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Ph: 5332 4894

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BALLARAT NEWS

Prayer for Plenary Council

Blessed are you,
God of all creation.
You have given us life and light
and all the wonders of the world.
You have sent your Son Jesus
to be our Saviour
and your Holy Spirit
to be our guide.
As we prepare for the
Plenary council,
we ask you to come into our hearts
with your Son and Holy Spirit.
Come to us and
make your home in us.
We pray for our local community,
for the people of our diocese
and for the Church throughout
Australia.
May your wisdom show us the way,
for your word is a lamp for our feet
and a light for our path.
Come and fill the hearts of your
faithful and kindle in us the fire
of your love, that we may
live by your gospel
and share your good news
with all we meet.
Holy Mary, Mother of our Saviour,
pray for us. St Mary MacKillop,
pray for us. Amen



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 1012

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

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

Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324

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

School Phone: 5339 4726

23rd December~4th Sunday of Advent (C)

Focus on the Scriptures

This little gospel story tells us that 'the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and not merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'. Is this just poetic hyperbole?

We know that beautiful music can have a wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus, being carried by Mary in her pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations.

From the moment of the conception of Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to all human beings. The good news is that you and I and every human life ever conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit as Original Blessing.

There is a further and consoling truth. Every mother or father who has lost a baby too early needs to know that the same extraordinary sense of Our Lord's presence was felt by your baby. That Divine Presence conferred a powerful Original Blessing on that little life within the womb, and that same Presence accompanied your baby into the everlasting embrace of Divine Love in Heaven.

We could pause a moment to pray using the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women,

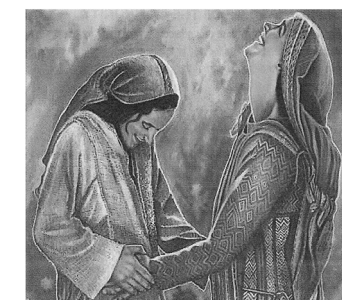
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us

Sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

© Fr Michael Tate



Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

Visiting Priests: Fr Gary Jones

Fr Anthony Nagothu

Fr Sajan Mathew

Staff at St Columba's

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Wed—Friday 9.00am -1.00pm

Staff at Wendouree

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

Mass times: Wendouree

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Thursday: 10:00 am

Friday: 10:00am

Readings for next weekend:

Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

1 Sm 1:20-22. 24-28

Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1 or Ps 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10. R. v.5

Col 3:12-21 or

1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

Lk 2:41-52



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: All those who have died recently

Anniversaries: We remember: Kerin Graham, Ron Morgan, Monica Morgan, Nancy Reidy, David Fithall, Maree Briody, Patrick Curran, Stephen Head and Teresa Head

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes, especially Saskiah Gallagher, Blake Dridan, for the success of the Plenary Council, for those on the RCIA journey for 2018/2019 and for all those who find this time of the year difficult.

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

Love, pray, serve, hope & follow Jesus

The office will be closed from Thursday 20th December at 1pm until 9am Wednesday 23rd January. For any urgent matters please call Fr Marcello at the Presbytery—phone 5332 4324.

Thank you We would like to thank all the co-ordinators and leaders of all the various groups in the Parish. Without you, a lot of what happens in the Parish just would not happen. So often you serve behind the scenes or without a thought of thanks. But, please be assured we appreciate all that you do!



Notice sheets & rosters Over January please be aware of any vacancies to rostered ministries. If you are there and can help, please do so. It would be greatly appreciated. There will be notice sheets and Living Word reflections in the foyer for each weekend over the holiday period. They will contain the current weekend roster. Rosters also on notice board.



Baptism we congratulate Luca Dovaston son of Simon and Rebecca, who will be baptized on Sunday morning. We pray that he will grow in faith with love and support of his parents, godparents and our parish community.

Wednesday Masses no Mass Boxing Day however Masses at 9.30am will continue through the holiday period. Many thanks to Fr Dan for your continue ministry in the Parish.

Advertisers We take this opportunity to thank our advertisers for their ongoing support of St Columba's Parish. We encourage you to use their products and/or services during the year.

Diocesan Christmas Appeal There will be an opportunity to contribute to the Diocesan Christmas Appeal after Communion during the Christmas Masses, otherwise money for this appeal can be placed in an envelope clearly marked "Diocesan Appeal" can be left on the collection plate. Thank you in advance.

Christmas Rosters please see notice board for Christmas ministry rosters

New Year Mass Tuesday 1st January 9am OLHC Wendouree

Are You Planning a Trip to Sydney in January? Why not stay at Mary MacKillop Place, in the heart of North Sydney! 30 minutes from the Airport, close to Ferries, Trains, Sydney Harbour foreshore, Opera House and more! for Accommodation Enquiries please call 02 89124800



Collections	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 693.60	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1638.05	Average for this financial year \$ 1659.75

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	29th December	30th December
WELCOMER	Margaret Ranger	Alison Thorpe
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh (Snr)	Terry Grano
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Ruth Marquand	Brian Kennedy
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Maureen Mooney	Carmel King
GIFTS	Margaret R & Anne Caine	Colleen & Judith
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Kate Lawry, Troy Severino, Jan Mullaly	Georgina Hinchey, Colleen Wakefield, Bruce Chapman
OVERHEADS	Kathleen (If needed)	Sharon (if needed)
SACRISTAN	Volunteer	Josie



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

WELCOMING ~ SPIRIT OF MISSION ~ CHURCH/SCHOOL LINKS

Plenary Council Reference Team: Thank you to all those who have put forward your views about 'What God is asking of us in Australia at this time?' *Your contribution is valued.*

Don't forget there is opportunity to make your comments on-line at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au or fill in a sheet available from the Church gathering space. maybe during the quieter times of January. There will be more opportunity to put our thoughts in February. In the meantime have a Happy and Holy Christmas!

Rotary Car Raffle Tickets Please return the butts and money in a sealed envelope a.s.a.p. Envelopes can be place on the collection plate at Mass. Thank you. *Pauline Newman*



Thank you to the members of the various ministries of OLHC parish who have generously made significant contributions to the workings of the parish over the past 12 months.

Parish Office: From Dec 23rd until January 24th the Parish Office will be closed. Contact can be made via email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au. The Message Bank on the Parish phone (5339 2302) will be checked regularly.

Fr Marcello, Maree and Judith wish all parishioners of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish and St Columba's Parish the blessings of the Christmas season.



Collections	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 667	Loose money (2nd collection) \$ 147
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 1420	Weekly Average \$ 1431

30th/31st December	6pm	10am
LEADER of SONG	Laureen Rhodes	Vin Dillon
MINISTER of the WORD	Margot Mulcahy	Anne Briody
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Lia Yu, Joyce Jackson, John Bourke + 2 volunteers	Christine Richardson, Sue Searls, Margaret White + 2 volunteers
SACRISTAN	Tony & Pauline Newman	Joyce Jackson
COUNTERS	Peter & Deanna Osman	
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This week: Learmonth	Next Week: Lexton
Minister of Word:	Ton Ryan	Tony Cini
Minister of Eucharist :	Bev Hayward	Sharon Moran
Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward	

