



Parish Newsletter February 28, 2016

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:* www.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.

WEEKDAY Masses:

St Augustine's, **Creswick:** 10am Weds March 2

St Peter's, **Daylesford:** 10am Thu/Fri March 3/4

Next WEEKEND:

LAY LED ASSEMBLY: St Thomas Aquinas', **Clunes:** 10.30am Sat Mar 6

MASSSES: St Augustine's, **Creswick:** 8.45am Sun Mar 6

St Peter's, **Daylesford:** 10.30am Sun Mar 6

10.30am Lay Led Assembly

@ CLUNES, NEXT SUNDAY, March 6

(1st Sunday in the month)



Ellen Pearce, Ronald Edwards
(*anniversary of death*)

Sandra Kenyon (*unwell*)

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Gospel Reflection *by Greg Sunter*

When Jesus is asked about the deaths of some Galileans and some residents of Jerusalem, he seizes the opportunity to remind his audience that their obsession with the 'sin' of the victims is misplaced. He challenges all who are listening that unless they repent, they will all perish in a similar fashion. This would have been very confronting to those in the audience who were ingrained in the thinking that 'bad things only happen to bad people'.

The purity codes of the day stated that if one maintained purity of action – obeying the Law and respecting the prohibitions on certain actions – then one was fulfilling one's duty and maintaining right relationship with God. Jesus chastises the people for this attitude and tells them that they all must 'repent'. For 1st Century Jews, the word 'repent' had a greater depth of meaning than our current understanding. Rather than simply 'being sorry', to repent meant to completely turn life around – both individually and as a society. His injunction to repent would be seen as a challenge to question motives and actions and set a new direction.

To follow this up, Jesus tells his audience a parable about a fig tree that has not borne fruit after three years. There are many interpretations of this parable and it is often interpreted in isolation from the gospel passage that immediately precedes it.

Given the challenge to 'repent' that is given so

strongly, we can see the parable as an example to the listeners that their time for repenting is running out. The one year reprieve for the fig tree is an indication to the listeners that their change of heart and change of spirit had better take shape in the very near future.

Scriptural context – Parables

The parable of the unproductive fig tree at the end of today's passage is not a straightforward story with a clear message. Indeed, this is a hallmark of the style of storytelling that we call 'parable'. A parable is deliberately open to interpretation at different levels. In the first instance, today's parable is a simple farming story. However, the original audience knew (as we know) that there had to be more to the story. Parables use metaphoric and symbolic language that invites the listener or reader to explore deeper and find a meaning that lies beyond the literal.

Living the Gospel – Bad Things/Good People

God's voice from the cloud claims Jesus as his Son, the Chosen One and then goes on to instruct those present – and we, the readers – to 'Listen to him!' For the disciples, this was a message not to get carried away with their own ideas about the Messiah but to listen to what Jesus was saying about the suffering he must endure and to what he was saying about true discipleship. Jesus tells us that to be a follower of his involves sacrifice, hardship and often unpopularity. It is this message we must listen to as much as the promise of salvation.

March 6: CLUNES CRESWICK
Reader: Culvenor Lois K
Leaders: Milne-Richardson n/a
Comm'tor: n/a Angeline T
Sp Minister/s: Rinaldi Alastair-Ron-Aileen
Welc'/Offer'y: n/a Loretta&Roland K
Remote: n/a Lois K
Counters: n/a Bernie & Pat T
Cleaning: *DURING THIS COMING WEEK – before NEXT Sunday*
 Richardson Izabella J-Pat McK

Collections: Both weekly collections occur after the General Intercessions.
Last week: 1st (Priest Support) - \$261.80 2nd (PG/Parish) \$303.00
Project Compassion: \$125.00

This Coming FRIDAY!
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2016

CRESWICK

The 2016 focus and theme is:

CUBA : "Receive children. Receive me."

GUEST SPEAKER: Major Kalie Webb

Kalie has been an officer in The Salvation Army for 18 years, is the divisional leader of Western Victoria, has been the Dean of Studies at Catherine Booth College in Melbourne and has served in Lahore, Pakistan.

This Coming WEDNESDAY!

2nd March @ 7.30pm
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

In 3 Weeks!

Walk for Justice for Refugees

Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016 @ 2pm.

*Meet at the State Library,
cnr Swanston & La Trobe Streets, Melbourne*

COMBINED CHURCH LENTEN STUDY

~ local Uniting, Anglican & Catholic parishioners
coming together to reflect on their Lenten journeys ~

**CONTINUES this coming
Thursday, March 3**

6 - 7.30pm @ St AUGUSTINE's Church
A 5 week program - can join in at any time!

See Angeline or Sue for further info

TODAY!

Gordon Parish Community Picnic and Festival

Springbank Football & Netball Oval
Sunday, February 28, 2016: 11.00am-4.00pm
Info: Margie Quinlan 0417 587 237.



Next Month!

Mass of the Oils

Monday, March 21, 2016 @ 6.30pm
St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

SOON!: Anointing Masses

St Augustine's, Creswick:-
11am, Wednesday, March 9
(Followed by lunch—All welcome!)

St Peter's, Daylesford:-
11am, Thursday, March 10
(Followed by lunch—All welcome!)

FOR ST A's

Can you bring a PLATE of food
for the LUNCHEON?

Please speak to Margie Goates if you can

A PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness
and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its
anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of
grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed
enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of
Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the
Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

(from the Jubilee Prayer of Pope Francis)

**SOON!: Sacrament of
FORGIVENESS**

Communal Rite of Reconciliation

St Augustine's, Creswick:-
7pm, Tuesday, March 15

St Peter's, Daylesford:-
7pm, Wednesday, March 16