

**St Peter's Parish** Linton, Skipton, Smythesdale, Snake Valley

Please Contact the Cathedral Office 5331 2933

Parish Office: Jacinta Westbrook,

Priests: Frs Justin Driscoll, James Kerr, Anthony Nagothu, Sajan Matthew



*Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017*

*Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God (A)*

**Anniversaries:** Francis O'Bierne, John & Edward Hynes, Winnie Hynes, Ted Mulcahy,  
Dorothy O'Loughlin, James Whelan

**Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell,**

especially Margaret Cranko, Bill Gordon, Nic Gowans, Fr John Keane, Kerrie Mulcahy

**Next week's readings:** *Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2017 The Epiphany of the Lord (A)*

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

**Cathedral Office** will reopen at 10.00am on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of January.

**Next week's readings:** *Sunday 8th January 2017 The Epiphany of the Lord (A)*

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Luke 2:16-21

### **Developing a Culture of Safety**

The Linton Parish continues to work towards developing a culture of safety for all, especially Children and Vulnerable adults. Guided by the policy of the Ballarat Diocese for *Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults* and the *Code of Conduct for Working with Children*, parishioners who work with children and vulnerable adults are required to have a current Working With Children Check and to have completed the Online training module about protecting children and vulnerable adults. To assist us we are seeking expressions of interest from parishioners who would be interested in being the Parish Safeguarding Officer to provide support to other parishioners and ensure that all safeguarding procedures outlined in the Code of Conduct for Caring for Children and the new Child Safe Standards are complied with.

Training will be provided through Michael Myers, the Professional Standards Coordinator for the Diocese of Ballarat. Contact Fr Justin for further information.

## **A Parish Mission for Linton and Beaufort Parishes**

Jesuit priest Fr Richard Leonard will lead a Mission for the parishioners of the parishes of Linton and Beaufort in October 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2017. Fr Richard will celebrate the weekend Masses and then offer the following three days for the mission with two sessions each day – one in the Linton Parish and one in Beaufort. The Ballarat Diocesan Foundation has provided a grant to enable this Mission to take place. Arrangements are yet to be finalised with details of each day of the mission to be arranged in conjunction with the Beaufort Parish

## **Non-Violence: A Style of Politics for Peace**

Pope Francis announces the theme for the 50th World Day of Peace (1st January 2017)

Non-Violence: A Style of Politics for Peace>. This is the title of the Message for the 50th World Day of Peace, the fourth of Pope Francis.

Violence and Peace are at the origin of two opposite ways to building society.

The proliferation of hotbeds of violence produces most serious negative social consequences. The Holy Father sums up this situation in the expression: "A Third World War in Pieces". Peace, by contrast, promotes social positive consequences and it allows the achievement of real progress. Therefore, we should act within what is possible, and negotiate ways of peace even where they seem tortuous and impractical. Thus, non-violence can acquire a more comprehensive and new meaning. It will not only consist of desire, of moral rejection of violence, barriers, destructive impulses, but also of a realistic political method that gives rise to hope.

Such a political method is based on the primacy of law. If the rights and the equal dignity of every person are safeguarded without any discrimination and distinction, then non-violence, understood as a political method, can constitute a realistic way to overcome arm conflicts. In this perspective, it becomes important to increasingly recognize not the right of force but the force of right.

With this Message, Pope Francis wants to show a further step, a path of hope, appropriate to today's historical circumstances. In this way, the settlement of disputes may be reached through negotiation without then degenerating into armed conflict. Within such a perspective the culture and identity of Peoples are respected and the opinion that some are morally superior to others is overcome. At the same time, however, it does not mean that one Nation can remain indifferent to the tragedies of another. Rather it means a recognition of the primacy of diplomacy over the noise of arms. Arms trade is so widespread that it is generally underestimated. Illegal arms trafficking supports not a few world's conflicts. Non-violence as a political style can and must do much to stem this scourge.