



## Parish Newsletter - March 20th 2016

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Parish Priest – Fr Gary Jones [gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

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

### St. Joseph's Blampied

Mass Celebrated first & third Saturday (Sat vigil 6.30pm)

Diocesan Website: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)



**Recent Deaths:** Bernie Milesi

**Anniversaries of Death:** Edna Glass, David Thomas, Peggy Maddicks, Carl Martin, Grace Comelli, George Ring, Kathleen Parsons



#### Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee

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.

#### Easter Masses:

Holy Thursday - 7.00pm March 24

Good Friday - 3.00pm March 25

Easter Saturday - 8.00pm March 26

Easter Sunday - 10.30am March 27

*Today we welcome the St Michael's  
School Community who are leading  
us in our liturgy today for  
Palm Sunday.*

Last Week's Collections: Two collections are taken up after the Prayers of the Faithful. The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection is the Planned Giving (envelopes) for the support of Parish endeavours and structures. 1st Collection (Presbytery – supporting our Priest) \$408.30

2nd Collection (Planned Giving): \$175

### ***Easter Roster:***

**Holy Thursday:** Sacristy: D McMinn, Comm: L Righetti, Lector: I Tinetti, Ministers: D McMinn, C Bolton Feet: Johns Family, Monaghan Family

**Good Friday:** Sacristy: D McMinn, Reader: M Righetti, Gospel: C Bolton, D Lawlor Minister: N Chamberlain

**Easter Saturday:** Sacristy: R Thannhauser Reader: 1. M Righetti, 2. I Tinetti, 3. M Bruce, 4. S Whiffen Ministers: R Thannhauser, T Tinetti, M Yanner

**Easter Sunday:** Sacristy: C Collins, Comm: M O'Shea Reader: P Johns Offertory: B Capes, O Capes Ministers: N Chamberlain, C Collins,

**Celebration of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation** will held on –

March 23<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 4.00pm St Peter's Church. This Sacrament will be received by Grade 4 students who are currently preparing for this.



### **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

**Gospel Reflection** Christianity is a faith of paradox: leadership through service; greatness through humility; and life through death. The greatest paradox of all is the paradox of the cross. The death of Jesus through the most humiliating form of capital punishment in history would appear to be exactly what the Jewish authorities hoped it would be: the end of the Jesus movement. The ignoble death of a group's leader through public execution is usually enough to bring about the end of any movement. However, Christians know that the death of Jesus is not the end of the story. His resurrection, that we celebrate at Easter next weekend, is the twist in the tale that means the death of Jesus, rather than being a point of despair, in fact becomes a moment of hope. This difference of expectation is captured in the Lukan account of the crucifixion by the two criminals with whom Jesus is crucified. One joins in the mockery of Jesus, whilst the other recognises the innocence of Jesus and has faith that Jesus will enter into his kingdom. This second criminal acts as an example for all people of faith. He reminds us that those with faith still have to face death and still have to face up to the consequences of their actions, and yet the way we approach death should not be with despair, but rather with hope and confidence that we will share in Christ's resurrection.

The reading of the Passion narrative leaves us up in the air. It leaves us in a better position than the disciples at the time. They were downcast by what they felt was the defeat of Jesus, but we know the end of the story! We know that out of this darkness will come light and hope!

#### **Historical Context – Crucifixion**

The Romans used crucifixion as a deterrent against insurrection and rebellion. Not only was it an agonising death it was usually a slow, drawn out death – taking days to die. Victims were always crucified in public settings; alongside main thoroughfares or on hilltops outside a city. The victims were left on the cross for weeks while birds and wild dogs ate their bodies. The idea of crucifixion was that nothing was left to bury as this was the ultimate domination and humiliation of the rebel. The account of Jesus dying within a few hours is very unusual.

### ***Divine Mercy Sunday***

This year, come and celebrate the 16th  
Official—Divine Mercy Sunday -  
3rd April 2016 St Patrick's Cathedral  
1.00—4.00pm



***Congratulations to Daniel and Kelly  
Thannhauser on the Baptism of their son  
Theodore Fredirich George Thannhauser***