

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

Please Contact the Cathedral Office 5331 2933

Parish Office: Jacinta Westbrook, Finance Officer: Philip Westbrook

Priests: Frs Justin Driscoll, James Kerr & Anthony Nagothu

Anniversaries: James Doyle, James Griffin, Lyle Grigg, Bernie McLeod, Brendan Wood

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell,

especially Lyn Alexander, Geoff Hutchison, Fr John Keane & Kerrie Mulcahy



Next week's readings: Sunday 20th December 2015 4th Sunday of Advent (C)

Micah 5:1-4 Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45

Masses: 19th/20th December 7.30 pm Vigil Smythesdale 9.00am Skipton 10.30 am Rokewood

26th/27th December 7.30 pm Vigil Snake Valley 8.30am Beaufort 10.30 am Skipton

Christmas eve Masses, Thursday December 24th

6.00 pm Skipton,

7.30 pm Smythesdale,

8.00 pm Beaufort,

9.00 pm Snake Valley,

9.00 pm Rokewood

(Cathedral Masses 6.30 pm, 9.00 pm, 12 Midnight)

Christmas day Mass, Friday December 25th

9.00 am Linton

(Cathedral Masses 8.00 am & 10.30 am)

SVDP Linton Conference

We concentrate on the winter appeal, however if anyone is interested in giving to the Christmas Appeal envelopes are in the foyer of the Churches.

Jubilee Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee - Holy Year of Mercy to commence on December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will conclude on Sunday, November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

OLHC Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch

You are invited to join us on Christmas Day for Lunch (no cost) 12.00 Midday -2.00 pm (Meal at 12.30 pm) at OLHC Parish Hall 482 Gillies St. Wendouree. Transport provided Bookings by 24th December (with dietary requirements) 0419 975 914

Diocesan e-News

Diocesan e-News is available to all members of the Diocese and those associated with and with an interest in the life of the diocese. It is published every two weeks and distributed via email. You can subscribe to receive e-News on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or you are welcome to submit items for publication to enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au. News items submitted should have relevance to the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the diocese and include photos where possible.

Mary MacKillop: From Portland to the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Sainthood

Events are planned on the weekend of Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 January, 2016 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Mary MacKillop departing Portland in January 1866. Flyer attached.

Polish Arts Festival

Our Polish friends in Melbourne invite all to PolArt, the 13th National Polish Arts Festival, December 27 - January 3. Free Opening Day in Federation Square on Sunday, December. Free Children's program on December 29 and a packed program of cinema, music, theatre and dance - www.polart2015.com.au. Highly recommended if you are going to World Youth Day 2016.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

During this week of the Royal Commission hearing, **evening prayer** will be prayed in the Cathedral each evening commencing at 5.30 pm, Monday – Friday

Responding to Sexual Abuse

Police Ballarat Sexual Offences & Child Abuse Units (SOCA) phone 5336 6055

(CASA) Ballarat Centre Against Sexual Assault Ph. 5320 3933 or Free Call 1800 806 292

Towards Healing Helpline – ph.1800 816 030 (free call) or towardsh@ncable.com.au

A Hymn of Healing for the Church (by Br Michael Herry FMS)

Here we stand in silent witness to the Church we love and name.

Hearing please of children's voices, for our part in sin & shame.

Father we have hurt so deeply; trust betrayed, dark secrets kept. now the truth cries out in daylight.

Tears of old now freely wept.

Stir in us a deep compassion, firm resolve to heal the past.

Help us understand the darkness, lest again it comes to pass.

Lord we pray for those so wounded, hear the cry of victims' pain.

Help us seek the path of justice.

Finding hope in Jesus' promise, "I am with you. Do not fear."

Striving through storm and struggle, knowing still our God is near.

Loving God, your mercy send, and like the fires that rake this land, may new life in wondrous colour,

Through the ashes bloom again.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday December 22nd, 7.00 pm at St John's Skipton.

At the Cathedral the sacrament is offered each Friday, 11.00 am – 12 Noon and on Saturdays from 11.30 am.

The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated in the Cathedral at 7pm Thursday December 17th



Opening of the Door of Mercy for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

This jubilee calls on Catholics to reflect on the theme of mercy. Holy be opened at Cathedrals around the world starting Sunday. At the the Holy Door of Mercy in Rome this week, Pope Francis said: "You conceive of a true Christian who is not merciful, just as you cannot God without his Mercy. Mercy is the key word of the Gospel. ... We be afraid: We should allow ourselves to be embraced by the mercy of

God. Bishop Paul will open the Door of Mercy in our Cathedral at the 10.30 am

Mass. With a sense of gratitude for the gift of the council and for all the gifts the church has received from God, Pope Francis invites us to enter into the Jubilee of Mercy. "With these sentiments of gratitude for everything the Church has received, and with a sense of responsibility for the task that lies ahead, we shall cross the threshold of the Holy Door fully confident that the strength of the Risen Lord, who constantly supports us on our pilgrim way, will sustain us. May the Holy Spirit, who guides the steps of believers in cooperating with the work of salvation wrought by Christ, lead the way and support the People of God so that they may contemplate the face of mercy." (para 4)

Celebrating Mass at Streatham

Fr Anthony will celebrate Mass at St Columba's Streatham on Friday December 18th at 6.00 pm. A regular monthly (usually the first Friday) is being celebrated at Streatham. All are welcome.

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is calling for more emphasis on tenderness, including in the Catholic Church, in a world he said was marked by cruelty and atrocities. He took his Church to task in an interview published Wednesday in *Credere*, a Catholic magazine reporting on the Holy Year of Mercy, called for by Francis and starting Dec. 8. Francis lamented that the Church itself "falls into the temptation to take a hard line, the temptation to stress only the moral laws." He wondered "how many people are left outside" the Church by that emphasis. The pope said the world needs a "revolution of tenderness" because, "from here, justice and all the rest derives." He added: "We are used to bad news, cruel news and to even bigger atrocities, which offend the name and life of God."