	12	Were You There
Recessional	10	Joy to the World

**Mystery Of Faith**

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

**New Year**

This year we have lived was a special year: there was the Holy Year of Mercy. We also did our Jubilee together, do you remember? The first part here, in this Hall, and then we went in procession to the Holy Door. This year the Lord had His mercy flow over us. And did all this grace end with the conclusion of the Jubilee? No! This grace is within us, because we make it fructify in our every day life, be it in the family, be it at work—everywhere. Christmas reminds us of this: “The grace of God appeared, which brings salvation to all mean and teaches us [...] to live in this world with sobriety, justice and mercy” (Tt 2: 111-12), says the Apostle Saint Paul. The “grace of God” “appeared” in Jesus. He is Love, the love of God incarnate, by the power of the Holy Spirit. And all of us have received this same Spirit in Baptism and in Confirmation; but we must invoke Him every day, reawaken the action of the Spirit in us, “to live in this world” - also in this small world of the Vatican—“with sobriety, justice and mercy.”

Dear brothers and sisters, while I thank you, I ask you to take my special greeting to the children and elderly of your families. They are so important—and a greeting accompanied by prayer to the sick.

I express this wish for all: that your hearts be full of mercy, full of grace of the Jubilee that Jesus comes to rekindle in us.

May the Lord bless you and may our Lady protect you. And, remember to pray for me before the Crib. Thank you.

(Pope Francis to Vatican City Staff)

Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year A-1 This e-book, which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer or e-reader/tablet/iPhone, offers the Gospel for every day of this coming Liturgical Year A-1 (Sundays Year A, weekdays Year 1), together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. This Liturgical Year A-1 began on the First Sunday of Advent 2016 and will continue till November of 2017. It may be passed on to friends or acquaintances as desired. It carries the Imprimatur of Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney, given to this publication when he was Bishop of Parramatta. *Son of God: The Daily Gospel year A-1* may be accessed at the following URL address: [www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/](http://www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/)

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

“And the Word became flesh” JOHN 1:14 Jesus is God’s ultimate gift of love to us. The countless other blessings that God showers upon us are nothing compared to the gift of His only Son. The only appropriate way for us to respond to such generous love is with our own generous love. When we dedicate our lives to sharing all the gifts God has placed in our hands, the peace of Christ truly will control our hearts and we will know Christmas every day.



*“May you and yours experience the blessings of Christmas: peace, love, hope.” - Father Lawrie and the Parish Coordinating Team*

*“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together”* (V. Van Gogh)  
**Thank You** to all who helped with our Christmas Masses including the preparation of our churches and gardens. As we ring out the old year and ring in the new we thank all who have contributed to our Parish Family over the past 12 months. Fr. Lawrie thanks parishioners for their Christmas greetings and gifts. Our Christmas Day gift for the poor was \$2971.65. It will be joined to the giving by the Diocese. “May joy be your gift and may faith, hope and love be your treasures in the New Year.”

**Sacraments for Children 2017**

**Reconciliation** (Grade 2) - March 15 & 16      **Confirmation** (Grade 3) - June 3 & 4  
**First Holy Communion** (Grade 4) - September 9 & 10      *Enquiries—5561 1533*

**PARISH LIFE—LIFE TO THE FULL**

**OLHC Community acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians of this land—the Gunditjmara People and other tribes.**

**WELCOME TO OLHC & ST. CARTHAGE** In imitation of Jesus Christ, we welcome all people to worship and celebrate God’s all-inclusive love with us. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life, we thank you for choosing to be here with us today.

**Our Parish Vision** *“Bringing People together in an atmosphere that is welcoming, nurturing and challenges all to share in the Mystery of God’s Love.”*

**Spend January with the Saints** “Just as you learn to speak by speaking, so you learn to love by loving.” (St Francis De Sales—24 Jan)

**Holy Hour Monday 10.00am** *“Set pools of silence in this thirsty land.”* (James McAuley)

The Parish has been gifted with a **Defibrillator**. We invite parishioners who would be willing to learn how to use it.

**Columban Calendars** are for sale by the **St Vincent de Paul Society**.

**Mary MacKillop Penola Centre S.A.** 08 87372092, visitors welcome.

**Child Safety Standards:**

New standards will be introduced in Victoria from January 1st 2017 for all organizations in Victoria that provide services to children. As a Parish community we wish to provide a supportive, enriching and safe environment for our children. The Parish Coordinating Team are ensuring all necessary policies and procedures are in place. As part of the standards we have displayed in the foyer the **Child Safety Poster** and the **Commitment Statement of Child Safety and Code of Conduct**. More information will be shared in the coming weeks. (Dion Bartlett—Parish Safeguarding Officer)

**Dedication of the Loreto Window** in All Saints Church **Portland** on Sunday January 22nd at 10.30am Mass to celebrate the ministry of the Loreto Sisters in Portland. Light lunch to follow, RSVP by Jan 13th, Box 210, Portland, 3305.

**Please Collect** your new Liturgy, Church Cleaning and Counters Rosters.

*“The future lies in the strength of the village.”* (M Ghandi)

May this Christmas continue to bring the blessings that come with gathering as a family—young and old together. And may the spirit of Christmas stay with us throughout the year, May we come together often, sharing our gifts, from the youngest to the oldest. (Bishop Paul Bird CSsR)

*“It is Christmas every time we allow Jesus to love others through us.”*

(Saint Mother Teresa)

“Let us pray for those who are sick. We remember them in our Masses”

*“From Mary we learn to surrender to God’s will in all things. From Mary, we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone.”*

- St John Paul II

*“When Our Savior came to earth God blessed this land”*  
(Origen)