

July 3

Reader: Leaders: Comm'tor: Sp Minister/s: Welc'/Offer'y: Remote: Counters: Cleaning this week: CRESWICK Doreen S n/a Pat T Judy-Margie-Ron Tony & Carol V Neil D Pat & Bernie T

Izabelle & Pat

Liturgy Formation 2016 Launch of 'Let the Children Come'

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will be presenting Liturgy Formation sessions in the diocese in 2016 on <u>FUNERAL MINISTRY</u>, <u>Formation for Lectors</u> and the launch of the sacramental program, '<u>Let the Children</u> <u>Come</u>' - July 24 at Birchip Parish, August 7 at Ararat Parish (closest) and August 21 at Hamilton Parish. As this day includes the launch of "Let the Children Come", all involved in the Parish Sacramental Programs are encouraged to attend. **Collections:** Two collections are taken up after the Prayers of the Faithful. The 1st Collection is the Presbytery Collection – this collection is for the support of the local priest, with 13% going towards the support of the retired priests and the Bishop. The 2nd Collection is the Planned Giving (envelopes) for the support of Parish endeavours and structures.

Last week: 1st (Priest Support) - \$179.90; 2nd (PG/Parish) - \$108.00



Wishing you a very restful holiday, Fr Gary!

(June 27 - July 22) from us all here in your Creswick-Clunes Parish

Thanksgiving Envelopes:

Envelopes are available for collection down the back. Receipts will be issued after the coming school holidays, on Sunday July 10.

Scripture Commentary by Dianne Bergant CSS

This fast moving story shows that certain symbolic action also carried prophetic meaning. It indicates that Elisha was invested with the power and authority of Elijah. It also suggests that the kind of activity in which Elijah was engaged has come to an end and a new generation of prophets is on the horizon. This account describes the conflict that exists between two fundamental responsibilities: fidelity to the call from God and fidelity to one's primary family obligations. Elisha was commissioned by God to be a prophet, and it is up to him to decide whether or not he can make the radical break from the past that this commission requires. His response to God is wholehearted.

This psalm of confidence opens with a declaration of trust that God will protect the psalmist from danger and ultimately from death. A confession of faith follows. Two images express the covenant relationship between God and the psalmist. First, the allotted portion of land is the inheritance that each tribe was given and which was handed down within the tribes generation after generation. The second image, the cup, refers to the practice of drinking from the same cup during a ritual ceremony, thus solidifying the union between all who participate. Regardless of the terrifying, even life-threatening ordeals that must be endured, the psalmist proclaims that God is steadfast.

Paul states that Christians have been freed for the sake of freedom itself. They are then exhorted to stand fast in their freedom and not to allow themselves to be bound again. There are eschatological implications here. The Christians are already free, but they are not yet totally free. Habits of mind and heart, addictions of all kinds, retain their hold even after they are renounced. Paul then contrasts life lived in the Spirit with life lived in the flesh. It is not clear whether he is speaking of the spirit of the person or the Spirit of God. What is clear is his assertion that, if the Galatians are guided by the Spirit of God, they will not be enslaved by the law.

Jesus' journey though the territory of the Samaritans contains several subtle allusions to the prophet Elijah. The account begins with a reference to Jesus being taken up just as the ancient prophet was (cf. 2 Kgs 2:11). When people do not accept Jesus, James and John suggested that Jesus call down fire from heaven, just as Elijah had done (cf. 2 Kgs 1:10). Finally, the request to say good bye to parents before following God 's call was made of Elijah by Elisha his disciple (1 Kgs 19:20). A second episode, Jesus emphasises the demands that discipleship will exact. Discipleship may require whole-hearted commitment to Jesus, but this commitment must be embraced realistically.