

## BALLARAT NEWS

**Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Proposals** In April this year, the bishops of Victoria published a pastoral letter in response to proposals to introduce legislation allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide. As a follow-up to that letter, a group of lay people has prepared a flyer encouraging people to write to parliamentarians and express their opposition to such legislation. Copies of the flyer have been made available for your consideration. You are invited to write to parliamentarians as suggested.

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BALLARAT FOUNDATION** In June the foundation held its 31st Annual General Meeting, so it is timely to remind parishioners of the purpose of the Foundation and to update the diocese on the activities of the Foundation during 2016.

The Foundation was established in 1986 to raise funds to assist the Bishop fund the pastoral needs of the Diocese of Ballarat. Over the last twenty years in particular there has been a shift in the demographics of our diocese with declining population in many rural areas, population growth in regional towns, and a continuing decrease in mass attendance. Our diocese comprises 51 Parishes with 109 church communities within those Parishes. We are faced therefore with an increasing challenge to provide services to people within our Diocese. The Foundation is in its 32nd year of assisting the Bishop in providing these services.

**The objectives of the Foundation are:**

to financially assist the Diocese in its mission to grow Christ's kingdom here on earth; to financially assist the charitable works of the Diocese; and to provide for relief, support and comfort of those suffering from disadvantage within the Diocese, inter alia from unemployment, low income, age, physical or mental disability, language difficulties or social or economic isolation.



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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: 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

### 6th August, 2017. 18h Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

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: 10:30 am Funeral



**Readings for next weekend:**

1 Kings 19: 9, 11-13

Romans 9: 1-5

Matthew 14: 22 - 33

**Focus on the Scripture:**

The Feast of the Transfiguration takes precedence over the 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time and features its own particular readings. Today we are invited to reflect on a transformative moment in the life of Jesus as experienced by his closest followers. It is important to note that Matthew's account of the "transfiguration" is loosely framed by reminders that Jesus is to suffer and eventually to meet a violent death (16:21 and 17:23). It would seem that Jesus' three companions, Peter, James and John, get a glimpse of God's glory shining on his face and penetrating even his clothing, a hint that God's grace is more life-giving than the forces of violence and opposition to God's reign. They see Moses and Elijah, the key prophetic figures of Israel, speaking with Jesus, God's new and definitive prophet.

The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he comes to terms with the fate he is likely to meet: if he continues to confronts the forces of oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with that realisation in the wilderness at the outset of his ministry. He comes to peace with what it involves on the mountain top. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. Rather, he and his companions are called to "listen" to Jesus, the beloved of God.

Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We also need the good sense to listen and to follow through on the path that brings life to all the earth's inhabitants, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we experience from the most unexpected quarters. If we are to sustain the struggle for a healthy, safe, and peace-filled world, we have to resist the temptation to hold on to the experience of glory, and come to terms with the personal cost of going all the way to Jerusalem, to the place of victory. We might take time this Sunday to consider the challenges facing us as contemporary disciples. According to the 2017 International Food Policy Research Institute (IFRI) Report, almost three quarters of a billion people have less than \$US1.90 per day to meet all their basic needs for food, shelter and security, even as the gap between rich and poor in our world is widening. Only when we willingly accept the pain of relinquishing our hold on an unfair share of the world's resources will we understand the meaning of this feast.



Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia. This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: listen to him. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Tom Morgan (brother of Mary Millar), Martin Hourigan, and Ivan Kovacic.

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Patricia (Fay) Liston, Fr Brendan Davey, Barry Flood, Lorraine Parker, Hilda Duggan, Alf Keys, Bill & Mena Heagney, Bill & Tess Maguire, Carmel Sheehan,

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

## ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

**Fr Marcello and Fr Barry are on Annual Leave.** Over the coming weeks weekend Masses will be celebrated by visiting priests from the Diocese. This week we welcome Fr Denis Ryan who will be celebrating Saturday evening Mass at St Columba's and on Sunday morning in the absence of a priest there will be a lay led liturgy with Holy Communion.

**Children's Newsletter** We now have a separate newsletter for our children. There is some activities and colouring for them and some questions for parents to help with discussion. We are hoping to make this a regular feature so we would appreciate your feedback.

**First Eucharist** This weekend we begin the first of the Dismissals for First Eucharist preparation. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.



**Wednesday Masses**—no Wednesday morning Masses throughout August.

**Liturgy Help** We have now subscribed to Liturgy Help website for resources for Liturgy Preparation, Music, Readers etc. If you wish to access this website you need a username and password. To obtain one of these please contact Judith in the Office 5331 7131.

**Readers** please note that the readings from the Lectionary read at Mass are now available on the website. If you have difficulty finding them or would prefer a hard copy, please contact Judith.

**ODC** Please take your copy of the latest Our Diocese Community magazine.

**Holy Hour & Adoration** Before the Blessed Sacrament on Friday 11th August from 7:00pm, till 8:00pm in the Church, All Most Welcome.

**Sew and So** as has been the practice there will be NO Sew & So meeting in August. We resume again on Thursday 14th September.

**Feast of the Assumption of Mary** will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Tuesday 15 August with masses held at 7:30am, 10:00am, 12:05pm, 5:30pm.

Thanksgiving	<b>We thank you for your generous support</b>		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 649.95		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1920.00	Average for this financial year	\$2075.73

THIS WEEKEND	SATURDAY 5th August	SUNDAY 6th August	What's on this week:
WELCOMER	Greta Kelly	Catherine Fara	
COMMENTATOR	Ruth Marquand	Judy Brown	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Muareen Mooney	Bruce Chapman	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Kathleen Keogh	Geraldine Mugavin	
GIFTS	Glennane Family	Lorna Batty & Carmel King	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Jan Mullaly, Kathleen Keogh, Kate Lawry	Judith O'Sullivan	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Volunteer please	
SACRISTAN	Volunteer please	Josie Crowe	

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

### Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop—August 8th.

Ever generous God,  
 You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop  
 To live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
 and constant in bringing hope and encouragement  
 to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.  
 With confidence in your generous providence  
 and through the intercession of Saint Mary MacKillop  
 We ask that you grant our request.....  
 We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit  
 so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with courage, trust and openness.  
 Ever generous God hear our prayer. We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.



@ Mary MacKillop

**First Communion** preparation for parishioners of OLHC parishes will commence with a parent information evening on Wednesday, August 16th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Meeting Room. 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—on Wednesday August 30th and September 6th, with the Reconciliation ceremony on Wednesday, September 13th. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.



**Fr Marcello is on Annual Leave** for the next few weeks. Over the coming weeks weekend Masses will be celebrated by visiting priest from the Diocese. This week we welcome Bishop Peter Connors (Saturday Vigil) and Fr Denis Ryan (Sunday—Waubra and OLHC).

**Exodus Community:** There is a basket for donations of canned, dried or packaged food stuffs to be collected by the members of the Exodus community. This basket is available in the church foyer.

**Stewardship Update:** Receipts for 2016-2017 are now available. Please collect from the foyer of OLHC Church. Any enquiries: Chris ph. 0419 178 919

Collections:	<b>We thank you for your generous support</b>		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 514	Weekly Average:	\$ 1557
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 1234	Total for July, 2017	\$ 7098
	Direct Debit	\$ 335	
	Loose Money	\$ 104	

NEXT WEEKEND	6pm	10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Sue Searls	Vin Dillon	
MINISTER of the WORD	Kevin Murphy	Peter Dwyer	10:30 am Requiem Mass for Ivan Kovacic
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	John Kirby, Lia Yu, Joyce Jackson, Des Lloyd + 1 volunteer	Peter Briody, Judith Potter, Christine Richardson, + 2 volunteers	<b>Next Week:</b>
SACRISTAN	John & Sue Calistro	Robyn Clark	Feast of the Assumption of Mary, Tuesday August 15 <sup>th</sup> the following Masses will be celebrated in the Cathedral
COUNTERS		Kath Leonard, Kaye Stringer	7.30 am
CHURCH CLEANING	Maxine Rousch, Catherine Clifford, Leonie Hogan		10.00 am
<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	This Weekend - <b>Waubra</b>	Next Weekend— <b>Learmonth</b>	12.05 pm
Minister of Word:	Bill Keating	Fon Ryan	5.30 pm
Minister of Eucharist :	Tony McDonald	Bev Hayward	
Church Cleaning:	Phyllis & Pat Bourke	Bev Hayward	