



Parish Newsletter - September 11th 2016

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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

Child Protection Sunday - Sunday September 11th

The images of child sexual abuse have continued to affect our entire community and diminish the trust some have placed in our Church. That trust has been further eroded when the institution has failed to appropriately respond to the victim's needs.

Yet the Catholic Church is in unique position to offer much within this focus of creating stronger communities, safer Children. One such example can be seen in Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, in which families and consequently communities are encouraged through love, strengthened by the virtues of generosity, commitment, fidelity and patience to become stronger more capable and more resilient. Stronger families and Church communities can then help to keep our children safe.

As the Royal Commission begins to finalise hearings and close registration for private sessions, Child Protection Week, and in particular Child Protection Sunday provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the steps we have taken to make children safer in our communities; at home, in our churches, schools and Catholic agencies

A Prayer for Stronger Communities, Safer Children

Gracious God you said let the children come to me. The hurt felt by those wounded by abuse weighs heavily upon us. Often trust has been eroded when institutions failed to appropriately respond to their needs. Lord, we as your Church stand in need of your healing and help. We ask you God to strengthen and guide all in our Catholic communities. Grant us wisdom in our time to make decisions that protect children and the vulnerable. May our families and communities, through love, generosity, commitment and patience build stronger communities safe for children. Let your grace and love fall gently upon our children giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience they will need for their life's journey. We ask you God to help our Catholic communities to be resolute in building a community where our children both flourish and are safe. Amen



