

Parish Newsletter - September 3rd 2017

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Email: daylesford@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

No Masses at St Joseph's- at the moment

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

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH: John Lee, Louisa Horwath, John White, Veronica Melotte, Lionel Whitaker, Bill Shanahan, John Brodie, Paul Daglish, Danielle Sartori

Prayers for Sick: Gary Eyles



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

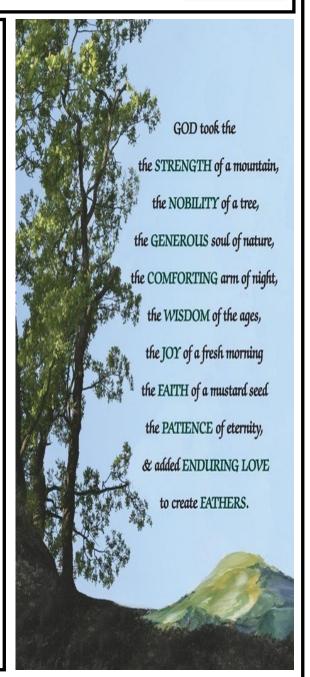
Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel is the first of three predictions of Jesus' death and resurrection in Matthew's gospel (see also Mark and Luke). Despite Peter's confession of faith that immediately precedes this passage (see last week's gospel), the disciples still do not have a very solid understanding of Jesus' purpose. They may regard him as the Messiah, but still do not fully understand what that means. In this passage, Jesus is beginning to prepare them for the events of the passion – his death and resurrection. He is trying to lead them to a greater understanding of his mission and message. But Peter abruptly 'rebukes' Jesus and tells him not to speak like that. One can almost hear Peter saying, 'Look, Jesus, you've got a good thing going here, don't spoil it by talking about dying!' However, Jesus responds to Peter very sharply, suggesting that his lack of understanding is inspired by evil and reflects human thought, not divine wisdom.

The passage then leads in to a description of the challenge of discipleship. To be a follower of Jesus means to 'deny' oneself, take up one's cross and follow Jesus. In the context of this passage, to 'deny' oneself means to not be concerned about 'I' but to be concerned about 'You' – to put others before self. To be a follower of Jesus means to be self-less, not self-centred. In the ultimate example of this, Jesus tells his disciples that whoever wishes to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Jesus' sake will find it. To 'save' your life is to hold back from giving yourself fully to the message of Jesus – to be 'half-hearted' in your faith. But to 'lose' yourself in the message of Jesus is to fully give yourself over to living the reign of God and through 'losing' yourself in this way, Jesus tells us, is how to truly find life.

Historical Context. Whoever loses his life for my sake...

At the time of the writing of Matthew's gospel (around 75-80 CE), Christians were being persecuted and put to death for their beliefs. They were literally giving up their lives for their faith. These persecuted Christians saw Jesus' triumph over death as a sign of great hope and trust in the future for themselves. Jesus' words in the gospel – 'whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' – would give hope to those under persecution that ultimately they too would triumph and that the deaths of their friends were not in vain.





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 \$227.50 2nd Collection \$108.00



BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for eighteen retired priests. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into retirement, and will also need to be supported by the fund.

This collection has raised nearly 1.8 million dollars since it began in 1991, including nearly \$60,000 last year. Along with the priests' own contribution of approximately \$37,000 per year, this annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy. Please give as generously as you can, and help us continue 'caring for those who cared for us'. Special envelopes are available for this collection, which will be taken up today. You may also return your envelope next week.

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US - THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Envelopes are available at the rear of the Church.

Diary Dates:

Friday September 8th - St Michael's attending Mass

Friday September 15th - St Michael's attending Mass

Sunday September 17th - Morning tea after Mass.

Tuesday September 19th—St Vincent de Paul Meeting in Parish Centre @ 7pm

Friday October 13th— Whole School Mass

Sunday October 15th - Celebration Mass for Fr Gary's 30th Anniversary of Ordination, followed by Morning Tea in the Parish Centre

Sunday October 22nd - Swiss Italian Weekend

Thursday November 2nd - All Souls Day Mass , 11am at Eganstown





Office Hours:

Tuesday Creswick from 10am–11.00am, Daylesford 12—3.30pm



Wednesday Daylesford from 9.00am - 4.00pm, Thursday 9.00am - 11.30am.

Daylesford Parish office is closed on Fridays.



Liturgical Ministries

Reader: I Tinetti Commentator: B Arnell Offertory: Chamberlain Family Ministers: C Bartholomew, N Chamberlain, S Whiffin Sacristan: Rose

Counters: Sept 3rd (Team 7) W Chamberlain, S Whiffin

Sept 10th (Team 8) J Barker

Weekday Masses: Creswick—Tuesday 10am

10am Thursday Daylesford (in Dining Room) 10am Friday (Church)