

BALLARAT NEWS

CENTACARE—NO INTEREST LOAN SCHEME Centacare, Catholic Diocese of Ballarat (Centacare) is funded by Good Shepherd Microfinance to provide a No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) to eligible people living on low incomes that enable them to purchase items including: ■ Household items such as furniture, white goods, heaters, etc. ■ Medical and dental services □ Educational essentials such as laptops, text books, school uniforms ■ Car repairs and tyres. For your information, brochures on the scheme being offered by Centacare are available at the back of the church. If you know of any parishioners who may be in need of such a service please let them know about the scheme. If you have any further questions regarding the scheme please contact the Ballarat Centacare Office on 5337 8999 and ask for a NILS Support Worker.

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



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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

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

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

Visiting Priest: Fr Barry Ryan

Staff at St Columba's

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan
pastoral@stcolumbasparish.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 9:30 am ANZAC

Mass times: Wendouree

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural
10:00 am OLHC

Wednesday: 5:30 pm Exodus

Thursday: 10:00 am

Friday 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Acts 9:26-31

Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

1 Jn 3:18-24

Jn 15:1-8



22nd April, 2018. Fourth Sunday of Easter (B) Vocation Sunday

Focus on the Scriptures

This year we celebrate World Earth Day on Good Shepherd Sunday. The liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus as the noble or good shepherd of the believing community. "Shepherd" in its literal sense is not really part of our 21st century vocabulary, and yet we use it metaphorically, as a verb or as a noun. Its verbal form connotes care and compassion, protection, guidance and tender relationship. In John's gospel, Jesus rightly claims for himself the title "good shepherd". He contrasts the good shepherd or leader with the leader that fails to care for the flock. Knowing one's sheep, staying with them in the face of mortal danger and being prepared to die for them are marks of the good shepherd.

In the pre-industrial biblical world and early centuries of the Common Era, the "shepherd/sheep" metaphor was heard by an audience that enjoyed a much closer relationship with sheep and their human carers than do most people today. In my country, for instance, there are 71 million sheep and almost 25 million people. In other words, the ovine inhabitants of Australia outnumber the human by almost three to one. Yet most of our highly urbanised human population knows its sheep only in their disembodied forms. The human-ovine relationship is, for the most part, reduced to that of consumer and consumed. Sheep are valued, not for their intrinsic goodness as creations of a loving God, but rather as commodities that provide food and clothing for the human population. We now know that modern domesticated sheep evolved from creatures that pre-date modern humans. We might take time to consider the implications of this for our relationship with the other-than-human inhabitants of our planetary home.

Celebrating World Earth Day on Good Shepherd Sunday provides us with an opportunity to move beyond our human-centred views of the world and our human-centred interpretations of our sacred texts. We might hear a call to value the realities that underpin gospel images such as the Good Shepherd/sheep metaphor. We might also hear a call to expand our appreciation of all the inhabitants of our planet. To be good shepherds in our time is to embrace the whole Earth Community with reverence and compassion. (Abridged)

Veronica Lawson RSM



Responsorial Psalm: The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Roger Brennan (Donald), Sr Dominic Foley RSJ

Anniversaries: We remember: Barry McNamara, Veronica McNamara

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes especially Blake Dridan (pupil at St Columba's School). RCIC candidates preparing for Baptism and children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.



ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

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. It's free!

Baptisms we congratulate Lewis, son of Marvin and Marlene Quai-Hoi, Lulu, daughter of Meaghan and Sam Martin and Lucy, daughter of Jason and Shona Kuehn, who are being Baptized on Sunday morning. We pray that they will grow in faith with the love and support of loving family and friends and the prayerful support of our Parish community.



World Day of Prayer for Vocations World Day of Prayer for Vocations (or Good Shepherd Sunday) is celebrated today. Please remember to pray for our priests and for more vocations.



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.

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). Take note of the times for the week. A timetable is attached. It is also available on our website.

ANZAC DAY there will be a Mass celebrated to remember the fallen at St Columba's at 9.30am in the Church on Wednesday 25th April. If you can assist in set up, reading etc please contact Judith on Tuesday morning.



ANZAC Liturgy in the school Hall at 2.40pm 24th April. All welcome to attend this commemoration.

Gaudete et Exsultate Pope Francis has written a new apostolic exhortation on "the call to holiness in the contemporary world." "Gaudete et Exsultate" is the Latin title of the text, which translated into English means "Rejoice and Be Glad." The words are taken from the Gospel of Matthew (5:12) at the end of the discourse on the Beatitudes. You can read it on our website in the resources section.

Pope Francis—Message for 2018 World Day of Vocations 'It will not fill our hearts if we keep standing by the window with the excuse of waiting for the right time, without accepting this very day the risk of making a decision. Vocation is today! The Christian mission is now! Each one of us is called to become a witness of the Lord, here and now. 'We should not wait to be perfect in order to respond with our generous "yes", nor be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord.'

Thanksgiving		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 674.76		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1469.30	Average for this financial year	\$ 1963.86
NEXT WEEKEND		SATURDAY 28th April	SUNDAY 29th April
WELCOMER	Kate Lawry	Dan & Mem	
COMMENTATOR	Eileen van de Laar	Jo-Anne van de Voort	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	John Kennedy	Brian Kennedy	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	John van de Laar	Carmel King	
GIFTS	Madigan family	Pat & Bernie	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Maureen Eddy, Kathleen Keogh, Shirley Edgar	Kathy Bennetts, Judy Brown, Eleanor Kennedy	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Harry Chapman	
SACRISTAN	Maree	Anne	
What's on:			
Tuesday 24th April Confirmation Info Meeting for parents 7pm School Hall			
Wednesday 25th April Anzac Day Office will be closed.			
Thursday 26th April Men's' Group 2pm outing to the Golf House Hotel for afternoon tea			
Thursday 26th April Parish Pastoral Council at 7pm Meeting room office.			
Tuesday 1st May Liturgy meeting 7.30pm Parish office meeting room.			

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS



Parish Sacramental Program: The Sacrament of Confirmation program will have four dismissal sessions from either the Saturday night or Sunday morning Masses in the weeks leading up to Pentecost Sunday The Confirmation ceremony will be held on either **May 19th & 20th May**. Please keep these children and their families in your thoughts and prayers over the coming weeks as they continue their journey into the full life of the Church.

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.

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 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Meeting Room. If you are interested in joining this leadership group please contact Mario Cordioli or Vin Dillon via the Parish Office for further information.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) is underway. There are 6 children from this parish who will be receiving the Sacrament of Baptism in the near future. Please keep these children and families in your prayers.

Retreats: There are several flyers for Spiritual retreats in various locations in Victoria. These flyers are displayed in the OLHC church foyer.

First Aid Training Day on Wednesday May 9th from 9:00 am—4:00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. For enquiries and registration please contact Jess Salazaar at St Patrick's Cathedral ph 5331 2933.



Praying Towards 2020 Included in this week's Parish Bulletin is an information insert launching the Plenary Council 2020. This initial information will be expanded upon over the coming weeks. Please take the time to be informed about this upcoming community consultation. Over the coming weeks there will be opportunity for the community to participate in prayer leading up to the Plenary Council. More information to follow.

Collections:				We thank you for your generous support			
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 684	Credit Card	\$ 1,045				
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 666	Year to Date	\$ 59,023				
	Loose Money \$ 135	Weekly average	\$ 1,553				
28th/29th April	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's on this week				
LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Veronica Stott	Wed 25th ANZAC Day Mass at Exodus Community at 5:30 pm.				
MINISTER of the WORD	Kevin Murphy	Peter Dwyer					
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Joyce Jackson, Mavis McNulty, John Bourke + 2 volunteers	Marie McMillan, Pauline Howard, Maxine Rousch + 2 volunteers					
SACRISTAN	John & Sue Calistro	Joyce Jackson					
COUNTERS		Kath Connors & Helen Rienets	Next Week:				
CHURCH CLEANING	Beth Clark and Marg McLean						
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend - Learmonth		Next Weekend— Waubra				
Minister of Word:	Bev Hayward	TBA					
Minister of Eucharist :	Clare Mullane	TBA					
Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward	Phyllis & Pat Bourke					