



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.olchwendouree.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 8.30– 12.30, Thurs & Fri 9-2.30pm

Staff at Wendouree

Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache

Wed-Friday 9am—1pm

Exodus Community: 5338 2118

Mass times: St Columba's

Saturday vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 10am

Wednesday: 11am

Mass times: Wendouree

Saturday vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 10am

Tuesday: 5pm

Wednesday: Mass at the North

Thursday: 7:30 pm

Friday: 10am

Readings for Next weekend:



Is 50: 4—7

Phil 2: 6-9

Mth 26: 14—27:66

2nd April 2017, 5th Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Focus on the Scripture

Reflection on the Gospel-5th Sunday of Lent Year A (John 11:1-45)

Today's readings touch into the most profound of human mysteries, the mysteries of life and death. To hold a new born child or to see a sick person restored to health is to experience the wonder of life. On the other hand, the unexpected death of a loved one can bring unimagined grief and pain. Death brings tears, even anger. Little wonder that "life" becomes a metaphor for transformation and new beginnings or that "death" so often signifies deprivation and loss.

The gospel reading is about the death and restoration to life of Lazarus, "the one whom Jesus loved". It is the last of the seven "signs" in John's "book of signs" that reveal the "glory" of God. It is also the greatest of Jesus' signs. It functions as a catalyst for the events that lead to his death: "...from that day on they planned to put him to death" (11:53). It provides the occasion for Jesus to assert "I am the resurrection and the life" and to invite assent to that revelation of his identity. It reveals the compassion and tender heart of Jesus who weeps at the grief of Mary his friend and the death of her brother. It also reveals the goodness in the hearts of those "Jews" who share her grief and who come to faith in Jesus who raises the dead to life.

Though the story revolves around the plight of Lazarus, Martha and Mary are the characters who, with Jesus, occupy centre stage in the narrative and into whose faith journey we are invited to enter. The women are introduced before Lazarus. Martha and Mary are identified as "sisters" who live in Bethany. Are they blood "sisters" or sisters in their love of Jesus, their faith commitment to him, or both? Lazarus is Mary's sick "brother". There is no mention at the outset of his relationship to Martha, though she later claims him as her "brother". Might they all be part of a little faith community in Bethany rather than biological siblings? A brief notice alerts the reader to the imminent death of Jesus:

"Mary is the one who anointed Jesus with perfumed oil and wiped his feet with her tears". The details of that story are yet to be narrated. The reader will later discover that Mary's anointing of Jesus is "for the day of [his] burial". As so often in John's gospel, misunderstanding and irony function to bring the actors in the drama and us as actors in the theatre of Christian life to new levels of understanding and faith.



Veronica Lawson RSM

Deaths: Charles Coughlan

Anniversaries: Elsie Bainbridge

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes especially Anthony Cushing, Brenden Love and Gerard McCormick.

And for all those preparing to receive Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

Easter Liturgies-Clipboards are available in the foyer for you to complete if you would like to contribute as a Special Minister, Reader, Commentator, Offertory Gifts, Narrators, etc. for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday celebrations. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated.



Anointing Mass 5 April 11am followed by a light lunch. If you require transport please contact the office



Upcoming Dates-

Palm Sunday 8/9 April please bring a small piece of greenery to Mass for blessing of the Palms before Mass

Monday 10 April Mass of the Oils 6.30pm St Patrick's Cathedral

Tuesday 11 April Parish Reconciliation—Second Rite

Holy Thursday 13 April 7pm Mass of the Last Supper, **Good Friday 14 April** 10am Stations Black Hill walk, 3pm Passion, **Saturday 15 April** 6pm Easter Vigil, **Easter Sunday 16 April** 10am Mass





Rosters if you are available Palm Sunday and Holy week/Easter can you please add your name to the roster schedule that is in the foyer. There are a number of gaps that need filling please!

Praying for our Sick-If you or someone you know needs our prayers and are happy to have their name published on the notice sheet please let Ruth know in the office. Names will remain on the sheet for 3 weeks, if you require the name on for longer please let us know.

Road Works We have been advised from Butler Excavations that Gregory Street between Armstrong and Lydiard Street will be closed to allow for Road Improvements. Please be aware of this when coming to the church over the upcoming weeks.

Divine Mercy Presentation by John Canavan and Tommy Canning (Artist of Sacred Art) giving their amazing testimonies on how Divine Mercy touched their lives Thursday 6 April from 6.30—8.30pm at Nazareth House. Enquiries to John 0402 764 394 or Peter 0403 192 933

Thanksgiving		We thank you for your generous support
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 1069.70	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1878.50	Average for this financial year \$ 2031.87

This WEEKEND	1st April	2nd April	What's on this week
WELCOMER	Margaret Ranger	Pat & Bernie Kenna	Wednesday 5 April @ 11am Anointing Mass followed by light lunch 
COMMENTATOR	Eileen van de Laar	Irene Monigatti	
PROCLAIMER 1	Carmel McCormick	Jim Kierce	
PROCLAIMER 2	Peter Dalton	Terry Ranger	We welcome into our faith community Leandre Rome Dualan son of Christian and Katherine Dualan, who will be baptised during the 10am Mass. 
GIFTS	Simmons family	Lorna Batty, Carmel King	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	A Lacey, T Simmons, J O'Sullivan	R Pitman, M Burke, M Kennedy	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	S de Beer	
SACRISTAN	Trish Simmons	Anne Rossiter	
ALTAR & FLOWERS	As arranged		

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

Grandmother's Against Violence: Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network (BRASSN) invites you to join us for a morning of conversations and stories of successful refugee settlement in country Victoria. John and Margaret Millington will share their positive business and community stories about settling Burmese Karen families in rural Nhill. A panel will be open to questions and discussion.

Date: Friday 7th April Registration: 9.45 am Starting Time: 10.00 am Morning tea provided.
Venue: The Trench Room - Ballarat Town Hall RSVP events@brmc.org.au

Miner's Rest Mass—April 6th at 7:30 pm at the home of Rose and Brendan O'Brien. Contact: Pauline Howard 0438 346 405.

Baptism: Kaiden Matthew Oliver Gray —son of Rebecca & Michael.

May he grow in the light of Christ!, and the support of family and friends.



Easter Ceremonies: A list for volunteers for the Easter Triduum will be available in the gathering space this weekend. Please add your name to this list if you are available to assist in any of the ministries.

Holy Week Liturgies: liturgies for Easter are listed below.

The Message of Divine Mercy: A powerful presentation by John Canavan and Tommy Canning on Thursday, April 6 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm at Nazareth House Hall. All welcome to attend. Enquires to Pete, ph. 0403 192 933.

Singing Practice: OLHC Singing Practice for Easter. Tuesday, April 4th 7:30pm—8:30 pm. Please bring your folders from last year's celebration.

Reconciliation: Wed 5th April: at 7:00 pm followed by Singing Practice

Food for Exodus Community: The Exodus Community is in constant need of non-perishable food to assist with its mission in our community. Don't forget the food trolley is in the church foyer at masses each week and all donations are most welcome. Thanks for all the generous past support.

Retreat: "Inner Peace in Divine Love Retreat in Everyday Life." Application forms available in the foyer. Information in "Ballarat News", over leaf. For more details contact Doreen on - 0417117382.

Collections:		<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 605	Project compassion to date: \$.1410	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1275		
Loose	\$ 135		
NEXT WEEKEND	6pm	10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Margaret White	Thursday 6th Miner's Rest Mass
MINISTER of the WORD	Kath Connors	Mario Cordioli	Holy Week
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	John Kirby, Trish Pearce, Joyce Jackson, Val & John Bourke	Sue Searls, Peter Briody, Christine Richardson, + 2 volunteers	Mon 10th: Mass of the Oils 6.30pm
SACRISTAN	Pauline & Tony Newman	Joyce Jackson	Tues 11th Anointing Mass OLHC 11:00
COUNTERS		B Curran, G & P Doery	Thurs 13th Lord's Supper OLHC 7:30 pm
CHURCH CLEANING	Helen Rieniets, Maria Nicania Esperas		Fri 14th Way of the Cross—Waubra 10 am
Rural Communities This Weekend - Waubra		Next Weekend - Learmonth	
Minister of Word:	Phyllis Bourke	Bev Hayward	Sat 15th Easter Vigil 6:00 pm - OLHC
Minister of Eucharist :	Margaret McDonald	Tony McDonald	Sun 16th Waubra Mass 8:30 am
Church Cleaning:	Clare & Kerry Mullane	Bev Hayward	OLHC Mass 10:00am

BALLARAT NEWS

Retreat in Daily Life: The First Spiritual Exercises (FSE) are a set of prayer exercises based on Ignatian Spirituality and structured in a retreat in daily life, over 4 weeks. The retreat commences on 24th March and finishes on 20th May. These exercises are easy to follow and no qualifications are required, just the desire, generosity and faith to be open to God. There will need to be a commitment to prayer at home and to meet weekly in a small group with a guide. The exercises allow you to continue with your usual round of going to work and caring for the family or whatever is the shape of your busy life. The inner peace that comes with this is utterly unmistakable for any other experience. A Jesuit Tertian priest, Fr Robbie Sian from Sebu (in the Philippines) together with Doreen Roache will be leading this retreat which is open to all.



Caritas Australia theme this Lenten season is "Love your neighbour"



The People's Community Network supported by Caritas Australia is increasing the resilience of the thousands of landless Fijians living in informal settlements. Communities are advocating together successfully for better services, education and housing. Donations will support training that will empower the community to work towards lasting change in their neighbourhoods.

Peter Tobin
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