ROSTERS

We thank you for the wonderful works you do!

LITURGY for 7/8 January

6pm Welcomers: Beks Family Gifts: M&U Williams Family Readers: A&G McMeel Ministers: C Rvan, P Smith, C Smith, J Tankard, T Treffry, C White Welcomers: J&B Van Baren Gifts: G Howland Family Readers: T Kenny, F Lamb 9am Ministers: H Goddard, P Nevill, J O'Gradv **CHURCH CLEANING:**

Week commencing

1 Januarv Group 4: J O'Grady, J Hales, R&M Greene, T Woolley, M&J McLean 8 January Group 5: M McDonald, J McCarthy, J Carroll, S&T Bolden COUNTING TEAMS: 1 Januarv Team 10: Nybyiah & Darren Cross

Team 1: Paul & Marcia Glvnn, Pam & Gavin Nevill 8 Januarv LAWN MOWING: For fortnight 1 January Group 4: John Tankard, Michael Soulsby COMMUNION TO LYNDOCH: 8 January: Louise & Michael Taggert



Stitt

LOVE

Making Connections: Mary is honoured as the model of discipleship for the Church and for all believers. This week, be very conscious of responding to situations and to peoples as a faithful disciple of Jesus. Each time you feel you have acted as a disciple should, say a brief prayer of thanks to Mary.

Marriage Tip: For no particular reason make tonight's dinner special: light candles, sip a glass of wine, and turn on soft music. Relax and enjoy each other's company.

Daily Praver: God of peace, whose providence guides the changing seasons of every year and of all our lives; in the fullness of time, you fashioned in the Virgin Mother Mary a dwelling place for your Word made flesh among us. Bless with the joy of your Holy Spirit the first day of this new year, that through all days allotted to us, we may, like Mary, rejoice in grace and embrace your will. Bless and keep, in this new year, all who cry out to you "Abba!" Make your face to shine on all who have been adopted in Mary's Son. Lift up your countenance, and in the power of you Spirit, give us peace.

A Vocation View: Mary, Mother of the Priest Jesus, is especially Mother to all Priests. Pray to Mary to ask her guidance in your life.

"Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life."

Pope's Prayer Intentions for January

Christian Unity. That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

PARISH PRAYER: Loving God, Good Shepherd to us all. Gather us and form us into a welcoming parish family. Touch our hearts with your love so that we, in turn, may reach out to love one another, in a **neighborly** community. **Our Lady** Help of Christians, guide us as we seek to do Christ's will. Bless us in service, strengthen us in support of each other, and unite us as we grow in faith & love, to be a **welcoming**, caring Parish community. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Saints Carthage and Mary MacKillop, pray for our Parish family.

"Life in a Whole new Light and Clothed with Power from on High"

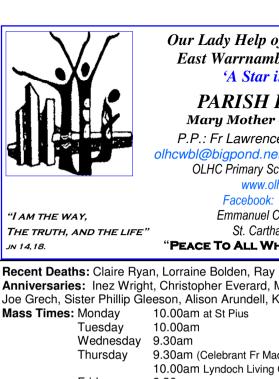
Today we welcome with great joy Dvlan Thomas who is being **<u>baptised</u>** into the family of

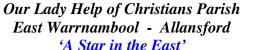
God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

"Spread light this Christmas from here...to the places others do not reach."

"Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure" St John Paul II

Parishioners Email Addresses To help the efficient circulation of Parish Rosters, please send your name and email address to olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au





PARISH BULLETIN

Mary Mother of God—1st January 2017

P.P.: Fr Lawrence O'Toole - Phone 5561 1533 olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au www.ballarat.catholic.org.au OLHC Primary School: Eugene Dalton - Phone 5562 5559

www.olhcwarrnambool.catholic.edu.au

Facebook: Our Lady help of Christians Parish

THE TRUTH. AND THE LIFE" JN 14.18.

Emmanuel College: Peter Morgan - Phone 5560 0888 St. Carthage's Church—Grauers Rd. Allansford "PEACE TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE"

Recent Deaths: Claire Rvan, Lorraine Bolden, Rav Mugavin Anniversaries: Inez Wright, Christopher Everard, Mary McNeil, Margaret O'Keefe, Bishop Joe Grech, Sister Phillip Gleeson, Alison Arundell, Karen Finn, Cyril McNamara

9.30am (Celebrant Fr Madden) 10.00am Lyndoch Living Chapel 9.30am Friday 10.00am at St Pius Saturday (Rosarv 20 minutes before weekdav Masses)



White is the colour of THE LORD'S THE Saturday 6.00pm rejoicing EPIPHANY DAY Sundau 9.00am The Word of God: This Week: Nm 6: 22-27, Gal 4: 4-7, Lk 2: 16-21 Next Week: Is 60: 1-6. Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6. Mt 2: 1-12 Sacraments: Baptisms and Marriages by Appointment Please phone 5561 1533 Reconciliation-Friday 10.00am, St Pius Saturday 10.20am

Welcome Prayer

Lord, our God, source of all life, you reveal yourself in the depths of our being drawing us to share in your life and love. Bless each of us as we respond to vour Spirit's

invitation to open wide the doors to Christ. Make the doors of our hearts, our homes, and communities wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out envy, prejudice and pride.

Let us hasten to welcome the stranger, and so welcome your Son.

We make this prayer in his name, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

The Way of Mercy – endings and beginnings Isn't it wonderful how often after Jesus offers healing; he invites people to continue on their journey. "Pick up your mat and walk" or "Go, and sin no more." The encounter with the God of Mercy is not an end in itself, but rather a doorway into renewed life of being merciful to self and others. The Eucharist offers the greatest of these gateways, inviting us to be taken up with the gifts of bread and wine, to offer our whole selves, so that we may be broken from our old life and made whole as we are shared with the world through union with Jesus Christ.

Bishop Vincent Long (Paramatta) encourages not to see the closing of the Holy Door as an end to our efforts to be merciful, but rather that God's mercy has seeped into our bones and can be **carried forth** into 20017 and beyond, being faces of God's mercy to others.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Keep for Daily Prayer)

May God bless us in his mercy.



God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. R.

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. R.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Recessional 10

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Word of Truth and Life. Praise the Word who lived among us, made us children of the Kingdom.

HYMNS: (From the Christmas Book)

8 Hark the Herald Angels Sing Entrance Gifts 21 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks Communion 22 Silent Night 12 Were You There New Year

Jov to the World

Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year A-1 This e-book, which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer or e-reader/tablet/iPhone. offers the Gospel for every day of this coming Liturgical Year A-1 (Sundays Year A, weekdays Year I), together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. This Liturgical Year A-1 began on the First Sunday of Advent 2016 and will continue till November of 2017. It may be passed on to friends or acquaintances as desired. It carries the Imprimatur of Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney, given to this publication when he was Bishop of Parramatta. Son of God: The Daily Gospel vear A-1 may be accessed at the following URL address.

www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

"And the Word became flesh" JOHN 1:14 Jesus is God's ultimate gift of love to us. The countless other blessings that God showers upon us are nothing compared to the gift of His only Son. The only appropriate way for us to respond to such generous love is with our own generous love. When we dedicate our lives to sharing all the gifts God has placed in our hands, the peace of Christ truly will control our hearts and we will know Christmas every day.

Mystery Of Faith

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

This year we have lived was a special year: there was the Holy Year of Mercy. We also did our Jubilee together, do you remember? The first part here, in this Hall, and then we went in procession to the Holy Door. This year the Lord had His mercy flow over us. And did all this grace end with the conclusion of the Jubilee? No! This grace is within us, because we make it fructify in our every day life, be it in the family, be it at work—everywhere. Christmas reminds us of this: "The grace of God appeared, which brings salvation to all mean and teaches us [...] to live in this world with sobriety, justice and mercy" (Tt 2: 111-12), says the Apostle Saint Paul. The "grace of God' "appeared" in Jesus. He is Love, the love of God incarnate, by the power of the Holy Spirit. And all of us have received this same Spirit in Baptism and in Confirmation; but we must invoke Him every day, reawaken the action of the Spirit in us, "to live in this world" - also in this small world of the Vatican-"with sobriety, justice and mercv."

Dear brothers and sisters, while I thank you, I ask you to take my special greeting to the children and elderly of your families. They are so important—and a greeting accompanied by prayer to the sick.

I express this wish for all: that your hearts be full of mercy, full of grace of the Jubilee that Jesus comes to rekindle in us.

May the Lord bless you and may our Lady protect you. And, remember to pray for me before the Crib. Thank you.

(Pope Francis to Vatican City Staff)



"May you and yours experience the blessings of Christmas: peace, love, kope." - Father Lawrie and the Parish Coordinating Team

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together" (V. Van Gogh) Thank You to all who helped with our Christmas Masses including the preparation of our churches and gardens. As we ring out the old year and ring in the new we thank all who have contributed to our Parish Family over the past 12 months. Fr. Lawrie thanks parishioners for their Christmas greetings and gifts. Our Christmas Day gift for the poor was \$2971.65. It will be joined to the giving by the Diocese. "May joy be your gift and may faith, hope and love be your treasures in the New Year."

Sacraments for Children 2017

Reconciliation (Grade 2) - March 15 & 16 **Confirmation** (Grade 3) - June 3 & 4 First Holy Communion (Grade 4) - September 9 & 10 Enquíríes—5561 1533

PARISH LIFE—LIFE TO THE FULL

OLHC Community acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians of this land-the Gunditimara People and other tribes.

WELCOME TO OLHC & \$T. CARTHAGE In imitation of Jesus Christ, we welcome all people to worship and celebrate God's all-inclusive love with us. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life, we thank you for choosing to be here with us today.

Our Parish Vision "Bringing People together in an atmosphere that is welcoming, nurturing and challenges all to share in the Mystery of God's Love."

Spend January with the Saints "Just as you learn to speak by speaking, so you learn to love by loving." (St Francis De Sales-24 Jan)

Holy Hour Monday 10.00am "Set pools of silence in this thirsty land." (James McAuley) The Parish has been gifted with a **Defibrillator**. We invite parishioners who would be willing to learn how to use it.

Columban Calendars are for sale by the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Mary MacKillop Penola Centre S.A. 08 87372092, visitors welcome.

Child Safety Standards:

New standars will be introduced in Victoria from January 1st 2017 for all organizations in Victoria that provide services to children. As a Parish community we wish to provide a supportive, enriching and safe environment for our children. The Parish Coordinating Team are ensuring all necessary policies and procedures are in place. As even when all hope part of the standards we have displayed in the fover the Child Safety Poster and the Commitment Statement of Child Safety and Code of Conduct. More information will be shared in the coming

weeks. (Dion Bartlett-Parish Safeguarding Officer) Dedication of the Loreto Window in All Saints Church Portland on Sunday January 22nd at 10.30am Mass to celebrate the ministry of the Loreto Sisters in Portland. Light lunch to follow, RSVP by Jan 13th, Box 210, Portland, 3305.

"Let us pray for those who are sick. We remember them in our Masses"

"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things. From Mary, we learn to trust seems gone." - St John Paul II

> "When Our Savior came to earth God blessed this land' (Origen)

Please Collect your new Liturgy, Church Cleaning and Counters Rosters.

"The future lies in the strength of the village." (M Ghandi)

May this Christmas continue to bring the blessings that come with gathering as a family-voung and old together. And may the spirit of Christmas stay with us throughout the year. May we come together often, sharing our gifts, from the youngest to the oldest. (Bishop Paul Bird CSsR)

"It is Christmas every time we allow Jesus to love others through us." (Saint Mother Teresa)