



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

Tuesday: 5:00pm

Thursday: 10:00am

Friday: 10:00am

Readings for next weekend:

Is 22:19-23 Ps 137:1-3, 6,8

Romans 11: 33-36

Matthew 16: 13-20



20th August, 2017. 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scripture:

This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.

**O WOMAN,
GREAT IS
YOUR FAITH!**



© Greg Sunter

Responsorial Psalm: O God, let all the nations praise you!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God:

Anniversaries: We remember: Lena Walker, Grahame Fithall, Marie Keys, Bill Holmes, John Barbetti

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

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

First Eucharist This weekend is the third week of Dismissals for First Eucharist preparation. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers. There will be a Grade 4 Mass Saturday night. The children will welcome us and lead us in prayer and music.



Catholic Women's League—Cathedral Branch—Social Afternoon This will be held on Wednesday 6th September in the Mary Glowrey Room in the O'Collins Hall. Speaker, Diane Colbert will present "Our Children and the Media". Stall and competition. Afternoon tea is provided. All welcome. Free entry. Inquiries—Carmel Kavanagh, Mobile: 0401 175 045

Father Robert McCulloch at Nazareth House will be held on Monday 28th August, with 6pm Mass and 7pm Presentation 'Can Christianity survive in Pakistan'. All welcome.

Damascus College Enrolment Information Evening Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information evening. The Information Evening will include a tour of the College, activities for students and an information session for parents. Wednesday 6th September at 5pm. Please arrive at 4.45pm for registration.



St Vincent de Paul – an invitation to help out Every Sunday evening members and friends of the Saint Vincent de Paul team delivers donated bread to a number of families around Ballarat North. Upon collection of the bread, we re-bag and deliver it in pairs to designated houses – the job is usually complete within the hour. We have a number of committed people who support this program but would love to hear from anyone who is interested in helping out on a casual basis. This is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer a little of your time, every so often, to help out those in need – and we would appreciate any support you can give. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Parish Office or speak to the person on the Piety Stall before/after Mass. Also, if you are interested in finding out more about our St Vincent de Paul Conference, we would warmly welcome any enquiries or new members – just enquire at the office or Piety Stall.

Thanksgiving	<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 760.15
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 2300.00 Average for this financial year \$2252.80

THIS WEEKEND	SATURDAY 19th August	SUNDAY 20th August	What's on this week:
WELCOMER	School Grade 4's	Pat & Bernie Kenna	Thursday 24 August @ 7pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting in the Parish Office meeting room
COMMENTATOR	School Grade 4's	Terry Grano	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Mary Dinning	Kim Butler	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jan Mullaly	Anthea Hinchey	
GIFTS	School Grade 4's	Maureen and Hans Van der Ploeg	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	John Van de Laar, Tom Keogh Jnr, Ann Lacy	Alison Thorpe, + 2 volunteers	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer	Sharon De Beer	
SACRISTAN	Norah Moloney	Anne Rossiter	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

OLHC Book Week: REACH OUT As part of our Book Week celebrations at OLHC the students would like to share the love of books with children who do not have books in their homes. We are collecting used children's books in good condition and will be donating them to our local St. Vincent De Paul Society. If you have books you would like to donate please place them in the basket in the foyer of the OLHC Church OR drop them to the OLHC school office. We thank you for supporting this good cause. **Final collection date: Friday September 1st.** Happy Reading!

First Communion: 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 also occur during this time. There will be two preparation Workshops: Wednesday August 30th and September 6th, with the Reconciliation ceremony on Wednesday, September 13th. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.



"Deësis: Prayer and Image" Exhibition: This exhibition is dedicated to the role of icons as agents of intercession. Art Gallery of Ballarat until Sunday, September 10, 2017.



Baptisms: This weekend we welcome into the life of the our parish three children. Adele Louise Menz, daughter of Melanie & Tim, and Maxwell John Biggin and Freddie William Biggin, sons of Heidi and Bryce . May they continue to grow in the love of God and family.

Building update: Work on the new storeroom has commenced. The building site is on the south side of the church, with entry to the site from the carpark via the south east corner of the existing building.

Parish Pastoral Council: meeting has been postponed until Wednesday 30th August.

Collections:	<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	430	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$	958	Total for July , 2017 \$10,006
Direct Debit	\$	100	(\$814 behind last year at this time)
Credit Card	\$	40	
Loose Money	\$	46	

NEXT WEEKEND	6pm	10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Vin Dillon	Margaret White	Sun 20th Family Group outing –Forge Pizza, Next Week: Wed 30th St V.d.P. meeting at 11:30 am—Violet Grove.
MINISTER of the WORD	Pauline Newman	Eileen Franklin	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Pat Dillon, Trish Pearce, John Kirby, Lia Yu + 1 volunteer	Tony Bruty, Pauline Howard, Sue Searls + 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	Joyce Jackson	Peter & Deanna Osman	
COUNTERS		Peter & Deanna Osman	
CHURCH CLEANING	Glenda Muir , Melva Muir		
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend - Waubra Next Weekend— Learmonth		
Minister of Word:	Margaret McDonald	Bev Hayward	
Minister of Eucharist :	Sharon Moran	Margaret McDonald	
Church Cleaning:	Phyllis & Pat Bourke	Bev Hayward	

BALLARAT NEWS

Spiritual Care Program :

A second program for parishioners engaged in pastoral ministry in its many expressions in our parishes is being offered soon. Bethany Pennington will facilitate this program comprising five sessions on the following dates – September 20th, October 4th and 25th, November 8th and 22nd. Each of these sessions will be held in the MacKillop and Glowry rooms in the smaller hall at the Cathedral. Parishioners engaged in Funeral ministry, Visiting, Communion to those at home or in care are welcome to participate. Please register with Jacinta in the Cathedral Parish Office 5331 2933, by Friday September 15th.

Benefit concert to aid the homeless in Ballarat:

The Melbourne Singers of Gospel capture the energy, excitement, rhythm and harmonies of the mass gospel choirs of the USA. Sunday 27th August, 3.00pm at Ballarat Central Uniting Church, cnr Lydiard & Dana Sts. Ballarat. www.trybooking.com/OYMT Inquiries 53331361. Tickets available at the door.



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