

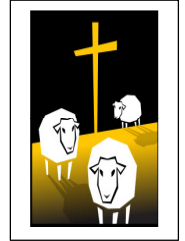
St Peter's Parish Linton, Skipton, Smythesdale, Snake Valley

Please Contact the Cathedral Office 5331 2933

Parish Office: Jacinta Westbrook,

Finance Officer: Philip Westbrook

Priests: Frs Justin Driscoll, James Kerr & Anthony Nagothu



Anniversaries: Fr Luke Fay, Patrick Hennesy, Ray Howell, James Vernon Liston, John Reidy, Nin Reilly

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:	<i>Sunday 24th April 2016</i>	<i>5th Sunday of Easter (C)</i>	
Acts 14:21-27	Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1	Apocalypse 21:1-5	John 13:31-35

Masses:	23rd/24th April	7.30pm Snake Valley	8.30am Beaufort	10.30am Skipton
	30th April/ 1^s May	7.30pm Smythesdale	9.00am Linton	10.30am Skipton

Parish Finance Committee

Members of the Finance Committee (John Kennedy, Cecelia Rowberry, John Kavanagh, Joe Gale and Fr Justin) have held two meetings over the past month. Financial reports of parish income and expenditure were received and reviewed. Discussion on property maintenance has continued with quotes for the replacement of the roof of the Church at Snake Valley received. Issues of planning and building and heritage overlay will be clarified with the Pyrenees Shire. Continued discussion about the sale of property continues following the valuation of all buildings and land in 2015.

Meeting of Parish Delegates

On Wednesday April 20th the two delegates from each of the Church communities in the Parish (Linton, Skipton, Smythesdale and Snake Valley) will be held in the Presbytery at Linton commencing at 7.30 pm. Any issues parishioners hoping to have discussed are to be given to the delegates.

Project Compassion

Thank you to those who have donated towards the Caritas Australia's annual appeal, Project Compassion. Your gift, both prayer and financial giving, ensures the world's poorest and marginalized communities are supported through Caritas Australia's transforming and self-sustaining programs. If you have not already donated and wish to do so, could you please place your gift in a clearly marked envelope and place it on the collection plate next week so that the appeal can be finalised and donations forwarded to Caritas Australia.

Mass Counts in May

Parishes are advised that throughout the Diocese of Ballarat the Annual Mass Count will be held in May commencing on the first weekend of May (Saturday, April 30/Sunday, May 1). The Mass count will be held over four consecutive weekends. Further details and Mass Count forms will be sent to each parish.

St Joseph's Technical School, South Melbourne (closed 1988) - Reunion

Reunion of students, teachers and staff on Sunday, April 17, 2016 from 1.00pm – 4.00pm at the old school site in Park Street, South Melbourne. Families welcome. BBQ lunch and light refreshments provided. Enquiries and confirmation of attendance to Tony, ph. 9580 7344.

Mercy Associates Pilgrimage

The Mercy Associates invite you to join them on a Pilgrimage to the Academy of Mary Immaculate, Nicholson Street, Fitzroy - the first Sisters of Mercy establishment in Victoria - on Wednesday, April 20, 2016. On this Pilgrimage we will travel, reflect, pray and talk together on mercy and compassion in our lives and the world today. Catherine McAuley was the founder of the Sisters of Mercy and Ursula Frayne was one of Catherine's early companions in Dublin. Ursula led a group of Sisters to Australia and established works of mercy and compassion in Melbourne. We will visit Ursula's grave, memorial chapel and creation windows and have a tour of The Academy. A pre-pilgrimage Information Session will be held on Monday, April 11 from 2.00pm – 3.00pm in the Mercy Gathering Room, Gent Street, Ballarat (off Victoria Street). For further information please contact Ursula Diamond-Keith, email gudiamond-keith@live.com.au or ph. 0407717626 or Margaret McDonald, email nannymacca@gmail.com or ph. 53435315 or Rita Hayes rsm, email ritahayes@mercy.org.au or ph. 53313026.

Alpha in a Catholic Context

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explores the Christian faith for adults. It is a parish tool for evangelisation based on welcome and hospitality, sharing and prayer. Each session includes a meal, a talk and small group discussion, where no question is too simple and no answer prepackaged. Guests are welcomed into a relaxed and friendly setting and have the opportunity to get to know one another. After the meal, a short talk is given on the Christian faith. The talks are based on the teaching of the Church, the Bible, and the personal testimony of the speaker. Topics vary from 'Who is Jesus?' to 'How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?' The small groups provide the opportunity to build trust and friendship. Within the group, guests learn the art of listening, reading the Scriptures and praying. Alpha will be offered in the Cathedral Parish for those who express interest in being part of this adult faith opportunity – contact the Cathedral Parish Office if you would like to be part of Alpha over the coming months which will be conducted on Thursday evenings in the smaller hall at the Cathedral.

Gospel Reflection:

One of the blessings of my life has been the opportunity to work in several different cultural contexts. My ministry has taken me twice to the Good Shepherd Centre in Angers in France. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd were founded in post-revolution France to shepherd God's people, especially young women at risk. Taking their inspiration from the gospel image of the Good Shepherd, they continue to shepherd God's people, including women who have been trafficked as sexual slaves. In recent years they have expanded their mission and, together with their associates and partners in ministry, have decided "to shepherd God's creation".

Good Shepherd foundress, Sr. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, understood the ways of shepherds in mid-19th century rural France: "How, in fact, do good shepherds act? They forget themselves and often have to endure hunger and thirst. They are crushed by fatigue and difficulties – no matter! They are happy if their sheep do not suffer and if they find those that are lost. What trouble they take to lead their sheep to good pastures! In summer they seek out places where there is water and shade; in winter they lead them to where the cold is less biting and the grass more abundant. If they notice poisonous plants near the little lambs they hasten to pull them up. Day and night they are on guard against wolves – they never completely relax." The same respectful stance is needed as we seek, like the Good Shepherd family, to care for our threatened Earth community.

Strangely enough, for the earliest readers of John's gospel, the term "good shepherd" was a contradiction in terms. Most shepherds were known to trespass on the property of others in their search for feed. They thus broke the Jewish purity laws and were considered unclean. A positive image of the shepherd is nonetheless part of Israel's prophetic tradition. It is that tradition that the gospel evokes. Today's gospel has Jesus say: "The sheep that belong to me hear my voice...." Later in John's gospel, Mary Magdalene will hear Jesus' voice and recognise him when he calls her by name. She is one of Jesus' "own", one who knows his voice. Her faithful following of Jesus will find expression in her presence at the foot of the cross and her visit to the empty tomb.

Eternal life and the oneness of Jesus with God are also features of today's gospel. Jesus announces: "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Eternal life is never-ending life. It is the inheritance of those who hear his voice. To hear is to follow through with action. That is the way of those inspired by Jesus, the Good Shepherd. It is the way of the Good Shepherd family and of all who hear the voice of the Shepherd.

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm