

## Parish Newsletter - October 9th 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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)



### REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

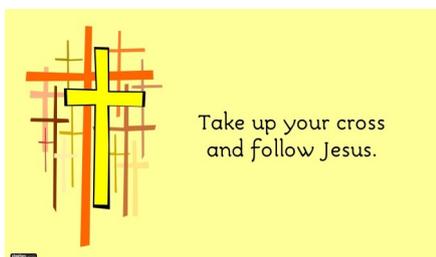
Today's gospel is one of the stories unique to the gospel of Luke. At the same time, it is a commonly known story that is often cited to demonstrate the value of saying thank you. However, as usual, there's more to this story than initially meets the eye. One of the recurrent themes of the gospel is at play here: the message of salvation that Jesus brings is available to all, not just the Jews.

The first reading is an interesting link with the gospel of Luke. In chapter 4 of the gospel, when Jesus visits Nazareth and preaches in the synagogue, he later tells a story about the prophets Elijah and Elisha responding to the needs of Gentiles rather than Jews. He tells the story to make the point that the message of salvation is not reserved exclusively for the Jews. The incident involving Elisha that Jesus refers to in chapter 4 is the one we hear in today's first reading.

Whilst both the first reading and the gospel tell stories about the healing of those with skin diseases, the common factor is actually about their expressions of gratitude and conversion of heart. In the gospel, all ten men are healed but it is only the stranger; the foreigner; the Samaritan, who comes back to give thanks and to praise God. The others – Jewish men, presumably – are only concerned about themselves and have no time to acknowledge the graciousness of God that they have experienced. The gospel writer has Jesus emphasise the point that it is the Samaritan – the outsider – who has recognised God's activity in his cure and come back to give praise and thanks. It is only he who has experienced the change of heart; the conversion of faith.

### Historical Context – Leprosy

In ancient times, a wide variety of skin diseases were loosely labelled as 'leprosy'. Because of Jewish purity laws, people with skin diseases were automatically regarded as 'unclean' and were forced to live away from others. The assumption was that such disfigurement must be a punishment from God for sinful behaviour. When Jesus encounters the men they are outside the town and keep the required distance from Jesus. He tells them to go and show themselves to the priest, whose authority was relied upon to declare a person healed and fit to return to society after extensive ritual purification.



Baptism



*Congratulations to Nathan and Michelle de Sachav on the Baptism of their daughter Harper Ann today.*

### All Saints & All Souls Mass Times

**All Saints:** 10am St Peter's Daylesford

**All Souls:** Mass will be celebrated at St Francis Xavier Chapel Eganstown at 11.00 am

