

BALLARAT NEWS

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. A wide range of subject areas are offered: Scripture, Sacraments, Social Justice, Leadership skills, Youth Ministry, Pastoral Care and lots more. Study one subject or more - it's a flexible program! Registration for the April 2018 study cycle are open until 28 March. A study cycle means you do one subject over 5 weeks. You can start in any one of the 6 study cycles each year. More info or contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

"In the Footsteps of Mary McKillop" 2018 Pilgrimage from October 23rd to November 3rd. Information brochure is on display in the foyer.

Secondary School Reunions for Loreto, Damascus and St Patrick's colleges - Information on the notice board in the foyer.

Irish Heritage Exhibition: The Archives of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat and the Ballarat Diocesan Historical Commission presents an Irish Heritage Exhibition on April 14 & 15, 2018 from 9.30am – 4.30pm in Ballarat

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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: 0417 168 716 480a Gillies Street, P O Box 192 Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish) Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)
School Web: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au School Web: www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au
Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324 School Phone: 5339 4726

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante
Visiting Priest: Fr Barry Ryan
Staff at St Columba's
Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan
pastoral@stcolumasparish.org
Wed—Friday 9.00am -1.00pm
Staff at Wendouree
Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache
Wed- Friday 9:00am—1:00pm
Exodus Community: 5338 2118
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 9.30am
Mass times: Wendouree
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am Rural
10:00 am OLHC
Tues: 5:00 pm
Thursday: 10:00 am
Friday 10:00 am
Readings for next weekend:
Acts 3:13-15. 17-19
Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7
1 Jn 2:1-5
Lk 24:35-48

8th April 2nd Sunday of Easter (B)

Focus on the Scriptures


The true believers in the Risen Christ kept Thomas the Doubter within their circle, rather than expelling him. This gave him a further opportunity to experience the very Real Presence of the Risen Lord and his gift of peace. Companionable patience is our best response to those struggling with belief in even fundamental tenets of the faith. Thomas saw that the wounds of Christ were still present, not obliterated. Does this suggest that our redeemed bodies will bear the marks of the wounds unjustly inflicted on us? However, they will not be disabling to our personality because they will be incorporated into the resurrection life of Christ. Incredibly, our self-inflicted wounds, i.e. our sins, will be obliterated in the mercy of God.

Pope Francis emphasises that it was in responding to the invitation to touch the wounds of Christ that Thomas understood Christ's true identity, exclaiming: 'My Lord and my God'. It is only by touching the wounds of Christ in many different people in many different situations that we can authentically make the same act of faith.

We could take a moment to pray for the strength to touch the wounds of Christ in others, 'the least'. And we could pray that, wounded as we may be by the vagaries and injustices of life, we may be liberated from their evil effects as the Risen Lord adopts our wounds as his own.

© Fr Michael Tate

MY LORD and MY GOD



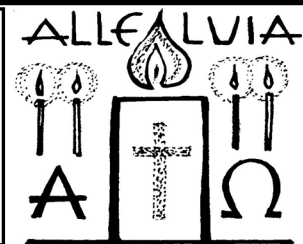
Responsorial Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Toddy Searle

Anniversaries: We remember: Jill Fradd, Sr Maureen Connolly

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



ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

Confirmation we will soon begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation (for children in Grade 3 and over who have been Baptized) which will take place on the weekend of 26/27 May. If you would like your child to receive this Sacrament please contact Judith (0417168 716) for more information.



Parish luncheon our next get together will be held next Thursday 12th April 12.30PM at the City Oval Hotel. Sheets are available in the foyer to add your name to or contact Judith in the office. All welcome! If you require transport please let the office know asap. Tuesday 10th April close off date.



Baptisms we congratulate Darcy and Flora Mountford, daughters of Ben and Jennifer, who will be Baptized on Sunday morning. We pray they will grow in their faith with the love and support of their parents, godparents and our parish community.

Easter water please feel free to bring a container and help yourself to the water of new life in the Easter font, which may be used to bless people, homes, vehicles, machinery, farming land prior to sowing seed for the forthcoming season etc etc. It's free!

Plenary Council 2020 Plenary Council 2020 Everyone is invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?" www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au. To begin our preparation for this time of dialogue and discernment amongst all members of the Church in Australia, the Diocese of Ballarat will commence by Praying Towards 2020 (April 21st – May 6th). In Ballarat city there will be events during the week of April 29th – May 5th to which all parishioners will be invited. Watch this space.

Holy Hour and Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on Friday 13th April from 7pm to 8pm in the Church. All most welcome.



Sew'n'so Thursday 12th April at 1.30pm in the Church foyer. Enquiries to Margaret ph:53314032

Interested in becoming Catholic? Any adults interested in exploring the Christian initiation process to become Catholic (RCIA) are invited to attend the Alpha adult faith formation opportunity that will soon commence in the Cathedral. Please share this invitation with those known to you who may be interested or if you would like further information contact Judith or Maree in the respective Parish Office.



Thanksgiving	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 1132.40	Holy Land appeal \$ 900.80
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 2071.10	Average for this financial year \$ 1979.65

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY 14th April	SUNDAY 15th April	What's coming up:
WELCOMER	Margaret Ranger	Geraldine Mugavin	Thursday 12th April 12.30pm Parish Lunch at City Oval Hotel
COMMENTATOR	Rosemary Fithall	Bruce Chapman	Thursday 12th 1.30pm Sew'n'so
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD & Narrator	Frank Sheehan	Derek Streulens	Friday 13th April 7-8pm Holy Hour
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD & Other	John van de Laar	Anthea Hinchey	Wednesday 18th April Links Meeting 7pm School Board room
GIFTS	Linley and Margaret	Colleen and Judith	Tuesday 24th Confirmation Info Meeting 7pm School Hall
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Annette Madigan, Peter and Ruth Marquand	Georgina Hinchey, Alison Thorpe, Shane Bruty	Wednesday 25th Anzac Day
OVERHEADS	Norah & Stephen	Megan	Thursday 26th Mens' Group 2pm outing
SACRISTAN	Norah	Megan	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

Parish Sacramental Program The Sacrament of Confirmation will commence in mid April. The information meeting for parents will be held on Wednesday April 18th. There will be four dismissal sessions from either the Saturday night or Sunday morning Masses. The Confirmation ceremony will be held on either May 19th & 20th May. Brochures are available in the foyer of the church. NB: Confirmation is available for children in Year 3 or older who have been Baptized. We are looking for leaders for the Dismissal Groups. If you are interested in assisting please contact Maree at the Parish Office.

Save these Dates—October 27th—31st Fr Richard Leonard will be presenting a Mission in OLHC Parish. This will be an opportunity for personal and community renewal. There are a few books written by Fr Richard available for borrowing from the church foyer. See display in foyer.



Parish Community Meeting Advance Notice for Sunday July 29th after 10:00 am Mass.

Palms Australia Communities in Myanmar, PNG, Samoa, Timor Leste, Kiribati and Kenya seek volunteers to mentor locals and build capacity. Palms volunteers don't do quick fixes, but immerse themselves in overseas communities for long-term skill exchange. If you have teaching, medical, business, admin or trade skills, share them with our global family. Information sessions on Saturday 5th May at 10:30 am at Ross House, Jenny Florence Room 247 Flinders Lane, MELBOURNE. www.palms.org.au/volunteer or phone **02 95605333**



Parish Pastoral Council is calling for nominations for this important leadership group within this community. A discernment session will be held on Wednesday May 16th. If you are interested in joining please contact Maree in the Parish Office for further information.

Thankyou to all those parishioners who contributed to the various Easter ceremonies in OLHC parish. Your support and commitment is greatly appreciated.

Thank You!

Villa Maria Catholic Homes – Home Care Packages Do you or your loved one need care at home? Villa Maria Catholic Homes offers government-funded Home Care Packages designed to support you living independently in your home for longer. To find out more speak to your local expert Marianne, ph. 03 5330 3899 or visit vmch.com.au

Collections:	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 987	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 1118	
	Loose Money	\$ 225

14th/15th April	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Sue Searls	Veronica Stott	Next week: Sun 15th Time Out Family Group luncheon at Café Sidra, Learmonth at noon. Wed 18th Parish Pastoral Council Meeting at 7:00 pm. Wed 18th Confirmation Information meeting for parents at 7:00pm in the Meeting Room Thurs 19th Mass at Kelaston at 11 am
MINISTER of the WORD	Jan Godfrey	Anne Briody	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Bev Hayward, Pat Dillon, Trish Pearce + 2 volunteers	Judith Potter, Helen Rieniets, Margaret White + 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	Pauline & Tony Newman	Robyn Clark	
COUNTERS		Bill Loader & Kevin Murphy	
CHURCH CLEANING	Glenda Muir, Melva Muir		

Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend - Learmonth	Next Weekend—Waubra
Minister of Word:	Kerri Mullane	Margaret McDonald
Minister of Eucharist :	Tony McDonald	Kerryn Gallagher
Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward	Phyllis & Pat Bourke