



Parish Newsletter - April 3rd 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

Mass Celebrated first & third Saturday (Sat vigil 6.00pm)

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



Anniversaries of Death: Mark Caines, Mary Monaghan, Mary Pedretti, Ken Nutt, Nell Adami, Tommo Spis, Albert Courtney



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.

Roster - Sunday April 10th

Reader: S Whiffen **Comm:** M Yanner **Ministers:** D McMinn, M Bruce, M Coffey

Offertory: Bolton Family

Counters: *Apr 3rd:* (Team 5) M Phypers, B Ryan *Apr 10th:* (Team 6) F & K Stephens,
T Torpy, V & M Richards

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) \$729.00

2nd Collection (Planned Giving): \$1794.65

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

Receive the Holy Spirit Revelations 1:9-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31

Written that we may believe

The Easter Gospel last Sunday finished with the disciples realising that Jesus was not in the tomb, that he was no longer among the dead. But where was he? The second location of the Johannine Easter story answers this question. Jesus is not in the tomb for he is now to be found in the midst of his disciples. If you wish to locate Jesus this is where you must look. Seek him with you now, risen in the midst of your community. Jesus' Easter gift to his disciples and to disciples of all times is 'Peace'.

Unlike the Synoptic Gospels which have a scene of Jesus missioning disciples within his own ministry in Galilee, in John's Gospel disciples are only now sent on mission. With the gift of the Spirit breathed onto them they are sent to continue the mission of Jesus in the world. 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' (20:21)

There are two aspects of this mission. First, they are sent to forgive sin (20:23), and second, they are to take hold of people, in the sense of keeping people firm in their faith. This phrase (20:23) is often read in the light of the Synoptic expression that speaks of binding and loosing, in relation to Peter's authority (Matt 16:19). While the first part of the phrase clearly states, 'if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven,' the second part does not mention the word sin and is better understood to mean holding firm to one another in the community. The Greek word that is often translated as 'retain' means more accurately to hold firm. Here is a definition from a dictionary: 'krateo': to cause a state to continue, on the basis of some authority or power – 'to hold, to keep, to cause to continue.'

In Jesus' prayer on the eve of his 'hour' he had prayed, 'While I was with them I kept them in your name...; I have guarded them and none of them is lost.' (17:12) Now the task of 'keeping' and 'guarding' is passed onto his disciples.

The problem for Thomas is the problem that all later Christians face. Can we believe the Easter Gospel when we do not see the body of the Risen One? There is a Thomas within all of us, wanting to believe but sometimes finding faith difficult. Thomas' response is not to reach out to touch Jesus, but rather to recognise now the fullness of Jesus' divinity; 'My Lord and my God.' Only in John's Gospel do we find such an absolute statement of Jesus' divinity.

The final words of Jesus in this Gospel reach past Thomas to us, as Jesus pronounces a blessing for those who do not see and yet believe. The evangelist also reaches across time to us when he writes, 'These things are written that you may believe.'

The presence of Jesus, his words, and the words of this Gospel writer live on in the Christian communities of our time. Whenever Christians gather, Jesus rises in our midst. Not even our fears and doubts are sufficient barriers, for Jesus comes to frightened and disbelieving disciples. The Easter gifts of peace and the Spirit are now available to all and blessed indeed are those who believe.



The Anglican Parish of Springmount Presents

A Festival of Fine Music Featuring John O'Donnell & Sergio de Pieri *At the newly restored Historic*

Fincham and Hobday 1889 Pipe Organ Recently relocated to St John's Anglican Church, Creswick Saturday April 16th Sunday April 17th St John's Anglican Church Creswick

There are no weekday Masses at Daylesford or Creswick this week.

***Parish Leadership Team Meeting
Thursday April 7th at 5.00pm in the
Parish Centre***