

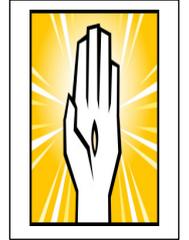
St Peter's Parish Linton, Skipton, Smythesdale, Snake Valley

Please Contact the Cathedral Office 5331 2933

Parish Office: Jacinta Westbrook,

Finance Officer: Philip Westbrook

Priests: Frs Justin Driscoll, James Kerr & Anthony Nagothu



Recent Deaths: Sr M. Camillus Parker RSJ, Roslyn Lench (Funeral Prayers 10.30 am Tuesday in the Cathedral), Audrey Lorkin, Stephen Pollock

Anniversaries: Mary Doyle, David Hynes, Michael Murray, Ethel O'Bierne

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell,

especially Margaret Cranko, Cath Kavanagh, Fr John Keane, Kerrie Mulcahy, Patricia Yoeman

Next week's readings: *Sunday 10th April 2016* *3rd Sunday of Easter (C)*

Acts 5:27-32. 40-41 Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v.2 Apocalypse 5:11-14 John 21:1-19

Masses: **9th/10th April** 7.30pm Skipton 8:30am Beaufort 10.30am Snake Valley
 16th/17th April 7.30pm Smythesdale 9.00am Skipton 10.30am Rokewood



Thank you!



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Thank you for supporting us this year as we celebrate 50 years of Project Compassion. You are helping to empower the world's poorest children, women and men with vital learning and renewed hope. www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion 1800 024 413

Lucas Catholic Primary School Information

On Tuesday April 12th at 7.00 pm in the Community Health Centre at Lucas, there will be a further community engagement forum for prospective parents and friends of the new Catholic Primary School that will be opening in Lucas at the commencement of the 2017 school year. Newly appointed Principal, Mrs Jo Brewer will be introduced. Enrolments are now open and the website for the new school has much information <http://www.lucascatholicprimaryschool.com.au>

Mercy Associates Pilgrimage

On Wednesday 20th April, the Mercy Associates invite you to join them on a Pilgrimage to the first Sisters of Mercy establishment in Victoria- the Academy of Mary Immaculate, Nicholson St., Fitzroy founded on April 20th, 1857.

Contact Ursula Diamond-Keith gudiamond-keith@live.com.au. 0407717626

Infant Vitality Bill

On Sunday April 3rd at 11.30am (following 10.30 Mass) parishioners are invited to St Patrick's Cathedral Hall to hear Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins, MLC, discuss the 20 Week Movement & the Infant Viability Bill. In October 2015, Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins introduced the Infant Viability Bill into the Victorian parliament. This is the first formal attempt at pro-life legislation in Victoria in decades, and the first legislative attempt to remedy the abortion law reforms of 2008. A light lunch will be served and all are welcome. *Organised by Frances Beaumont and Christina Meade.*

Fr Anthony

This week Fr Anthony will commence annual leave and will return to India for the coming month to spend time with family and friends. We pray for a safe journey for Fr Anthony over these weeks.

Dear Friends,

The season of Lent is a particularly appropriate time for us to celebrate the Lord's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Pope Francis has highlighted this for the Holy Year. "The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy . . . Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more." (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 17)

While encouraging the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I note a point in relation to professional standards. The sacrament should be celebrated in an open setting. Where there is a distinct confessional or reconciliation room, this should only be used if the room is open to view from outside, for example, through a glass door. Otherwise, the confession should be heard in an open area. If necessary, reflective background music may be played so that what is said in confession is not heard by others.

May our celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this time be a great experience of the Lord's mercy.

God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,



Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop of Ballarat

Gospel Reflection – Veronica Lawson RSM

Some of you may remember when we spoke of the Sundays “after Easter”. The terminology has changed and we now speak of the Sundays “of Easter”. In other words, we now recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into a different movement of the one great symphony of resurrection faith.

The first scene in today’s gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors “for fear” of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his “Father”. They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit.

The story invites us as believers to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves, and that prevent us from rising above the fear of reprisals in our pursuit of justice and peace. It also invites us to ponder the consequences of forgiving on the one hand and of not forgiving on the other. To forgive another is to release that person from the burden of guilt and shame. Forgiveness opens up the possibility of healing for all concerned. To refuse forgiveness or to “retain” the sins of another is to leave that person unforgiven and so unhealed. We might also consider the consequences of refusing to open ourselves to forgiveness. More often than not, those who refuse to forgive others have failed to forgive themselves for their own failures.

The second and third scenes in today’s gospel focus on Thomas who was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared in their midst. Thomas is not exactly the trusting type. He seems to trust only his own first hand experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. Then they make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else has known for a while. If we think, however, that those who hear from the outset are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days later! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled their fears. Even those who do believe and trust may need a bit of time to take the gospel message on board.