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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:

National Prayer Campaign for Drought The Catholic Bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for Drought to take place during November. People across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national – and so should the response be national. More details at www.catholic.org.au/drought

Young adult retreat Looking for a young adults retreat that will change your life? Registration is now open for next year's "Summer School of Evangelisation" (January 12-19, 2020). This unique event held in Bacchus Marsh will be a powerful week of encountering God, where you can experience great speakers, uplifting worship, beautiful liturgies and a vibrant community of 16-35 year olds looking to deepen their faith in Christ. Ballarat Diocese Youth Ministry is offering financial support to help cover the costs of attending this week-long camp. Anyone interested can contact Patrick on 5337-7160 or email patrick.kennedy@ballarat.catholic.org.au for more information.



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 1012

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Sajan Mathew

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

Tuesday: 2:00 pm

Wednesday: 9:30am

Mass times: OLHC

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Friday: 10.00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Is 11:1-10

Ps Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

Rom 15:4-9

Mt 3:1-12



1st December 2019 ~ 1st Sunday of Advent (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

"Where is the Life we have lost in living?" asks the Chorus in T. S. Eliot's The Rock. The Jesus of Matthew's gospel is implicitly asking the same question as Eliot's Chorus. He is making much the same observation as Henry David Thoreau, "Most [people] lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them." We are invited to find Life in our living and to sing the songs that are in us. We are to be agents of our own future rather than unthinking participants in the destruction of our planet. Right now, the human community is challenged in unprecedented ways to restore the life we have lost by living beyond our means and by destructively exploiting the riches of the Earth.

As we begin a new liturgical year, Matthew's Jesus invites us to contemplate the ultimate realities even as we attend to the demands of the present. He tells us to be "awake", to be "ready" all the time, not because death or the end of the world are around the corner, but because we need to recognise the multiple "advents" or arrivals of the Christ, the Human One, who calls us beyond self-absorption to Life. He reminds us that we are no different from our forebears who from earliest days have gone about their daily business without being sufficiently attentive to what really matters.

In our times, we have allowed thieves to break in and plunder our planet, our common home, because thieves come in guises that we fail to recognise. They so often look just like us and do the things we do. It may be that we must first be attentive to our own ways of plundering the house that is home to all of God's creatures.

We spend much of our time looking back. That has its place, since our history informs our present and helps us in shaping our future, though all the while we know with Auden that '[t]he past is foreign country: they do things differently there'. Advent invites us to look forward rather than back and to dream gospel-inspired dreams that will enable creative change in our own lives and in the life of our planet. It invites us to be awake, to be ready for any eventuality.

Dreams and visions have always been the precursors to effective and life-giving change. We need the grace to see visions and to dream dreams that make for justice and peace and that permit us to walk more freely in the light of God's ways. We seek the grace to "see" God's word as did the prophet Isaiah in the first reading (Isa 2:1-5). We need to put our energy into creating life-generating systems that enable us to move forward in the paths of gospel compassion and love.

Veronica Lawson RSM



Responsorial Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Clare McGoldrick, Bernard Nolan

Anniversaries: We remember: Adele Carter

We pray: Those in need of our prayers especially Saskiah Gallagher, the sick, the homeless and those who are seeking employment, for the Plenary Council process in Australia (Listening and Discernment Phase and our RCIA candidates

Abide: Six: Thirty silent prayer, reflection and adoration held weekly in Learmonth on Wednesdays 6.30pm (final gathering this week 4/12/2019). Afterwards, all are welcome for dinner across the road. Contact Matt on: 0417 991 387

Raffle The OLHC annual raffle is being run again. Tickets will be on sale before and after Mass. \$2 a ticket. Please consider taking a book home to sell to family and friends if you are able. \$1.60 from each ticket sold will come back to our Parish. Pleaser return books with money in an named envelope, and put on the collection plate. Thank you for your support.

School Mass at St Columba's - Saturday night we welcome the St Columba's School Community who will lead us in prayer, readings and music for the 6pm Mass. Welcome.

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch OLHC Parish Wendouree are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Transport is available. For bookings or further information ph. 0419 975914 or email christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com. See flyer on noticeboard

Bishop Paul has announced the following appointments to take effect in January:

- Fr Sajan Matthew will be Administrator of Bungaree Parish and Visiting Priest of Gordon Parish,
- Fr Michael O'Toole will be Supervising Priest of Cororooke Parish (in addition to PP of Colac),
- Fr Peter Jose CMI will be the priest for the Robinvale Parish
- Fr Jim McKay will work with Fr Eugene McKinnon in the East Wimmera Parish ministering across their faith communities

The Wendouree West Exodus Community wish to invite you to our annual Advent Mass and Barbeque to be held on Wednesday December 4th 2019 at 14 Violet Grove, Wendouree West (Wendouree West Neighbourhood Centre), beginning at 6pm. All welcome



A service of Lessons and Carols for Advent Sunday 1st December 5pm at St Peter's Anglican Church, 1309 Sturt Street. The service will feature all the old favourite Advent hymns alongside lessons. Fr Justin will also preach. The service will be followed by light refreshments served in the West Transept of the church. All welcome

Christmas Rosters this weekend roster sheets will go out for St Columba's Christmas Masses of 6pm and 8pm Christmas Eve and 9am Christmas Day. If you will be at one of these Masses please put your name down for a ministry.

Giving tree once again we will be having a giving tree in the foyer of St Columba's Church. Please take an angel card from the tree and purchase a gift suitable for a male or female adult. Then wrap gift, tape the card you took on to the gift and return it to under the tree (up to or prior to the weekend of 14/15 December). There will also be a box for you to donate food or toiletry items. Your assistance with one or other or both these causes would be greatly appreciated.



Advent Retreat Sunday December 15th 2.00pm – 5.00pm at St Alipius' Hall, Victoria St Ballarat East. Rachel McLoughlin and Natalie Houlihan will lead a spacious advent time of Reflections, Readings, Music, Images, Silence and ending with Spiritual Conversation circles. All are welcome to join us.

Baptism Congratulations to Sunny Vance Lineker, son of Thomas and Claire, who will be Baptized on Sunday morning at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish. We pray that Sunny will grow in faith with the loving support of their parents, godparents and our Parish Community.



OLHC Reconciliation will be held on Wednesday, December 11th commencing at 7:00 pm. All Welcome.

Miners Rest Community Liturgy will be held on Thursday 5th December at the home of Pauline and Tony Newman commencing at 7:30 pm.

Making a Scene at Christmas All are welcome to visit the Making a Scene at Christmas displays at Ss Michael & John's Church Horsham from December 5-8 and Ss Peter & Paul's Church Buninyong from December 12-15. Thursdays and Fridays between 9.30am – 3.00pm we welcome school groups. Flyer on noticeboard.



Anointing Masses St Columba's Tuesday 3rd Dec 2pm followed by afternoon tea and OLHC Thursday 12th Dec 11am followed by afternoon tea. If anyone is requiring transport, please phone Corrie ph 0401478227.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival Less than two weeks to go before the fourth Australian Catholic Youth Festival kicks off in Perth (December 8-10). Around five thousand young people are expected to attend this year's celebrations, with the "Melbourne Collective" - combining pilgrims from the four Dioceses of Victoria - contributing one thousand of that total! In addition to those Ballarat parishioners travelling within the Collective, Fr James Kerr will also be leading a small contingent from St Joseph's College, Mildura. Bishop Paul Bird will be heading across with fellow Redemptorist priests Fr Son Nguyen (Ararat), Fr Lovin Lolo (Redan) and Fr Vincent Pham (Cathedral) to participate in the festivities. We wish them and all the young people a safe and blessed trip as they make their way across the country and experience the young heart of the Catholic Church in Australia. Copies of a national prayer for the pilgrims are in the foyer.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants A low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries; employed or volunteers. See flyer in the foyer.

	Christmas Eve 24th	Christmas Day 25th	New Year's Day Masses
St Columba's	6:00 pm 8:00 pm	9:00 am	OLHC 9:00 am
OLHC	7:00 pm	10:00 am	St Columba's 9:30 am
Waubra		8:30 am	

Collections at St Columba's	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 724.00	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,288.50	Average for this financial year \$ 1,860.40

Collections at OLHC	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 666.30	Loose money (2nd collection) \$ 50.65
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 1,145.00	Weekly Average this Financial Year \$ 1,457.08

SC 7th/8th Dec	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's coming up:	OLHC 7th/8th Dec	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up
WELCOMER	Mary & Margaret	Pat & Bernie	Upcoming: Tuesday 3rd Dec 2pm Anointing Mass	LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Paul Hogan	Upcoming: 11th Dec Reconciliation at 7:00 pm 12th Dec Anointing Mass & Cuppa at 11am.
COMMENTATOR	Ann Lacey	Colleen Wakefield		MINISTER of the WORD	Trish Pora	Peter Dwyer	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	John Kennedy	Kim Butler		MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Pauline Newman, John Bourke, Val Bourke + 2 volunteers	Coralie Kennedy, Harry Kennedy, Tony Bruty + 2 volunteers	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Vicki Moroney	Carmel King		SACRISTAN	Tony & Pauline Newman	Geoff & Marg McLean	
GIFTS	Kath Scanlon	Maureen & Hans		Counters	Kath Connors, Helen Rieniets, Kevin Murphy		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Trish Simmons, Maureen Eddy, Kathleen Keogh	Georgina Hinchey, Bruce Chapman, Alison Thorpe		Rural Communities 8:30 am	Waubra 1st Dec	Learmonth 8th Dec	
OVERHEADS	Norah & Stephen	Judith		Minister of Word:	Margaret McDonald	Roy Rhoderick	
SACRISTAN	Sullivan sisters	Ann	Minister of Eucharist :	Kerri Mullane	Kerryn Gallagher		
				Church Cleaning:	Sharon & Marty Moran	Bev Hayward	