

Parish Newsletter - March 5th 2017

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Parish Priest – Fr Gary Jones gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Administration: Mrs Leah Monaghan

St Michael's Parish Primary School- Principal: Mr Ethan Corfee

St. Joseph's Church Blampied

Lay Led Assembly (2nd Sunday of the Month) 9.00am Vigil Mass Sat 6.00pm (4th Sunday of the Month)

Diocesan Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au



Gospel Reflection

Sin and temptation are the dominant themes of the readings for this first week of Lent. Indeed, they are regular themes in the season of Lent. However, the scripture passages throughout this season allow us the opportunity to think again about these themes and perhaps reconsider some traditional understandings of them.

Today's first reading and gospel give us two different takes on the notion of temptation. In the passage from Genesis, humanity is tempted to ignore the will of God and, when they succumb, they lose their innocence and become embarrassed by their nakedness. The temptation they are offered is to believe themselves above and beyond the will of God; to believe that they can judge as well as God; and to rise to an equal level of power and authority with God. Their action breaks the trusting, loving relationship between themselves and God. In the Gospel, Jesus too is confronted with similar temptations. Ultimately, the temptation that faces Jesus relates to his purpose and ministry – will he trust to God's vision of the suffering servant who will bring about a change of heart in the people, or will he be the sort of Messiah that the people hoped for: a triumphant, glorious victor over all who stood in his way. He is tempted to break his self-imposed fasting, to test God's promise of nurture and security, and to seek glory and persona power. Whilst Adam and Eve surrender to temptation, Jesus holds fast to God's vision.

The second reading from Paul ties the Genesis and Gospel readings together and injects the notion of sin into the equation. However, Paul make it perfectly clear that the sin of Adam, though carrying great ramifications, pales in comparison to the extraordinary abundance of God's love that is expressed through Jesus Christ.



MASS OF THE OILS: MONDAY 10 April 2017

The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at **6.30** p.m. on Monday, April 10. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2017, the ordained, the sick, those to be baptized and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to this celebration, which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church.



Last Week's Collections: Two collections are presented after the Prayers of the Faithful. The 1st Collection is cash toward the Presbytery for the sustenance of our Priest – with a contribution of 13% to provide support for our retired priests and the Diocese. The 2nd Collection is the Planned Giving (envelopes) or cash for the administration of the Parish & general running costs:

1st Collection \$389.30 2nd Collection \$224.70

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH: Alma Dwyer, Mary Barden,



Project Compassion 2017

WEEK 1 Dinia from the Philippines, Short Story

Dinia's story is a story of healing, through her own skill and perseverance, and through support from a Caritas-Australia funded program. Living in the Philippines, she struggled daily with poverty in a country with many vulnerable communities. People living in rural and coastal areas have very little access to basic services. They face extreme weather events, environmental degradation and the effects of internal conflict and have little hope of a sustainable income. For Dinia, the untimely death of her husband meant an end to his small income and a greater struggle to feed and educate her children.

She struggled alone, facing a future without hope, until her community encouraged her to participate in the Socio Pastoral Action Center Foundation Inc. (SPACFI) program supported by Caritas Australia. SPACFI's Integrated Community Development Program helped her develop diverse ways to gain a sustainable livelihood, continue to send her children to school and contribute to her community. The program foregrounds the need to work together for the common good, awakening Dinia's innate generosity and leadership qualities. She was able to learn about organic farming, managing livestock, and starting a small business.

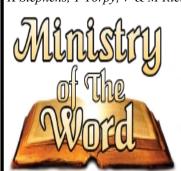
Now she has an integral role in her community, a sustainable livelihood, and a brighter future for her children. "My life is much better now. It is much easier," she says.



Roster - Sunday 12th March

<u>Reader:</u> B Arnell Commentator: U Kroeger Ministers: M Righetti, M Coffey, C Collins Offertory: Cummings Family Sacristan: Rose

Counters: *Mar 5* (*Team 5*) *M Phypers, B Ryan Mar 12* (*Team 6*) *F & K Stephens, T Torpy, V & M Richards*



Weekday Mass

Tuesday 7th March 10am Creswick

Thursday 9th March & Friday 10th March 10am Daylesford

