



Parish Newsletter December 6, 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.

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Weekday Masses

St Augustine's, Creswick: **NO SERVICE** Dec 9
 St Peter's, Daylesford: 10am Thu/Fri Dec 10/11

Weekend Masses

St Thomas Aquinas', Clunes: 6.30am Sat Dec 12
 St Augustine's, Creswick: 8.45am Sun Dec 13
 St Peter's, Daylesford: 10.30am Sun Dec 13



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)



Eileen Murphy, Martin Power, Bill Meyer, Catharina Heinen (anniversaries of death)
 Steven Treacy, Sandra Kenyon (unwell)

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve (Thursday December 24th)
 Daylesford: 6.30pm Creswick: 8.30pm
Christmas Day (Friday, December 25)
 Creswick: 8.45am Daylesford: 10.30am

ADVENT TREE HAMPER GIFTS will be taken down to the **Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project** in Melbourne this week
Thank you for your generous 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

The Year of Mercy begins this week

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.

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."

All are invited to the Opening of the Door of Mercy at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on Sunday, **December 13, 2015 @ 10.30am**. Refreshments will follow the Mass.

You are invited to an

ECUMENICAL SERVICE of CAROLS & 9 LESSONS

Saturday, December 12th at 7.30pm @ St Augustine's, Creswick
 All the local churches' are invited to this service. The Mayor and State Member of parliament will both be in attendance.

***A light supper will be served after the service (hall to be confirmed).

Please bring a plate to share.

Christmas crafts and gifts will also be available to purchase in the hall.
CHOIR PRACTICE @ ST AUGUSTINE's Church, Creswick @ 7.30pm

on Tuesday, December 8 & Thursday, December 10
NOTE: singers from all churches invited to join St John's Choir

DEC 12/13: CLUNES**CRESWICK**

Reader: Culvenor

Loretta K

Leaders: n/a

n/a

Comm'tor: n/a

Brian R

Sp Minister/s: Higgins

Ron-Aileen-Roland

Welc'/Offer'y: n/a

Pat McK-Angeline T

Remote: n/a

Alastair H

Counters: n/a

Josie & Brian R

Cleaning: DURING THIS COMING WEEK - before NEXT Sunday
Higgins/Gibson Kath & Don McMCollections: Both weekly collections occur after the General Intercessions.
Last week: 1st (Priest Support) - \$250.30 2nd (PGiving/Parish) - \$368.00

6.30pm Evening Mass NEXT Saturday

December 12 @ CLUNES
(2nd Sunday in the month)NO SERVICEWEDNESDAY, Dec 9
St A's, CRESWICKSt A's Primary School AWARDS:
Principal's Award - Kaylah Wright
Kindness - Dylan Achterbosch & Mia Keating**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT****Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

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 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.

STATIONS OF CHRISTMAS (continued)

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?

3rd Station: 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.

4th Station: 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.