

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The gospel for today can be a difficult one to hear. It calls us to place our discipleship before our loyalty to family and even before our own life. It is important to place this passage in the broader context of not only the chapter in which it sits, but also within the gospel as a whole.

Today's passage appears at the conclusion of Chapter 10 in the Gospel of Matthew. The entire chapter deals with the commissioning and sending out of the disciples to 'proclaim the gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy and drive out demons.' (Mt 10:8) The previous chapter concludes with the words, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' (Mt 9:37-38) Chapter 10 is a response to this call. Jesus sends the disciples to 'work the harvest' through proclamation, healing and exorcism.

At the end of the chapter, having spelt out all the difficulties a disciple must face, Jesus assures them that even the smallest act of welcoming the disciple will be rewarded.

It's also important to understand that the Jewish audience of the Gospel of Matthew found themselves under increasing persecution and there was often division within families between those holding to orthodox Jewish beliefs and those following the new Christian way. For some early Christians, there was the very real choice to be made between following their faith and remaining loyal to family. The Gospel of Matthew repeatedly affirms Jesus as the promised Jewish messiah; as the fulfilment of Jewish prophecy. For early followers of the Christian way, this difficult message about being a follower was in the context of an affirmation that the message of Jesus was deeply grounded in their Jewish faith.



July 2 Widow Twanky Café, Clunes

@ 10.30am

TWO COLLECTIONS are taken up and presented after the **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

Last Week's Collections (with thanks) 1st Collection (Priest): \$219.10; 2nd Collection (Parish): \$330.00

Pastoral Council COMMISSIONING

On Sunday July 30, our Pastoral Council will be commissioned for 2017-2018. The Parish Finance Team will also be recommissioned. Minutes from last meeting on noticeboard

Planned Giving 2017 – 2018 Renewal

Thankyou to all those parishioners who are involved with the Planned Giving Program here at St Augustine's Parish. As we begin a new financial year, it is a good time to look at our Program for 2018 and beyond.

New envelopes are available at the rear of the Church. If you are able to deliver any of these to parishioners you know, please do so... We are also currently updating our Direct Debit option for Planned Giving,

thank you to those who have already taken this up.

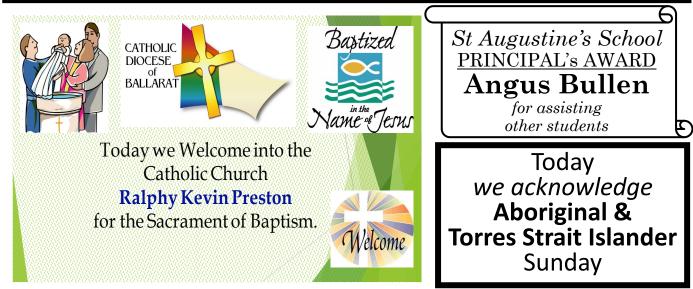
The Direct debit will be run through the Catholic Development Fund (CDF), allowing givers to contribute regularly and without the worry of bringing an envelope each Sunday.

The account at the **CDF** will be able to process Debit/Credit cards, and would be transferred to our Bendigo Bank Account to assist in the day to day running of the Parish.

Forms have been provided from the CDF and are available at the rear of the Church. These can be returned to the **Office** and forwarded to the **CDF** for processing.

- Mrs Leah Monaghan

(Parish Secretary for Creswick & Daylesford)



DIOCESAN BULLETIN NOTICES *Liturgy Formation 2017* The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is offering Liturgy Formation Sessions at Ballarat Cathedral on July 9, Warrnambool on July 23. Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass in parishes on these days. Workshops on offer are Funeral Ministry, the Diocesan Sacraments of Initiation Program, "Let the Children Come" and Formation for Lectors. Registration is via DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION PO Box 576 - Ballarat VIC 3353 Ph: (03) 5337 7159 Email: <u>liturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au</u>; Online registrations via <u>www.ballarat.catholic.org.au</u>

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants: The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers A wide range of subject areas are offered: Scripture, Sacraments, Social Justice, Youth Ministry, many more. Registration for the July study cycle closes on 10 July - or you can start in September or later in the year. Details on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (link is on front page), or contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au.