



# Parish Newsletter November 29, 2015

CRESWICK OFFICE *Hours:* \*\*Wednesday 10am - 11am. (\*\*If Wednesday Mass)

*Ph:* 5345 2160 (Leah) *Email:* creswick@ballarat.catholic.org.au

DAYLESFORD OFFICE *Hours:* Friday 9.30am - 1.00pm. *Ph:* 5348 2026 (Leah)

*Email:* daylesford@ballarat.catholic.org.au D'FORD PRESBYTERY *Ph:* 5348 3911

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Gary A Jones

## ST THOMAS AQUINAS', Bailey Street, CLUNES

MASS: Saturday 6.30pm (on the eve of each 2nd & 4th Sunday in the month)

LAY LED ASSEMBLY: Sunday 10.30am (1st Sunday ONLY in the month)

Nb. NO service on weekends when a 3rd Sunday or when a 5th Sunday in the month

ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL: Mr. Terry Brennan, Principal.

SCHOOL OFFICE *Ph:* 5345 2106 (Mandy) *Website:* www3.sacreswick.catholic.edu.au

DIOCESAN *Website:* www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (inc ONLINE PARISH BULLETIN)

## PARISH VISION STATEMENT:

Our Parish is a welcoming and inclusive community, based on the Christian ethic where our lives are enhanced by worship that enriches, leadership that is shared and service that cares.

### Weekday Masses

St Augustine's, Creswick: 10am Wed Dec 2

St Peter's, Daylesford: 10am Thu/Fri Dec 3 & 4

### Weekend Masses

St Augustine's, Creswick: 8.45am Sun Dec 6

St Peter's, Daylesford: 10.30am Sun Dec 6

### Weekend Lay Led Assembly

St Thomas Aquinas', Clunes: 10.30am Sun Dec 6



### Celebration of Baptism:

Baptisms are celebrated at St Augustine's Parish during Sunday Mass at 8.45am

- on the 1st & 3rd Sundays.

Baptisms can also be celebrated at a later time at the 10:30am Sunday Mass at St Peter's Daylesford.

All Baptisms are to be arranged with

Fr Gary Jones - Parish Priest.

Contact through the Parish Office (details above)

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Melva Suckling  
(died recently)

Anton Erkamps-Seamons, Bernadette Stamatov,  
Brendan Scarff, Ron Morgan  
(anniversaries of death)

Steven Treacy, Sandra Kenyon  
(unwell)



ADVENT TREE HAMPER GIFTS  
by NEXT Sunday, Dec 6  
Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project

*Suggestion available down back  
Thank you for your support!*

PORT & CHRISTMAS CAKE'  
Parish Cheer  
(hosted by Parish Family Group)  
Sunday, December 20  
after St A's Mass, outside (hopefully!!!)

**St Vincent de Paul**  
Christmas Cards 50c each  
Calendars \$7  
*Available straight after St A's Mass*

The Anglican Parish of  
Springmount (Creswick district)  
will be using St Augustine's Church  
for their following services (due to  
building works at St John's):  
**Saturday, December 12th -**  
Prayer Service @ 7.30pm  
**Christmas Eve - @ 10.00pm**

## TEN COMMANDMENTS OF CHRISTMAS

1. You should not leave "Christ" out of Christmas, making it "Xmas."  
To some, "X" is unknown.
2. You should prepare your soul for Christmas.  
Spend not so much on gifts that your soul is forgotten.
3. You should not let Santa Claus replace Christ,  
by robbing the day of its spiritual reality & meaning.
4. You should not burden the shop girl, the mailman,  
and the merchant with complaints and demands.
5. You should give yourself with the gift. This will increase its value  
a hundred fold, and he/she who receives it shall treasure it forever.
6. You should not value gifts received by their cost. Even the least  
expensive may signify love, and that is more priceless than silver and gold.
7. You should not neglect the needy. Share the blessings of Christmas  
with many who will go hungry and need a supporting hand.
8. You should not neglect your church. Its services highlight  
the true meaning of the season. Christ is reason, for the season.
9. You should be as a little child. Not until you have become in spirit as a  
little one -- then you are ready to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.
10. You should give your heart to Christ. Let Him be at the top of your  
Christmas list.

*Anyone keeping these commandments is sure to have a blessed Christmas.*

<b>DEC 6:</b>	<b>CLUNES</b>	<b>CRESWICK</b>
<b>Reader:</b>	Culvenor	Pat T
<b>Leaders:</b>	Leneghan/Dooley	n/a
<b>Comm'tor:</b>	n/a	Alastair H
<b>Sp Minister/s:</b>	Rinaldi	Judy-Brian-Alastair
<b>Welc'/Offer'y:</b>	n/a	Loretta & Roland K
<b>Remote:</b>	n/a	Lois K
<b>Counters:</b>	n/a	Pat & Bernie T
<b>Cleaning:</b>	DURING THIS COMING WEEK – before NEXT Sunday Dooley      Angeline T & Celly Cs	

**Collections:** Both weekly collections occur after the General Intercessions.  
Last week: 1st (Priest Support) - \$330.60 2nd (PGiving/Parish) - \$166.00

Lay Led Assembly NEXT Sunday, December 6 @ CLUNES  
(1st Sunday in the month)

**St A's Primary School AWARDS:**  
Principal's Award - Jet Bliss;  
Kindness - Ned Charleson & Lilly Bennett

## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### Blessing of the Advent Wreath

**Fr Gary:** Let us ask our heavenly Father to bless us. Father, we praise you for sending your Son to save us from our sins, and to be a light in our darkness.

*Bless us as we gather in his name.*

And bless this wreath, made from shoots and leaves from our gardens and bushland. May this Advent wreath be a sign of the light of Christ among us.

**All: We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Lighting of the first candle: the Prophets' candle.

**Commentator:** *The first candle reminds us of the prophets. Those special persons who, from age to age, spoke God's word to his people and promised that a saviour would come.*

The candle is lit.

**All: God our Hope, we thank you for sending us the gift of your son, Jesus. Help us during these weeks of Advent to make ourselves ready to celebrate his birth. May we spread the good news of Jesus' coming to all those we know. Amen.**

## STATIONS OF CHRISTMAS

During Lent, the Church gives us the Stations of the Cross, allowing us to reflect on the events of Holy Week. Perhaps these 'Stations of Christmas' can remind us of the events leading to the wonderful miracle of the Lord's birth. Why not use them as a basis for your family prayer during the Christmas season?

**Opening Prayer:** Lord Jesus, the miracle of your Nativity has inspired Christians for generations. Inspire us now with the beautiful story of your birth. Help us to clear our minds of the concerns of the day and fill us with the peace and hope of Advent.

### **1st Station: The Annunciation**

For centuries, the Jewish people had prayed for a Messiah. Age after age, their hopes were met with disappointment. Yet they kept faith. At last, in a small Judean town, an angel of God asks a young Jewish girl to carry within her the hope of her nation. Mary accepts God's call and changes the course of her life to take on the role of the Mother of God.

**Heavenly Father, just as Mary accepted life-changing challenges when she opened herself to your call, so I know I may have to do the same. Help me to remember her courage and be comforted by it.**

### **2nd Station: The Visitation**

Now Mary, having accepted the Lord's call, finds herself in a most lonely situation. Only she knows what has happened to her. The magnitude of this news is enough to cause her to doubt even her own senses. Yet God in his goodness left her a word of comfort. Her cousin Elizabeth has also been blessed by God's grace; she has conceived a child in her old age. Mary sets off to see this miracle, so similar yet different from her own. On her arrival, Mary is rewarded with the reassurance that God has indeed called her.

**Heavenly Father, just as Mary accepted life-changing challenges when she opened herself to your call, so I know I may have to do the same. Help me to remember her courage and be comforted by it.**

**May I always be open to your challenges.**