

Christmas Masses 2007

Christmas Eve: Monday December 24th

Wendouree 6.00 pm with children's liturgy
& 9.00 pm

Lexton 7.00 pm

Learmonth 8.00 pm

Christmas Day: Tuesday December 25th

Wendouree 9.00 am

Waubra 9.00 am

You are welcome to join us at one
of our Christmas Masses



Parish Office

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Our Lady Help of Christians Parish

Communities of
Learmonth ~ Lexton ~ Miner's Rest ~ Waubra ~ Wendouree

Healing Hearts and Hands Banner



Messages of support, understanding, invitation and sorrow, were written with great compassion to the victims of sexual assault within the Catholic Church. These messages are the responses of our community here at OLHC.

After becoming aware of this issue of assault, through letters and documents from our Bishop, OLHC community recognized the need to make some response in our own way. After much talking, discussion and listening with open minds and hearts, the idea of a banner to express our thoughts and feelings, became a reality.

All in our parish community were invited to write a message to victims of sexual abuse and their families. These were done with great empathy and compassion. Yes, our dream became a reality.

On Wednesday November 7th, a launch of the banner was held in our Parish Centre. Invited guests, and parishioners, gathered to listen to Dr. Caroline Taylor, who has helped the parish over several years to gain some understanding of the pain and trauma victims and their families suffer. Pauline Howard who led the project committee, gave the history of the project and how it

became the reality it is today. In the setting of music, a song of healing, and prayer, the banner was unveiled. This was a very moving experience for many present. The event was also covered in the local paper and on WIN news.

CASA, the centre against sexual assault, hosted the first public display, and it is now the plan for the banner to be displayed in various centres in the Ballarat Diocese.

Presently the banner is on display in the Foyer at OLHC, and you are most welcome to come and see it there and write your response in the journal provided.

Our 2 Parish Goals

1. Building a stronger sense of Community.
2. Helping people here to discover and use their gifts.

The Vision and Mission team have adopted these two goals from the National Church Life Survey. In our Parish profile, parishioners identified these two areas as needing more attention. Let us pray as we work towards realising these goals in 2008.

Living our Gifts

*Loving God, author of all gifts;
we praise you and thank you for all the gifts
you have entrusted to us.*

*Pour out your Spirit upon us
so that, true to our baptismal promises
we can build faith communities
which recognize and promote the gifts in all people
so that we may all share in the mission of Jesus.*

*Inspire us to be a Church that is welcoming and accepting,
and which sees everyone as an expression of Christ.
May our faith communities nurture and commission all members
to live our particular gifts as a reflection and imitation of Jesus' life.*

*Give us the courage to be the light of welcome
in the darkness of exclusion,
a voice of gentleness in the wilderness of the unheard
and an outstretched hand of love to those longing for community.
Amen*

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Guests at the launch reading the messages on the banner.
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