



Parish Newsletter - April 17th 2016

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

St Michael's Parish Primary School- Acting Principal: Bronwyn Gallagher

St. Joseph's Church Blampied

Lay Led Assembly (2nd Sunday of the Month) 9.00am

Vigil Mass Sat 6.00pm (4th Sunday of the Month)

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



Anniversaries of Death: Eileen Volk, Frederick Morgan, Peter Schultz, Ronald Green, John Clohesy, Margaret Lafranchi, Anne Dwyer, Julia Frost,

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

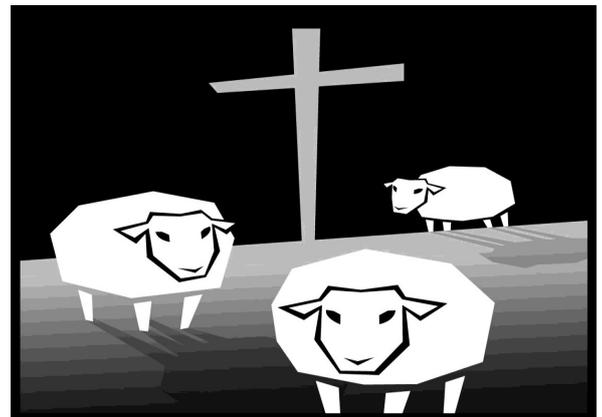
Shepherds in the first century did not have a particularly good reputation. Whilst the task itself was a responsible one, it was usually undertaken by hired help – usually young men or even boys. Being hired help, they had little allegiance to the flock and were generally regarded as basically untrustworthy and often accused of illicitly selling off the sheep's milk and even the occasional lamb. They lived for months at a time out in the hills with the sheep; often risking their lives in defence of their flock, yet still regarded with suspicion. Shepherds were held in such low regard that they could not appear in court as a witness. Yet, despite this grim picture of shepherds, Jesus described himself as the *Good Shepherd*. With that one word, he acknowledged the reputation of shepherds but utterly dismissed it by describing himself as a shepherd – but a good shepherd. He chose to describe himself as the worst of all occupations but raised the status to unimpeachable heights.

In describing himself as the good shepherd, Jesus joined a distinguished list of biblical shepherds: Abraham, his son Isaac, and grandson Jacob were all shepherds; Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, when God appeared to him in the burning bush and revealed God's name; and the great King, David, began life as a humble shepherd-boy. So, despite the poor reputation of shepherds in Jewish society, some of the greatest leaders of the Jews began life as shepherds.

Today's gospel passage follows the famous 'good shepherd' passage in the gospel of John and continues on the image. The passage portrays Jesus as 'claiming' his flock; guaranteeing them not only safety but also eternal life. This oath of loyalty and commitment is all the stronger and more remarkable in light of Jesus' rehabilitation of the status of shepherds.

Congratulations to Kevin & Nell Lafranchi as they celebrate 60 years of Marriage this weekend. Our sincere congratulations and blessings upon you both on this great occasion. God Bless and Best Wishes from us all.

GOD all holy, the faithful one, you ask for and respond to fidelity to your covenant; fill Kevin and Nell with your blessings your servants who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary.



Roster - Sunday April 24TH

Reader: H Cummings **Comm:** L Righetti
Ministers: S Whiffin, D Mc Minn, M Bruce

Offertory: Chamberlain Family **Counters:** *Apr 17th* (Team 7) W Chamberlain, S Whiffin *Apr 24th* (Team 8) J Barker

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) \$492.10*

2nd Collection (Planned Giving): \$220

St Joseph's Blampied Options:

Option 1:

That St Joseph's Blampied finishes as a Sunday Mass centre and remains available for funerals.
The number of people who voted for the Church to finish as a mass centre (11)

Option 2

St Joseph's has Mass on a weekend once a month at 6.00pm Vigil (4th Saturday/Sunday).
Total number of people who voted for (5)

Option 4:

A combination of options 2 and 3, that is, one Lay Led Assembly on the weekend of the 2nd Sunday of the month and one Saturday Vigil 6:00pm Mass on the 4th Sunday of the month.(39)



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.

St Joseph's Church Blampied:

May Timetable : (May 8th LLA ; Mass May 21st)

Second Sunday of the Month- Lay Led Assembly 9.00am.

Fourth Sunday of the Month: Saturday Vigil MASS 6.00pm.