

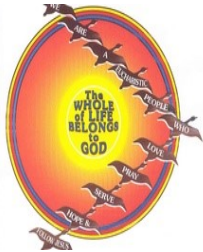
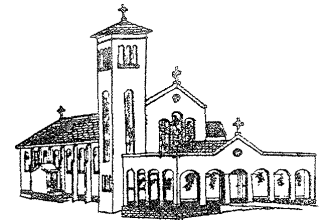
# St Columba's Parish - Ballarat North

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School Web: [scballarat.catholic.edu.au](http://scballarat.catholic.edu.au)



Weekend of  
21st-22nd  
January, 2017

## Mass times:

Saturday vigil: 6:00pm  
Sunday: 10:00am  
Wednesday: 9:30am

**Pastoral Leader:** Judith O'Sullivan

**Parish Secretary:** Ruth Marquand

**Leadership Chair:** Bruce Chapman

**School Principal:** Kim Butler

## Reflection on the Gospel- Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 4:12-23)

Veronica Lawson RSM

Most of the gospel readings this year will be from the gospel of Matthew. As with any story, it is probably best to read it from beginning to end over a few days, attending to all the elements in the story. Elaine Wainwright's new eco-rhetorical commentary on Matthew's gospel invites us to read with attention to habitat as well as to the human and the holy. The invitation to us as readers is to enter into the drama with all its elements. We need to realise that what we bring to the text will inform our reading of the text. What we notice will depend on our own social and cultural contexts and on our capacity to bring our particular interpretive stance into dialogue with the worlds that inhabit the text. While the main character in the story is Jesus, there are other characters and character groups, including other-than-human characters.

In the passage selected for today, the Matthean Jesus makes his appearance as a great light that has arisen in Galilee of the Gentiles. He is light for a people who have lived in darkness and the shadow of death and oppression. In the context of Roman imperial rule, Jesus offers hope of an alternative reign. We might focus on the gift of light. Without an appreciation of light itself we cannot really understand this image.

Jesus invites his hearers to expand their horizons, to "repent" for the empire or kingdom "of the heavens" has come near. He then calls four fishermen to follow him, to join him on his mission of proclaiming the empire or reign "of the heavens". The verb "to follow" is an invitation to live out in their lives/our lives the pattern of Jesus' life. They "immediately" leave their boat and their father and follow him. Later in the story we find they still have their boat, an indication that, at some levels, the story is to be read symbolically. At times we need to distance ourselves from family expectations for the sake of the gospel. At times we have to decentre our material possessions even while we affirm the goodness of their materiality and their significance for the work of the mission.

One might get the impression that the alternative community that Jesus forms around him is all male. This impression is dispelled a few verses later when we learn that "great crowds followed him" (4:25). In Matthew 18, there is specific mention of children and, towards the end of the gospel, we find that women have "followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him" (27:55). There is a far more extended group around Jesus than today's reading might suggest. Women, men, and children, we are all invited to turn our lives around and to live out in our lives the pattern of Jesus' life.

## What's happening this week:

A slight amendment to last weekend's announcement of the appointment of Fr Marcello Colasante. His correct title will be Parish Priest of OLHC Wendouree and St Columba's Ballarat North.



**Palms Encounters:** An experience to share this Easter and beyond. A Palms Encounter is an intimate, immersive, inter-cultural experience providing insights that challenge perceptions and deepen understanding. Palms

long-term volunteers guide the Encounter with our Catholic Communities in East Timor.

Register now for our **2 - 14 April Encounter** and receive **\$400 off a 2nd ticket**. Call Roger on **02 9560 5333** or go to [www.palms.org.au/Encounters](http://www.palms.org.au/Encounters) for more. **Real encounter, real people, real exchange, real life.**

The **Finance Committee** will meet in the Church Foyer on Tuesday 24th January at 6:00pm.

**Recent Deaths:** Molly Harris, Max Fletcher, Dorothy Wise, Peter Bassett,

**Anniversaries:** Mary McFarlane, Margaret Deady, Henry Francis Deady, Annie Morgan,

**We pray:** for the sick of our Parish

*We are Eucharistic people, who love, pray, serve, hope and follow Jesus*

<b>DATE: JANUARY 21 &amp; 22</b>		
WELCOMER	Jan Mullaly	Alison Thorpe
COMMENTATOR	Jennifer Adams	Clare Fuller
PROCLAIMER 1	Ann Lacey	Terry Grano
PROCLAIMER 2	Jim Kierce	Brian Kennedy
GIFTS	Brian & Nola Molloy	Sharon De Beer
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	T Waight, M Eddy, K Keogh	M Martino, K Merbach, B Ryan
LITURGY PREPARATION		K & T Snr Keogh
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Colleen Wakefield
SACRISTAN	Maree Phelan	Anne Rossiter
ALTAR & FLOWERS	As arranged	As arranged

<b>DATE: JANUARY 28 &amp; 29</b>		
WELCOMER	Kate Lawry	Dan & Mern Coutts
COMMENTATOR	Leo Schreenan	Brenda Ryan
PROCLAIMER 1	Peter Dalton	Irene Monigatti
PROCLAIMER 2	Jim Waight	Bruce Chapman
GIFTS	Helen & Bill O'Loughlin	Lorna Batty & Carmel King
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	S Edgar, J Adams P Marquand	C Wakefield, K Butler, G Hinchey
LITURGY PREPARATION		Margaret & Leo Schreenan
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Sharon de Beer
SACRISTAN	Trish Simmons	Josie Crowe
ALTAR & FLOWERS	As arranged	As arranged

Please feel free to assist if you notice that people rostered on are away. Thank you.

	<b>Thank you for your generous support</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	For the support of the Clergy of the Ballarat Diocese	\$795.40
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection (Envelopes)	-Last week's giving for the up-keep of the parish -Average given weekly for this financial year (week 28)	\$1903.00 \$1987.97

#### **ACCOMMODATION (Readvertised)**

We have had a request from Rondah Dam, a Case Manager with the Family Mental Health Support Service at Centacare in Ballarat. She is a middle aged professional woman who lives in Bendigo and is seeking board or a room to rent seven nights a fortnight. Three nights one week Monday – Wednesday and four nights every second week Monday – Thursday. If you know of someone that maybe interested in assisting please contact Rondah on Mobile: 0418 679 066.

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