

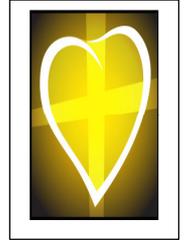
St Peter's Parish Linton, Skipton, Smythesdale, Snake Valley

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:

Anniversaries: Mick Carroll, Andrew Corbett, Anna Doyle, Sheila Fay, Brendan Hammond, John Harney, Maurice Heenan, Merv & Mary Howard, Jim Kenna, Daniel O'Leary,

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 1st May 2016* *6th Sunday of Easter (C)*

Acts 15:1-2. 22-29 Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8. R. v.4 Apocalypse 21:10-14, 22-23 John 14:23-29

Masses: 30th April/1st May 7.30pm Smythesdale 9.00am Linton 10.30am Skipton
7th/8th May 7.30pm Skipton 8.30am Beaufort 10.30am Skipton

Parish Community Gatherings

Following meetings of the Parish Finance Committee (April 14th) and Parish delegates (April 20th) with Fr Justin, a decision has been made to hold a series of meetings in each of the Mass centres. These meetings will consider issues of parish property and maintenance so the while the meetings are not expected to come to a consensus or reach a decision, they will be an opportunity for parish finance committee members and the parish delegates to listen in order to gauge the response of parishioners. One of the key issues is the future of the presbytery at Linton – it has not been lived in for over three years and continues to deteriorate. If it is to be retained by the parish then money will need to be spent on it to repair and refurbish. If it is to be sold, consideration needs to be given to where groups that currently meet in the presbytery can meet – St Vincent de Paul, Finance Committee, counters, Parish delegates... Information will also be provided on work to be undertaken at the Church in Snake Valley and the grounds at Smythesdale. A review of the 7.30 pm starting time for the Vigil Masses will also be undertaken. Meetings will be held after Mass in –

- St Brigid's Snake Valley, Sunday May 8th after 10.30 am Mass
- St Mary's Smythesdale, Saturday May 14th after 7.30 pm Mass
- St John's Skipton, Sunday May 15th after 10.30 am Mass
- St Peter's Linton, Sunday May 29th after 9.00 am Mass

Written submissions are also invited and may be given to delegates or Fr Justin for consideration.

Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry

A meeting will be held on Thursday 28th April at 4pm at 3 Smythe Street, Skipton, for anyone who can come and lend a hand, we will be working on 2 Prayer Quilts, one for Kath and one for Lynne. Light refreshments will be served. Ring Donna Shepherd for more information 0416 219 361.

Ballarat YCW Harriers 70th Anniversary Reunion

Saturday April 30th at the Mecure Inn 613 Main Road \$70 @ head. For tickets and inquiries ring Natalie Atherton 0409 024 055 Kelly Dawe 0413 570 822 Ian Higgins 0427 301 160

Nazareth House Holy Hour

Holy Hour for Vocations next Thursday 28 April 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm in the Chapel at Nazareth House. All are invited. The sacrament of Reconciliation will be available and a cuppa afterwards.

Alpha in a Catholic Context

Alpha will commence in the Cathedral Parish this coming Thursday evening (April 28th) at 7.00 pm and will continue each Thursday evening. So far 12 parishioners and friends have registered for this adult faith development opportunity. Alpha is for adults seeking to explore the Christian faith. 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 Parish Office if you would like to be part of Alpha in our Parish over the coming months which will be conducted on Thursday evenings in the smaller hall at the Cathedral.

Monday April 25th is ANZAC Day which is a Public holiday – Mass will be celebrated in the **Cathedral at 9.30 am on ANZAC Day**. Thanks to Bruce Clifton who arranges this Mass each year.

Mass Count starts on weekend April 30/May 1, 2016

Each year in the Diocese of Ballarat, those who attend Masses (or Lay Led Assemblies) are counted. This year it is being conducted in conjunction with the Australian National Church Mass Count which is being conducted over the first four weekends of May. Within the Parish all who attend Mass at one of our weekend Masses will be counted. The Parish delegates have the responsibility for ensuring this count is taken and recorded accurately!

Scripture Reflection by Sr Veronica Lawson RSM

The literary context for today's gospel reading is Jesus' final meal with his disciples. Jesus has washed the feet of his foot-weary table companions, and has thus provided an example of what it means to love. What he has done for them, they are to do for one another. In other words, no form of service is too menial for a Christian disciple, and privileged exemption from service of others has no place in gospel living or in gospel leadership. Pope Francis has witnessed powerfully to this from the beginning of his papacy and in diverse ways over the past three years.

Jesus is troubled in spirit (v. 21) at this meal. There is a sense of foreboding in this statement. He knows that membership of the group is no guarantee of fidelity or of sustained goodness. All are capable of betrayal and Judas, who has been one of his closest companions, is about to hand him over to the authorities and ultimately to death. Another, Simon Peter, after protesting undying loyalty will proceed to deny him three times (vv. 37-38). Though troubled and no doubt disappointed by the failure of his friends and the dire consequences for himself, Jesus continues to teach the way of discipleship.

The betrayer's departure from the meal, Jesus informs them, signals the imminent arrival of the moment of glorification. Events have been set in train that will culminate in God's victory over evil and death. But this is not the end of their association with him. He will leave them very soon and they are to continue on the way of discipleship. His legacy to them is "a new commandment" – to love one another just as he has loved them. If they do that, everyone will know they are his disciples. To love as Jesus loved, however, is no small thing: it is to be willing to give one's life for the sake of "the other".

This new commandment to love one another is also Jesus' legacy to us, the successors of those early disciples. Loving care of the broken-hearted, of the war-ravaged and displaced, of the sick and the weary; providing shelter for the homeless; attentiveness to those grieving the loss of loved ones or of livelihood; a restorative gesture or word; a change in lifestyle or a tree planted in the interests of planetary survival - these are some of the ways of love and of discipleship. In our times, we have come to realise that "the other" embraces the more-than-human and that love of all God's creation is part of the new commandment.