



Parish Newsletter December 13, 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)*

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

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.

N W E E X E T K	Weekday Masses
	St Augustine's, Creswick: 10am Weds Dec 16
	St Peter's, Daylesford: 10am Thu/Fri Dec 17/18
	Weekend Masses
	St Thomas Aquinas', Clunes: <u>NO SERVICE</u>
	St Augustine's, Creswick: 8.45am Sun Dec 20
	St Peter's, Daylesford: 10.30am Sun Dec 20



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve
(Thursday December 24th)
 Daylesford: 6.30pm
 Creswick: 8.30pm

Christmas Day
(Friday, December 25)
 Creswick: 8.45am
 Daylesford: 10.30am



Isabel McMahon, Helena Subers,
 Terry Reinets, Anne-Marie Block,
 Valda Moneghetti, Anne Griffin,
 Eileen Tacey (**anniversaries of death**)
 Steven Treacy, Sandra Kenyon
(unwell)

During this past week, our local **St Vincent de Paul** team baked and personally delivered beautiful platefuls of homemade Christmas cheer to many families and individuals in the Creswick district...those on their radar of care and concern.

HOW WONDERFUL!

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

THIS YEAR we warmly welcome the Anglican Parish of Springmount (Creswick district) as they use St Augustine's Church for their Christmas Eve service (due to building works at St John's)
Christmas Eve @ 10.00pm
(Yes, straight after OUR Christmas Eve Mass!!!)

NEXT SUNDAY

'PORT & CHRISTMAS CAKE'
(cordial, cuppa & bikkies too)
 # for some good ol' **PARISH CHEER** #
(hosted by our Pastoral Family Group)
Sunday, December 20, straight after Mass - in St A's church garden- well, that's the plan!

Our great hoard of ADVENT HAMPER GIFTS was very appreciated by the **Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project** this week.
Thank you, Roland, for taking these down to Melbourne for us!

ARRANGEMENTS for 2016: by Fr Gary

Some decisions we must make are difficult. Bishop Paul Bird CsSR has appointed me as the Priest, responsible for the Parish of Gordon, encompassing the communities of Ballan, Gordon and Springbank, which includes three schools. This role will be in addition to my role as Parish Priest of Creswick and Daylesford. In order to do justice to this ministry some adjustments will need to be made in 2016.

As the most important aspect of our faith is the celebration of the Eucharist, we will need to make greater use of the major Parish Churches for Sunday Masses. Therefore, at the end of the Easter season 2016, the Churches of Clunes and Blampied will be closed. I appreciate your support as your Parish Priest and look forward to developing our relationship as we work together in building strong communities of faith at Creswick, Daylesford and Gordon.

DEC 20:-

CRESWICK

Reader: Barb H
Leaders: n/a
Comm'tor: Loretta K
Sp Minister/s: Barb-Margie-Judith
Welc'/Offer'y: McMahons
Remote: Angeline T
Counters: Kieran & Loretta
Cleaning: *DURING THIS COMING WEEK – before NEXT Sunday*
McMahons

Collections: Both weekly collections occur after the General Intercessions.
Last week: 1st (Priest Support) - \$235.10 2nd (PGiving/Parish) - n.c.

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?

5th Station: Arrival in Bethlehem

At last, Mary and Joseph arrive in Bethlehem, now bustling with travellers. Tired and dusty from the trip, they search for lodging. Mary says they must hurry, for her baby will be born this night. But no one has room to take them in.

Holy God, disappointments are so hard. We cannot understand why we must endure hardship, even when we try to do your will, or why favour seems to go to those less deserving. Help us to remember that even our disappointments can serve to give you glory.

6th Station: The Manger

As despair closes in on the Holy Family, the innkeeper tells them of the stable where they are welcome to stay. Here Mary can find a warm, private place to deliver her baby. They make their way to the stable, where horses, cattle, and other animals become their lodging companions. Mary may rest from the journey.

Loving Father, may we always be open to your kindness. Help us to accept your gifts at face value, to realise that you always give us what is best for us. May we be grateful for the gifts given in your love .

3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Fr Gary: Father, look upon us with love and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus, your son. Help us to love you and our neighbour as we await the coming of our Lord.

**All: We make this prayer in his name.
Amen.**

Lighting of the third candle:
the Shepherds' candle.

Commentator: The third candle recalls how the shepherds were told of Jesus' birth. At first they were filled with fear, but they went to Bethlehem to worship the baby Jesus, and they spread the good news of his coming.

The candle is lit.

All: God of light & truth, the lighting of the shepherds' candle adds more light to our church this morning. May this light always shine through us so we can find ways to share this light with others. Amen.

GOSPEL REFLECTION *by Dianne Bergent*

We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philippians announces that the LORD is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled.

Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.