

Parish Newsletter - August 7th 2016

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

Parish Administration: Leah Monaghan

St Michael's Parish Primary School- Principal: Chris Pollard

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



RECENT DEATH:

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH: Simon Bonnici, Maurice Monaghan, Mary Ellis, Alan Mead, Kate Carmody, Maria Vanzetta



Sick List:

A woman of Courage

May God give you patience and courage in your sufferings. MM 1904

Mary MacKillop had to face many difficult situations and choices in her life. As the eldest child in the family she carried the responsibility for taking care of her brothers and sisters. Her father was not able to keep a job so often the family had to rely on relatives for somewhere to live and find food. When Mary was sixteen she went to work as a clerk in Melbourne so that the family would have money to live on. She said her childhood when she had one was 'full of sorrows'. This taught Mary how to face life's challenges with hope. She remained steadfast as she embraced the Cross in her life.

Mary also had a lot of sorrow in her life. Her brother John died after falling from a horse, her grandfather drowned in a flood; her mother was drowned in a shipwreck when she was coming to see Mary in Sydney.

Mary also suffered from poor health. She often wrote that she was too sick to get out of bed. This did not stop her from doing God's work.

She suffered at the hands of some of the Bishops who did not like the way she lived as a Sister of St Joseph or in some cases the way she taught in her schools. She was excommunicated in 1871 and she was investigated in 1883



Gospel Reflection: Fr Michael Tate

Jesus lived in a remote part of the Roman Empire where the majority eked out an existence. One of the few ways in which redistribution of wealth could occur was by voluntarily giving to the poor. So Jesus instructs his followers: 'Sell your possessions and give generously to those in need.'

We live in a very different society: 'The Commonwealth of Australia.' 'Common-wealth' indicates that the wealth of this nation, its people and resources, are meant to be directed to the common good. So, we respond to Our Lord's command in ways very different to what was possible in his day. We have a compulsory taxation system which forces us to give up some of our possessions, some of our wealth to the common-wealth. Taxation and social justice policies help fulfil Our Lord's command to create a society more humane than anything remotely possible under the Roman Empire. And that would please Our Lord. Why? In part because those in need are helped. But, perhaps in greater part, because it makes us larger hearted people. We have to arrive at the moment of death with a heart so capacious that it can include the billions of people we hope inhabit heavenly existence.

We might pause for a moment to pray for our hearts to be expanded by our contribution to the common-wealth of all peoples throughout the world.

