



Parish Newsletter - January 24th 2016

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Parish Priest – Fr Gary Jones gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

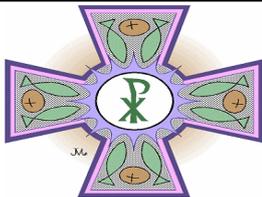
St. Joseph's, Blampied (Midland Hwy)

Mass Celebrated first & third (Sat vigil 6.30pm)

Diocesan Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au



Anniversaries of Death: Pat Ryan, Narelle Marshall, Mac Bruneizeris, Fr Con Groot, Ann Purcell, Barry Menadue-Lane, Vilma Savron, Monika Abikhair, Des Leonard, Anne Butler, Katherine Connors



4th Sunday Ordinary Time - January 31st

St Augustine's Creswick	Sunday January 31st	8.45am
St Joseph's Blampied	Saturday January 30th	630pm
St Peter's Daylesford	Sunday January 30th	10.30am

Mid week Masses—10am Wed Creswick, Thurs & Friday Daylesford.

Counters Roster:

Jan 24th (Team 3) M Bolton, V & L Hayes, C & P Jenkins, D Leonard

Jan 31 (Team 4) D & P Doherty

Feb 7 (Team 5) M Phypers, B Ryan

Jubilee Year Of Mercy Parish Prayer

Lord Jesus You are loving and
Your mercy endures forever.
You are compassionate and
gracious,
slow to anger, overflowing
with love and faithfulness.
Turn to me and have
mercy on me,
forgive my sins and grant me
the Grace to live the life
worthy of Your praise,
We ask this in the name of
Jesus Christ, Our Lord
Amen.

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week marks the beginning of the liturgical use of the gospel of Luke that will feature throughout this year. The choice of passage to begin our journey with Luke is most appropriate. We have the first four verses of the gospel in which the writer makes his purpose clear. We then skip over all the infancy narrative and pick up again in chapter 4 of the gospel where Jesus makes his first public appearance.

Jesus returns to the synagogue in which he has worshipped all his life. He is given the scroll of Isaiah to read and reads the first two verses of Isaiah, chapter 61. But in the middle of this passage he flips back to chapter 58 of Isaiah and reads an additional line, 'to set the downtrodden (oppressed) free'. This event in Nazareth is sometimes referred to as Jesus' inauguration or declaration of mission. The inclusion of the additional verse from Isaiah signals very clearly the way in which Jesus will be portrayed throughout this particular gospel. The gospel of Luke is characterised by the focus of Jesus' mission on the outcast; the oppressed; the downtrodden.

The gospel of Luke is often described as a gospel of compassion. Throughout the gospel we see Jesus enact the verses from Isaiah – bringing good news to the lowliest of society; inviting the least to share in the reign of God. In fact, having read from the scripture, Jesus' very simple homily on the text is 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen'. Jesus declares himself to be acting out and fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah. This short extract from Isaiah that Jesus adopted as his own 'mission statement' is indeed a mission statement for all Christian people. This is what we too are called to do.

Last Week's Collections: Two collections are taken up after the Prayers of the Faithful. The 1st 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 2nd Collection is the Planned Giving (envelopes) for the support of Parish endeavours and structures. 1st Collection (Presbytery – supporting our Priest) \$518.20

2nd Collection (Planned Giving): \$264.00

Parish Picnic 2016

Sunday February 7th—12pm onwards

At the Glenlyon Reserve.

All welcome to come along, please bring a salad or sweet to share.

Cold Meat, tea and coffee will be provided.



St Peter's Sacristy: For many years Rose has been our sole Sacristan, and we appreciate greatly all the work that she has done.

We are looking to establish a roster for the set up of the Sacristy, and require 3 or 4 people for this.

There has been a Manual created for this role, and the roster will have 2 people each week-end.

Please let Fr Gary or Leah know if you are interested.

The Funeral Ministry Team of our Parish-exists to support parishioners and friends who lose loved ones through death. We seek to provide comfort, consolation and support to family members during these difficult times. Upon being informed of the death of a parishioner or former parishioner, the Funeral Ministry coordinator contacts the deceased's nearest of kin or family representative. The grieving family are assisted in the planning of the funeral liturgy, The Mass of Christian Burial. Appropriate Scripture readings and liturgical songs are suggested. Our goal is to help make this significant liturgy as personal as possible for the mourners. We work within the guidelines and directives of the Diocese of Ballarat concerning Funeral Liturgies. Fr Gary Jones PP. ***If you are interested in helping out please contact Fr Gary or Leah in the Parish office.***

Funerals and Lay Peoples Role: The usual minister for funeral rites is the priest or deacon (obviously, if there is a requiem Mass, the priest must preside). However, if there is no priest or deacon, a lay person may lead the vigil and the rite of committal at the graveside or crematorium, and may also be deputed by the bishop to lead the funeral liturgy itself. Lay people may also be involved in preparing the rites with the bereaved and in the pastoral care surrounding the funeral. Lay leadership of funeral rites, in whole or in part, is a necessity in the Diocese of Ballarat because funerals commonly arise at short notice. The parish priest may not be available and a substitute priest sometimes cannot be found. One can imagine this occurring regularly in country parishes when the priest is away from town, but even in city parishes it may sometimes be necessary for lay people to assist with the vigil and committal rites. When the entire funeral is led by a lay person, it may be possible for the priest to celebrate a requiem Mass for the deceased and the family on the morning of the funeral or on another day before or after the funeral rites. Fr Gary Jones PP