

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

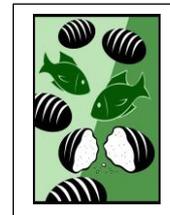
Please Contact the Cathedral Office 5331 2933

Fr's Justin Driscoll, James Kerr, Anthony Nagothu, George Areeckal

Parish Office: Jacinta Westbrook, Finance Officer: Philip Westbrook

Recent Deaths: Antoinette De Brauwere

Anniversaries: Liam & Frankie Davison, Jack Doyle, Ivan Grigg, Noreen Sherritt,
Kathleen Fenwick, Jess Taranto, Jack Meiklejohn



Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell, especially Geoff Hutchison

Next week's readings: *Sunday 1st/2nd August* *18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)*

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15 Ps 77:3-4. 23-25. 54. R. v.24 Ephesians 4:17, 20-24 John 6:24-35

Masses: 1st/2nd August	7.30pm Smythesdale	9.00am Linton	10.30am Skipton
8th/9th August	7.30pm Skipton	8.30am Beaufort	10.30am Snake Valley

Mercy Sisters & Associates Afternoon Tea

Friday July 31st from 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm at the Mercy Centre Ballarat East (enter through Gent Street). Entrance cost is \$5.00 and this includes afternoon tea and a ticket in entrance prize. Raffle and Spinning Wheel. Money raised will support Mercy Works. Contact Ursula at gudiamond-keith@live.com or phone 0407 717 626, 5341 7626, or Helen phone 0419 875 349.

World Youth Day Information Sessions

Are you thinking about being part of the WYD Pilgrimage to Krakow Poland in 2016? Information sessions for potential pilgrims (18-35 years old) are being held on Friday, July 31 at 7.00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Presbytery, 3 Lyons Street South. Contact Amanda on 0427 748867 if you can't make it to one of these sessions and we'll get the information to you. See WYD Information on the Ballarat Diocese Youth and Young Adult Ministry page www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Reflection Morning

A morning of reflection at Nazareth House will be led by Fr James Kerr on Friday July 31st beginning at 10am with a cup of tea. There will be time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Penance will be available. Fr James will celebrate Mass at midday and this will be followed by a light lunch for those who wish to stay on. We extend a warm welcome to all who are interested in a quiet time of recollection. A contribution of \$12 to cover costs appreciated.

Laudato Si *On Care for our common home*, Diocesan Colloquium

Rev Dr Denis Edwards will be in Ballarat on Tuesday, August 25th to share his perspective on Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si* at OLHC Wendouree Mercy Centre, 480A Gillies Street, Wendouree from 9.00am – 4.00pm. Local practitioners will share their experience on how the encyclical is being lived out in the local context. All from the diocese are welcome to attend. Enquiries and bookings to Sue Searls sue.searls@ballarat.catholic.org.au, 0409 401 329 or Susan Crowe scrowe@ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au, 0419 887 274. Booking is required for catering purposes. Cost \$15.00 to cover costs for morning tea and lunch.

Pope Francis' Ecological Encyclical

Pope Francis' Encyclical on humanity and relationship with their environment is released For further information and follow up action prepared by Catholic Earthcare Australia (CEA) please refer to <http://catholicearthcare.org.au/ecological-encyclical/>

New Diocesan Website (google chrome) www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Farewell to Fr George

After being in our Linton, Cathedral and Beaufort Parishes for three months, Fr George Areeckal, a Redemptorist Priest from Kerala, India will return home this coming week. Fr George has been a very welcome presence amongst us and has been greatly received by many. We thank him most sincerely for his ministry with us and wish him well in his return to teaching Canon Law in India.

University of Melbourne - Newman College and St Mary's College

Newman College and St Mary's College offer scholarships to academically gifted candidates and bursaries to financially-straitened families. Preference is given to Catholic students who come from the Catholic School system. It is important that students choose Newman College or St Mary's College as their first or second choice in their application.

St Vincent de Paul

The Linton Conference of St Vincent de Paul is looking for some new members. The meetings are held every 2nd Tuesday of the second month at the Linton Presbytery. Please contact President Paddy Kavanagh. 534 0 2165

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Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

“The

Catholic Diocese of Ballarat is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for people of all ages, with special concern for children, young people and vulnerable adults. This commitment is made in the spirit of Christ’s teachings on behalf the bishop, clergy, staff and volunteers who serve in parishes, schools, Centacare and other Catholic organisations in the Diocese. The Diocese will respond to complaints of unprofessional conduct in ways that reflect nationally established standards and protocols and ensure adherence to applicable legislation. We are committed to providing ongoing pastoral support to any person affected by physical, emotional or sexual abuse by church personnel.”

The necessary steps which come from this policy for the Diocese of Ballarat are

- Implement a behavioural code of conduct which sets out clear guidelines regarding ethical behaviour as an essential part of keeping children safe.
- Implement and maintain safe recruitment practices for all paid and volunteer Church personnel.
- Have clear role descriptions for all Church personnel including volunteers.
- Provide training and education to assist all ministerial, paid and volunteer church personnel to develop and maintain the knowledge and skills required to implement and maintain child safe environments.
- Provide support and supervision for all staff and volunteers who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Have risk management plans for all activities with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Promote protective behaviours programs for children, especially in schools.
- Have clear policies for identifying and reporting disclosures or suspicions of harm/ abuse.
- Ensure that all clergy, religious, employees and volunteers comply with applicable legislative requirements

Reflection by Veronica Lawson rsm

The gospel readings for the next five weeks are taken from John 6, a section of the gospel that focuses on food and related themes: on hungry people; on the need for food/bread; on food/bread as metaphors for life. Bread has been the staple food for millennia in bible lands. To be without bread is to lack the very basics of existence, and that is how it is for so many in our world. Even the impoverished in the so-called “first world” know what it is like to be without the means of subsistence in a world of plenty. The present cycle of readings confronts us with questions about our own lifestyle, our exploitation of earth’s precious resources, and our capacity to make a positive change in the lives of those whose access to the fruits of our earth is much more limited than ours. In John’s account of the feeding of the 5000, the crowds keep following Jesus because they see the “signs” he works among the sick. The Johannine Jesus consistently tries to lead the people beyond a form of discipleship that is simply based on seeing the signs that he works. The inadequacy of the crowd’s response on this occasion becomes clear towards the end of the reading.

Both place and time function powerfully in the story. The “mountain” place evokes the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt Sinai. For the crowds, Jesus is the prophet like Moses who points to a way of satisfying hunger in the wilderness of life. The time is Passover, drawing into the narrative the passing over of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the freedom of the desert and ultimately of the land where they could worship their God. This story is about the liberation that God brings through the agency of Jesus.

Jesus demonstrates that the answer to the suffering of the people, their liberation, is to be found in their care for each other. If they simply take the time to sit down together, discover the riches in their midst, give thanks, and distribute what they have, they may find they have more than they need. They must gather up the fragments, the “more-than-enough”, so that nothing will be lost and others might benefit from their sharing.

Although the people partially understand Jesus’ identity and teaching, their ultimate response is misdirected, even violent: they want to take him by force and make him king. He leaves them and returns to the mountain alone. We so often seek spectacular solutions to our problems. It may be that we too need to sit down together on the grass, or wherever, and discover the wealth we have at our disposal to satisfy the hunger in our world.