



Parish Newsletter - March 19th 2017

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

Parish Administration: Mrs Leah Monaghan

St Augustine's Parish Primary School - Principal: Mr Terry Brennan

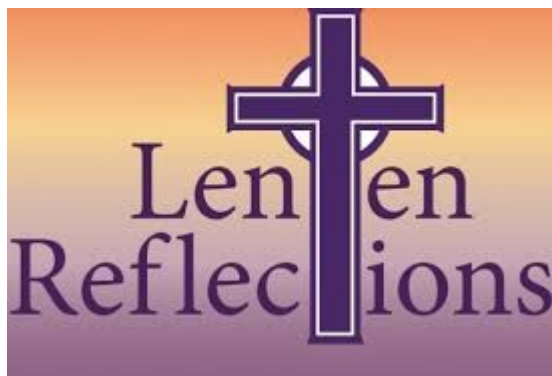
St Thomas Aquinas, Clunes
(no longer a Sunday Mass Centre)

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



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is rich in historical and cultural nuance that enhances our understanding and interpretation of this passage. When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan – another scandal. Jesus successfully gains the woman's attention by ignoring these social ta-

boos but she fails to fully understand his reference to 'living water'. The reference to the woman's five husbands has often been construed to suggest that she was either a prostitute or a serial widow. However, it may in fact be a reference to the Samaritans binding themselves (wedding themselves) to the five books of the Torah and ignoring the writings of the prophets and other later writings. This reference is followed by another fact that set Jews and Samaritans apart: the Samaritans worshipped God on a local mountain, Mt Gerazim, whilst the Jews held that true worship could only take place in Jerusalem. Jesus dismisses this major difference between Jews and Samaritans by declaring that soon 'true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'. He is indicating the much more personal relationship with God that he models; not bound up by ritual, place and law.

Having set the scene for breaking down the walls between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus then reveals to the woman unequivocally that he is the promised Messiah. The woman rushes back to the town to spread the good news about Jesus. She becomes a missionary for him; and a remarkably effective one. The people are convinced by her testimony and flock to Jesus where they have their own personal faith encounter with him.

Historical Context – Jews and Samaritans Samaritans descended from one of the tribes of Israel. They held faithful to Mt Gerazim as the first place for the worship of God even when the prophet Elijah declared a new place for worship. In the 7th and 8th Centuries BCE, the Assyrians descended on the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel. The Samaritans in the north assimilated with the Assyrians, whilst the Jews were taken into exile in Babylon. When the Jews returned from exile, the Samaritans offered to assist in the reconstruction of the Temple. This infuriated the Jews and led to centuries of distrust and animosity.

Gospel Focus – Transformation The woman has obviously come to the well to draw water for herself. Her encounter with Jesus is a moment of transformation for her. At first, she fails to comprehend his reference to 'living water' and never being thirsty again. However, in the end 'the woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town.' Leaving her water jar behind was a sign of the transformation that had taken place within her. She had indeed drunk of the living water of Jesus and no longer paid attention to the need for water that had brought her to the well.



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 \$282.00 2nd Collection \$315.00 Project Compassion: \$140.00

Recent Deaths: Alina Trueheart

Anniversaries of Death: Ali van Beveren, Mary O'Hagan, Alma Smith, Coral Suckling, Ken Joynson

Unwell at this time: James Stacey, Pat Prendergast, Mary Bell



Mass of the Oils— Monday April 10 @ 6.30pm

Thank you to those volunteers who will be collecting the Oils for us.

Holy Thursday—Thursday April 13 @7.00pm *St Augustine's Creswick*

Good Friday Prayer Service—Daylesford & Creswick 3pm

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil— Saturday April 15th @7.30pm *Creswick*

Easter Sunday Mass—Creswick 8.45am, Daylesford 10.30am

PLEASE VOLUNTEER ASAP via ROSTERS on the back table

TODAY - March 19

CRESWICK PARISH SOCIAL

@ Smokeytown Café, CRESWICK

ALL welcome!

straight after Mass

Kindly hosted by our Parish Family Group



TONIGHT: CRESWICK'S COMBINED CHURCH LENTEN STUDY GROUP is at **St ANDREW's Uniting Church Hall** this year, led by the lovely Rev Rosemary Carter in 2017. This is always a very pleasant and sociable evening, where all attending feel free of denominational concerns ... indeed, feel humanly connected as ONE Christian family!

WHEN? SUNDAY EVENINGS @ 6pm (from Sunday, March 19).
Shared light meal to start the evening.

Please see Sue if you need a copy of the study book and/or to find out who else from St A's will be attending.

THIS WEEK on TUESDAY

MARCH 21 @ 7.30pm

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & FINANCE TEAM

In 2 days on TUESDAY morning:

'PALM CROSS' CRAFT WORKSHOP

LEARN A NEW CRAFT from ANGELINE TREACY & HELP PREPARE FOR PALM SUNDAY. Straight after 10am Mass (cuppa & nibbles) @ the presbytery on TUESDAY March 21 **ALL INVITED!**

BUSH DANCE @ Donegan's Farm, Gordon, NEXT Saturday, March 25, 6.30 - 11pm

Join **Barry Flynn's Bush band, Tar Here Jack**, and other Ballarat Friends of Ainara Health Group to raise funds for the Health Student Scholarship Fund to tertiary train Timorese health-workers so they can work in their local community. Fun, music, dance, auction. \$25.00 each or \$60.00 a family. Bookings: www.trybooking.com/enquiries 0409 458 053. Poster on back table



Roster - Sunday 26th March

Reader: Brian RW **Commentator:** Neil D **Ministers:** Alastair H, Josie R, Judy S
Welcomers/Offertory: Brian RE, Pat McK **Remote:** Jesse & Steve SCHN
Counters: Mick G, Pete G **Cleaning:** Sr Louise H

Weekday Mass

Tuesday 21st March 10am Creswick, followed by First Reconciliation

Thursday 23rd March 10am Daylesford, followed by First Reconciliation

Friday 24th March 10 am Daylesford