

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

Please Contact the Cathedral Office 5331 2933

Parish Office: Jacinta Westbrook,

Priests: Frs Justin Driscoll, James Kerr, Anthony Nagothu, Sajan Matthew



Sunday 27th November 2016

1st Sunday of Advent 2016 (A)

Recent Deaths: Rosa Casella, Ronald Rosser, Daisy Watson

Anniversaries: Laurie Bruty, Mary Grigg, Tom Mulcahy snr, Bernie Nicholson, Barry Stevens, Harold Yeoman

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell,

especially Margaret Cranko, Bill Gordon, Nic Gowans, Fr John Keane, Kerrie Mulcahy

Next week's readings: *Sunday 4th December 2016* *2nd Sunday of Advent (A)*

Isaiah 11:1-10 Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12

Masses

3rd /4th December 6.30pm Smythesdale 9.00am Linton 10.30am Skipton

10th/11th December 6.30pm Skipton 8.30am Beaufort 10.30am Snake Valley

Making a Scene at Christmas

A display of Christmas Nativity scenes will be held in St Patrick's Hall, Ballarat from Thursday December 15th – Sunday, December 18th. Over 300 nativities from over 40 countries will be on display. Opening hours are Thursday 12.00pm-5.00pm and Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm, Saturday 10.00am – 8.00pm and Sunday 9.00am – 7.00pm. The organising committee would like to hear from anyone who is willing to loan a nativity scene for display, in particular cribs from other cultures, previous eras or which 'have a story' would be most welcome

Mass at St Columba's Streatham

Sunday December 18th at 6.00 pm. This Mass will be prior to the Carols service at 7.00pm.

Developing a Culture of Safety

The Linton Parish continues to work towards developing a culture of safety for all, especially Children and Vulnerable adults. Guided by the policy of the Ballarat Diocese for *Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults* and the *Code of Conduct for Working with Children*, parishioners who work with children and vulnerable adults are required to have a current Working With Children Check and to have completed the Online training module about protecting children and vulnerable adults. To assist us we are seeking expressions of interest from parishioners who would be interested in being the Parish Safeguarding Officer to provide support to other parishioners and ensure that all safeguarding procedures outlined in the Code of Conduct for Caring for Children and the new Child Safe Standards are complied with.

Training will be provided through Michael Myers, the Professional Standards Coordinator for the Diocese of Ballarat. Contact Fr Justin for further information.

Fundraiser - Library Books for Timor-Leste.

Film- Queen of Katwe (based on a true story), followed by High Afternoon Tea, will be held at the Regent Theatre, Ballarat, on Sunday, 4th December @ 1.45. Funds will be forwarded to the Edmund Rice Community to purchase library books for village schools. Cost \$25 per person.

Discernment retreat for young women

Nazareth House 218 Mill street, Ballarat, Vic 3350 7.00 pm Friday 2nd to 2.00 pm Sunday 4th December, with Fr Joseph Chua OSCO Cost is by donation Register by: 25th November, 2016 srlinh@hotmail.com or 0450 355 014

Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community.

Summer School Melbourne - 8-15 Jan 2017 – Save the date...registrations opening soon! Join other young people aged 16-35 for a powerful week of teaching, live music, sacraments, prayer, praise and great speakers in the context of a fun and vibrant community away from the noise and distraction of the city. More info: summerschool.org.au

Gordon Cemetery Mass

Mass will be held at the Gordon Cemetery on November 27, 2016 at 2.00pm. There will be no 8.45am Mass on this day, however St Patrick's Church will be the alternative venue in the case of inclement circumstances.

Palms Australia – Volunteers

Volunteers are needed in Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Samoa and other locations. Teachers, Hairdressers, Plumbers, Builders, Medical Practitioners and more are needed. More info: www.palms.org.au/volunteer/postitions/ or email palms@palms.org.au

Proclaim 2016

The Legion of Mary invite Parishioners to share the experience of the 3rd Proclaim Conference 2016, on 'Evangelisation in the Parish' on Tuesday December 6th, smaller hall at the Cathedral at 12.30 pm for a light lunch, followed by the Presentation. The Legion extends a special warm invitation to all young adults and families. Judith O'Sullivan, Pastoral Leader, St Columba's Parish Ballarat North and Sarah Kuek, are the Key Speakers.

Closing St Michael's School Springbank

6.30 pm Mass at Springbank, December 3rd (afternoon tea at 4.00pm) then a spit roast tea, meeting old friends, colleagues and dance the night away. Please register your interest to attend to one or all of the events by email to quinlanwater@gmail.com or by message to Margie Quinlan, ph. 0417587235. Please note that you will not be catered for if your name is not on the guest list



The Diocesan Ecological Sustainability Group (ECOS)

A challenge from *Laudato Si: On care for our common home*. (Pope Francis, 2015): "Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently: we realise that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others" (LS 159). As a simple point of justice we should be meeting our current needs, not taking more than necessary, whilst acknowledging the capacity of future generations to meet their requirements for a full life. Action: Check your consumption, eg. food, electricity, water, gas. Use energy efficient appliances. Endeavour to move to renewable sources of energy when and where possible.

Divine Renovation?

Fr James Mallon (Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada), the author of the book *Divine Renovation: From a Maintenance to a Missional Parish*. His recent presentation in Melbourne will be shared with parishioners on Thursday December 1st from 7.00 pm in the smaller hall. This focus on evangelisation is an important one for our Parishes as we continually seek ways of being welcoming, hospitable and evangelising faith communities.

Adult prisons are no place for young people

Catholic Social Services Victoria calls for an urgent, comprehensive response to the problems faced in youth justice, including a systematic expansion of prevention and diversion, urgent attention to remand and a comprehensive focus on the development of each person. This is in the interests of these young Victorians and is needed to build the safe community that we all desire.

1st Sunday of Advent Gospel Reflection (Sr Veronica Lawson RSM)

“Where is the Life we have lost in living?” asks the Chorus in T. S. Eliot's *The Rock*. The Jesus of Matthew's gospel is implicitly asking much the same question as Eliot's Chorus. He is making much the same observation as Henry David Thoreau, “Most [people] lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them.” We are invited to find Life in our living and to sing the songs that are in us. We are to be agents of our own future rather than unthinking participants in the inevitable round of daily activities that have preoccupied humans from time immemorial.

As we begin a new liturgical year, Matthew's Jesus invites us to contemplate the ultimate realities even as we attend to the demands of the present. He tells us to be “awake”, to be “ready” all the time, not because death or the end of the world are around the corner, but because we need to recognise the multiple “advents” or arrivals of the Christ, the Human One, who calls us beyond self-absorption to Life. He reminds us that we are no different from our forebears who from earliest days have gone about their daily business without being sufficiently attentive to what really matters.

In our times, we have allowed thieves to break in and plunder our planet, our common home, because thieves come in guises that we fail to recognise. They so often look just like us and do the things we do. It may be that we must first be attentive to our own ways of plundering the house that is home to all of God's creatures.

We spend much of our time looking back. That has its place, since our history informs our present and helps us in shaping our future, though all the while we know with Auden that ‘[t]he past is foreign country: they do things differently there’. Advent invites us to look forward rather than back and to dream gospel-inspired dreams that will enable creative change in our own lives and in the life of our planet. It invites us to be awake, to be ready for any eventuality.

Dreams and visions have always been the precursors to effective and life-giving change. We need the grace to see visions and to dream dreams that make for justice and peace and that permit us to walk more freely in the light of God's ways. We seek the grace to “see” God's word as did the prophet Isaiah in the first reading (Isa 2:1-5). We need to put our energy into creating life-generating systems that enable us to move forward in the paths of gospel compassion and love.