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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office. You can download our Code of Conduct and Child Safety Policy from the Parish website or on the foyer notice board. If you have any concerns whatsoever—please contact the Parish Office, Fr. Marcello or one of the Safe Guarding Officers at ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

More notices:

Damascus College Ballarat 2020 class reunion dates Damascus College Alumni (including past students or staff from Sacred Heart College, St Paul's College and St Martin's in the Pines) - it's time to celebrate your 2020 Class reunion: 50 Year - Class of 1970 on Sunday, April 19; 40 Year - Class of 1980 on Saturday, April 18; 30 Year - Class of 1990 on Saturday, March 21; 20 Year - Class of 2000 on Sunday, May 3; 10 Year - Class of 2010 on Friday, March 20. For details regarding your Class Reunion please contact the Damascus Alumni Officer at k.hegert@damascus.vic.edu.au (03) 5337 2352 or visit the Damascus College Website

St Joseph's Church Nullawil Final Mass All are welcome to attend the Final Mass at St Joseph's Church Nullawil on Sunday, April 4, 2020 at 12.30pm. A light luncheon will follow. For further information please contact Kaylene James, ph. 0428 935270.



Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Ballarat North, Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree



Office: 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth **Phone:** 5331 1012
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ballararnorthpastoral@ballarat.catholic.org.au
School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr
School Phone: 5332 4894

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree **Phone:** 5339 2302
Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
P O Box 192, Wendouree
School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw
School Phone: 5339 4726

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

Visiting Priest: Fr Gary Jones

Staff at St Columba's
Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan
Wed—Friday 9:00am -1:00pm

Staff at OLHC
Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache
Wed- Friday 9:00am—1:00pm

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: 12 noon

Mass times: OLHC
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am Waubra
(1st & 3rd Sunday, Lexton 5th Sunday)
10:00 am OLHC
Wednesday: 9:15 am
Thursday: 10:00 am
Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Gen 2: 7-9, 3:1-7

Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17
R v 3

Rom 5: 12-19

Matt 4: 1-11



23rd February 2020 ~ The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

Matthew's Gospel continues Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, where, like Moses, Jesus teaches the community his code of behaviour. What he teaches sounds impossible, but it is what he lived and what some others have also been capable of living. Occasionally, in the midst of terrible wars and atrocities, we hear of people who have been able to rise above their own suffering and rage, to find in themselves the ability, the grace, of forgiveness. Such people speak of being determined not to let others control their lives and that in being able to forgive they find their own integrity and freedom. They become whole.

When Matthew says, 'Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect', I think this means something like being a whole person. The Greek word used here is 'telos' and it has the sense of completion, of being whole, of having arrived at the end.

With this in mind, Jesus' code of behaviour calls us to be whole people, and this is how we can also be holy people.

Recently I encountered a difficult student in class. His behaviour was poor and at times seemed out of control – he took no notice of my authority as the teacher. I found myself being filled with tension and rage, and of course saw that this student was the cause. When I prayed about this, I began to see that underneath my tension and rage was my own fear. I was afraid that I could not control him, and I was telling myself I should be able to. Eventually I came to see that this self-talk was wrong. There is no way that I can control any other adult, and nor should I see that as a good thing. If this person wanted to behave poorly then he would and all I could do was find my own inner peace with this. Praying with this led me to let go my fear, to be more at peace, and in fact this meant that I was much more at ease in dealing with this student than I had been when I was carrying such tension and anger. I relate this incident as a small example of reclaiming my own wholeness, rather than letting myself be controlled by another. If I am angry, it is my anger. Of course none of this could happen if I had not taken the time to sit with this in prayer, and seek the inner wisdom of God's Spirit.

© Mary Coloe



Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Bernice Rienets, Kevin Carroll (Yambuk), Fred Maruff.

Anniversaries: We remember: Mary Maher, Kevin Tardrew, Rod Lacey, Kevin McLaughlin, Mary McCluskey, Elaine Drake

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; for the Plenary Council process in Australia (Listening and Discernment Phase) and our RCIA & RCIC candidates

Invitation to join 2020 Roundtable Conversations on Ecological Theology with Sr. Veronica Lawson and Fr Barry Ryan at Mercy Gathering Room, 16 Gent Street, Ballarat East (side entrance). Wednesday Evening Series: 7-9pm, February 26, March 25, April 22, May 20, June 17, July 15; Thursday Afternoon Series: 1-3pm, February 27, March 26, April 23, May 21, June 18, July 16. Registration: email: veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au (kindly include contact details). Donation (to cover expenses and to make a contribution to ecological justice): \$5 per session.

OLHC needs volunteers to assist & support the Sacristans Ministry The Sacristan Team have offered to explain the role/ duties to couples or individuals showing an expression of interest in this Ministry. Training and assistance is freely available to those service the community. Please contact Sue or John Calistro. Home: 53395329 or email suejohncal@gmail.com.

OLHC Communion Ministers Formation meeting on Tuesday, 25th Feb at 7:00 pm. For Saturday and Sunday Eucharistic ministers, and for those who take communion to the homebound.

Welcome to all Newcomers at OLHC On Sunday 1st March after 10am Mass you are invited to stay for the Timeout Family Group's Hospitality Hour. Especially we invite our Multicultural friends and new families joining our Masses. Please bring and share your special traditional finger food. (Small Plate). We all would love to sample new tastes & diverse offerings. This will be happening in the Church Foyer at 11am. Any queries contact Sue Calistro Ph: :0409426928 or Connie Greenhaigh Mob: 0449 053 647

Baptisms Congratulations to Flynn Jude Warr, son of Rebecca and Christopher and Annie Maxine Trovato, daughter of Jessica and Gary, who will be Baptized on Sunday morning at St Columba's. We pray that they will grow in faith with the loving support of their parents, family and our parish community.



An invitation to Lenten prayer You are invited to join for prayer and exploration of the Word on Mondays during Lent. We will gather from 7.00pm until 8.00pm in the St Columba's parish office meeting room on Monday 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 March. Come to all or to those you can manage. Resources provided. Contact Judith or Audrey for more information.

Mass of the Oils will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral on Monday April 6th more info to follow.

Mercy Works recruits volunteers to support students from a refugee/asylum seeker background in Ballarat Schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The project aims to provide mentoring for young people to optimize their literacy development, academic and social learning. Often this leads to a long term mentoring relationship. Mercy Connect volunteers work with students during school hours and the volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but volunteers receive on-going training & support. Obtaining a current WWC Check is part of the application process. More information contact Donna Stewart, ph. 0417 624 330 or email mercyconnectb@gmail.com.

St Columba's Ministry Rosters are being prepared until end of September. We are always looking for people to join any of the ministries. Full training will be given for these roles. If you are interested, going to be away or would like to change your commitment please contact Judith email details to: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph: 5331 1012

Ash Wednesday Masses Wednesday 26th February
Our Lady Help of Christians 9.15am,
St Columba's 12 noon, Beaufort 7pm.



Cathedral: 7.30am, 10am, 12.05pm and 7pm

In preparation for Ash Wednesday, if you have palms from last year please return them to the table in the foyer so they can be burned for this year's Ashes

Stations of the Cross during Lent you are invited to pray the Stations on the Cross on Fridays at 5.30pm in St Columba's Church

Men's Group will recommence on Thursday 27th February at 2pm cuppa and catch up in the St Columba's church foyer. Come with your ideas for our 2020 gatherings!

Funeral Ministry Team meeting at St Columba's in the church foyer on Thursday 27th February at 4pm. All interested parishioners welcome.

Rite of Election will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday 29th February at 12.30pm. This is an important journey for our RCIA and RCIC candidates who will be presented to the Bishop. You are invited to support them by attending this celebration.

Project Compassion Sunday 23rd Feb 2020 Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or sent of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "Go Further Together"> Your generosity will assist some of the world's most vulnerable communities to lift themselves out of poverty. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.



Rite of Naming St Columba's will take place on Sunday 23rd February during the 10am Mass. This is for our RCIA and RCIC candidates in preparation for the Rite of Election which will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday 29th February at 12.30pm. Please support our candidates as they prepare for this stage in their journey towards full communion with the Catholic Church.

OLHC Ministries Roster is now complete and available in the Sacristy.

Choir for the Rite of Election All are invited to join the choir for the Rite of Election to be held on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at St Patrick's Cathedral 12.30pm

St Columba's PPC Meeting 27th February 7pm Parish office meeting rm

World Day of Prayer this year the prayer service has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe. Services will be held on Friday 6th March.

- 10.00am: Alfredton** One2One Church of Christ, 121 Gillies Street South.
- 2.00pm: Wendouree** St Matthew's Anglican Church, 204 Howitt Street.
- 7.00pm: Buninyong** Baptist Church at the Uniting Church, Buninyong.
- 7.00pm: Creswick** St Andrew's Uniting Church, 130 Ballarat Road.

Pastoral Care Services Ballarat Following the appointment of Tracy Sillekens to another position, the Cathedral Parish has a vacancy for the position of Pastoral Carer at Ballarat Health Services. The position is part time, 12 hours per week, with flexibility as to when these hours are worked. The successful applicant will offer pastoral care to the Catholic patients and their families at the Hospital. A position description is available from the Cathedral Parish Office. Applications close on Friday March 6th.

Collections at St Columba's		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$	Average for this financial year	\$

Collections at OLHC		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 570.40	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 110.75
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 816	Weekly Average this Financial Year	\$ 1,498.75

SC	29th/1st March	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's coming up:	OLHC	29th/1st March	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up
WELCOMER	Anne Caine	Pat & Bernie Kenna			LEADER of SONG	Laureen Rhodes	Sue Searls		
COMMENTATOR	Eileen van de Laar	Kim Butler		26th February 12 noon Ash Wednesday Mass	MINISTER of the WORD	John & Val Bourke	Deanna Osman	Tues 25th	Eucharistic Ministers meeting at 7:00 pm
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Trish Simmons	Anthea Hinchey		27th February 2pm Men's group	MINISTERS of EUCHARIST	Joyce Jackson, Pauline Newman, Pat Dillon + 2 volunteers	Coralie Kennedy, Harry Kennedy, Maxine Rousch + 2 volunteers	Wed 26th	9.15am Ash Wednesday Mass
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Ruth Marquand	Min Myers		4pm Funeral Ministry meeting	SACRISTAN	Pauline & Tone Newman	Joyce Jackson	Sun 1st March	"Family Group morning tea. All welcome!
GIFTS	J Madigan family	Sharon de Beer		7pm PPC Meeting	COUNTERS	Chris & Trish Pearce, Pauline Newman		Friday, 6th	World Day of Prayer 2pm at St Matthew's Anglican Church Wendouree
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Maureen Eddy, Annette Madigan, Kathleen Keogh	Kathy Bennetts, Judy Brown, Margaret Martino		28th February 5.30pm Stations of the Cross	Rural Communities 8:30 am	Waubra 1st March			
OVERHEADS	Kathleen Keogh	Sharon de Beer		2nd March 7pm Prayer for Lent	Minister of Word:	Trish Coleman			
SACRISTAN	Volunteer	Josie			Minister of Eucharist :	Clare Mullane			
					Church Cleaning:	Trish & Steve Coleman			