



## Parish Newsletter - December 6th 2015

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Parish Priest – Fr Gary Jones [gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

St Michael's Parish Primary School- Principal: Mr Chris Pollard.

### St. Joseph's, Blampied (Midland Hwy)

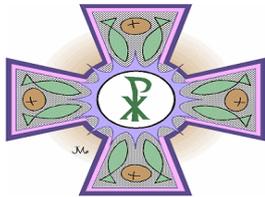
Mass Celebrated first & third, fifth Sundays (Sat vigil 6.00pm)

**Diocesan Website: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)**



**Recent Deaths:** Dawn Godfrey

**Anniversaries of Death:** Des Quinn, Eileen Bennett, Claire Nason, Harold Lilburne, Betty Beaumont, Phyllis Scheggia



### 3rd Sunday of Advent — December 13th 2015

St Augustine's Creswick

Sunday December 13th 8.45am

St Joseph's Blampied

Sunday December 13th 9.00am

St Peter's Daylesford

Sunday December 13th 10.30am

*Midweek Masses— Daylesford Thurs/Friday 10am*



### Christmas Masses.

**Thursday December 24th - Daylesford: 6.30pm Creswick: 8.30pm**

**Friday December 25th - Creswick: 8.45am Daylesford: 10.30am**

### *Celebrate the Rite of Opening of the Door of Mercy in Local Churches*

The ritual opening of the Holy Door of Mercy in the Basilica of St. Peter, December 8, 2015, marks the official start of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Pope Francis is asking that in every diocese and in churches and shrines designated by the diocesan bishop, there will also be a celebration of the rite of opening of the Holy Door in unity with the Universal Church so all can participate and obtain the indulgences promised in this Jubilee Year.

In the words of Pope Francis, “On that day, the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope.”



Last Week's Collections: *Two collections are taken up after the Prayers of the Faithful. The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection is the Planned Giving (envelopes) for the support of Parish endeavours and structures.* 1st Collection (Presbytery – supporting our Priest) \$298.45

2nd Collection (Planned Giving): \$75.00

### *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?

#### 3. JOSEPH'S VISION

Joseph now finds himself caught up in the faith decision of his future wife, Mary. Confronted with her condition, he must respond. Like many of us, he responds in a worldly way. He will divorce Mary quietly. But God intervenes. An angel comes to Joseph in a dream to reassure him that what has happened is the work of God. Joseph makes his own faith decision and takes Mary as his wife.

Lord, many times we are alone in our decision to accept your will. Even family and friends may turn away. Remind us that we are never alone, and give us faith that you will always help us to carry out your will.

#### 4. THE JOURNEY

Now Joseph and Mary are confronted with another obstacle. Rome has ordered a census. Joseph must travel to Bethlehem to register his new family. Mary, heavy with child, must go with him. They spend their nights outside in the cold

desert air, yet they know nothing can happen to this special child. God's presence will guide them along the way. With loving patience, they set out for Bethlehem, the city long prophesied as the birthplace of the Messiah.

Father, at times we are surprised by the twists and turns of life. Give us the patience of the Holy Family to realise that no matter where our lives lead, you will be waiting at the end of our journey.

**Rosters—** Dec 13 **Reader:** B Barlow **Commentator:** R Thannhauser **Offertory:** K Callahan, D McMinn **Ministers:** H Cummings, D Craig, R Thannhauser **Counters:** *Team 4:* (Dec 6) P & D Doherty *Team 5:* (Dec 13)

### *Second Sunday in Advent*

**Fr Gary:**

Heavenly Father, we pray that your son Jesus Christ may come into our lives each day this Advent. May we receive his Spirit openly, and may we let his Spirit transform our lives as we get ready to celebrate his coming.

**All: We make this prayer in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

*Lighting of the second candle: the Bethlehem candle.*

**Commentator:**

**The second candle is called the Bethlehem candle to remind us that Jesus' birth took place in a stable in Bethlehem.**

The second candle is lit.

**All: God of Hope, everyone expected that your son Jesus would have a truly royal birth. Instead, he was born in a humble stable. Help us Father to understand that following Jesus is often difficult and not always the path we expect. Amen.**

