



## Parish Newsletter - April 23, 2017

**Parish Administration:** Mrs Leah Monaghan

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**Parish Priest** – Fr Gary Jones [gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
Daylesford Presbytery: 5348 3911

**St Augustine's Parish Primary School - Principal:** Mr Terry Brennan  
**Administration Officer:** Ph 5345 2106

**St Thomas Aquinas, Clunes**  
(no longer a Sunday Mass Centre)

**St. Joseph's Church, Blampied**

Lay Led Assembly: 9.00am (2nd Sunday of the Month)

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.00pm (4th Sunday of the Month)

**Diocesan Website:** [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) (online parish newsletter)

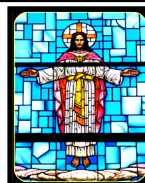
### 10am TUESDAY MASS resumes this week



**Recent died:** Fr Frank Madden

**Anniversaries of Death (Thurs - Weds):** Reta Simpson,  
Max Brennan, Joseph Van der Linden

**Unwell at this time:** Brad Simpson (son of Mandy, St A's school  
admin officer) James Stacey, Pat Prendergast, Mary Bell



### Prayer by a Doubting Thomas

I'm afraid of dying  
I'm afraid of what  
I've been warned about you.  
I'm scared of everything  
That may just be true  
I'm afraid of everyone.  
I'm afraid of what  
They've all told me about you.  
I'm terrified of living  
Without a single answer  
Was Thomas so wrong  
Not to believe you  
Without slipping his fingers  
Through your heart and your wrists?  
I'm afraid of being a skeptic.  
I'm afraid of doubting  
All that I've been told about you.  
I'm scared of believing  
That you're my only chance  
I'm afraid of being wrong.  
I'm afraid of what  
I've been told you might do.  
I'm terrified of being right  
And falling into nothingness  
Would I be so wrong  
Not to believe you  
Without slipping my own fingers  
Through your heart and your wrists?  
I'm afraid of eternity.  
I'm afraid of where  
Either death may lead me.  
I'm terrorized by knowing  
Only one fear is real.

### Beatitudes

Blessed are you who live in a world of anxiety,  
You shall speak of hope.

Blessed are you who rely less on formal religion,  
You shall perceive the sacredness of ordinary life.

Bless are you who perceive "the silent sigh",  
You shall speak for others.

Blessed are you who have resources, experience and confidence,  
You shall empower others.

Blessed are you who have been hurt by the church,  
You shall tend the wounded.

Blessed are you who let go of the old answers,  
You are free to ask "What if...?"

Blessed are you who are open to covenant,  
God shall walk with you.



### TWO COLLECTIONS are taken up and presented after the PRAYER 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.*

**Last Week's Collections** (with thanks)

**1st Collection:** \$672.40

**2nd Collection:** \$169.00

**Project Compassion:** \$341.50

**Good Friday Collection:** \$204.00



## **GOSPEL REFLECTION** *by Greg Sunter*

Because the focus of this week's gospel passage is usually placed on poor old doubting Thomas, we sometimes overlook the way the passage begins. The disciples are huddled in a room, 'for fear of the Jews'. Just a couple of weeks earlier they had been on top of the world. Jesus was enormously popular with the people, and the disciples, by association, were caught up in that affection. Their man, the one they had chosen to follow, was making waves and stirring the authorities – thumbing his nose at the rules. This, of course, made the

disciples feel good to be around Jesus. However, in the space of just a few short days, their world had turned upside down. They'd gone from riding the crest of a wave to being utterly dumped! They were cowering in a closed up room, afraid for their lives in case those who handed Jesus over for death came for them as well. They'd already had an experience of the resurrected Jesus yet they were still hiding and afraid. Into this fear and uncertainty steps Jesus who says, 'Peace be with you'. It is a reminder of Jesus calming the storm out on the lake – in the midst of turmoil and anxiety he brings peace and calm.

Thomas has received a pretty bad rap for the last 2000 years, forever labelled as 'Doubting Thomas' because he wasn't prepared to take someone else's word for the fact that Jesus had risen. However, despite his demand for evidence, once Jesus is before him, he abandons all his thoughts about placing his fingers in the wounds and proclaims, 'My Lord and my God!' This is an absolutely extraordinary statement of faith. For the very first time, someone recognises Jesus, not as Messiah, prophet or Lord, but as God.

### **Historical Context – My Lord and my God**

This extraordinarily clear statement of belief about the divinity of Jesus appears nowhere else in any of the four gospels. Why does the Gospel of John make this statement and not any of the other gospels? It must be remembered that the Gospel of John was the last of the four gospels to be written – at least 20 years after the Gospel of Mark and some 60 to 70 years after the death of Jesus. The early Christians had been cast out of the Jewish tradition and were making sense of how their own beliefs could stand apart from Jewish tradition. With the break from Judaism, Christians felt able to express their developing belief that Jesus was God.

### **Have you thought? Those who have not seen**

Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we – blessed are we – who have not seen and yet still believe!

### **ROSTERS for NEXT 3 MONTHS**

Please advise on list down the back **TODAY** of any dates you definitely won't be available or any other changes.

New rosters will be available **NEXT** Sunday!

### **Information Meeting for First Communion**

Tuesday, 2nd May at **Creswick** - 4pm

Wednesday, 3rd May at **Daylesford** - 4pm

### **Rosters for NEXT weekend**

#### **Sunday, 30th April**

**Cleaners:** Bernie & Pat T;

**Welcomers/Offertory:** Tony & Carol V;

**Remote:** Alastair H;

**Commentator:** David P; **Reader:** Doreen S;

**Special Eucharistic Ministers:**

Roland K - Josie R - Brian RW;

**Counters:** Mick G & Pete G