

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 8th January 2017

Epiphany of the Lord (A)

Recent Deaths: Maureen Burke, Mary Harris, Eileen Kierce, Sheila Lavery, John Thomas,

Anniversaries: Ivy Boland, Mollie Cahill, Leslie Cluff, Fr Paddy Culligan, Edward & Ruby Dobbyn, Marie Elford, Pearl Fox, Colin Grist, Thomas Hartigan, Roma Hills, John & Edward Hynes, Winnie Hynes, Bill Keane, Eddie Monkivitch, Ted Mulcahy, Francis O'Bierne, Dorothy O'Loughlin, Bridget Payne, Maree Quirck, Brian Schreenan, Jim & Dorothy Whelan, John Whitehouse

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 15th January 2017* 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9. Corinthians 1:1-3 John 1:29-34

Masses: 14th/15th January 6.30pm Smythesdale 9.00am Skipton 10.30am Rokewood
21st/22nd January 6.30pm Snake Valley 8.30am Beaufort 10.30am Skipton

Clergy Appointments

Bishop Paul has appointed Fr James Kerr as Assistant Priest in the Mildura Parish. Fr James will celebrate his final weekend of Masses with us in the Cathedral next weekend (14th – 15th).

Parishioners are invited to a cuppa after the 6.30 pm Saturday evening Mass and the Sunday 10.30 am Mass to farewell and thank Fr James. Contributions towards a farewell gift can be placed in the collection basket in an envelope marked Fr James, or left in the Parish Office.

Fr Adrian McNerney will retire as Parish Priest of Ballarat East after Sunday January 22nd. Fr Peter Sherman will commence as Parish Priest of Ballarat East on January 25th.

Fr Marcello Colasante has been appointed Parish Priest of the Parishes of Ballarat North and Wendouree, commencing February 25th. An appointment to the Parish of Swan Hill will be made in the coming weeks.

A Parish Mission for Linton and Beaufort Parishes

Jesuit priest Fr Richard Leonard will lead a Mission for the parishioners of the parishes of Linton and Beaufort in October 14th – 18th 2017. Fr Richard will celebrate the weekend Masses and then offer the following three days for the mission with two sessions each day – one in the Linton Parish and one in Beaufort. The Ballarat Diocesan Foundation has provided a grant to enable this Mission to take place. Arrangements are yet to be finalised with details of each day of the mission to be arranged in conjunction with the Beaufort Parish

2017 Lenten Program –Up from the Waters

Anyone wishing to order books DVDs or CDs please contact the Cathedral Office before Monday 16th January. Books will be approximately \$8.00, depending on how many we order.

Gospel Reflection: Matthew 2:1-12

God's presence is revealed to us in many different ways: we can read the "book" of God's creation; we can search out the meaning of our dreams; we can learn from our own and others' experience; and we can be attentive to the wisdom of our sacred scriptures. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community and our kinship with the other-thanhuman teaches us respect for all creation and respect for its power to lead us beyond ourselves. Epiphany presents us with the wise ones or astrologers "from the East" who are led beyond themselves and their immediate location by the rising of a star. They form their own preliminary hypothesis and travel west to search out the meaning of this sign. Their questioning in Jerusalem about a new-born "king of the Jews" attracts the attention of the duplicitous Herod, the Roman-appointed "king of the Jews". Advised by the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures, through the agency of Herod, they follow the star that leads them to the home of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, where they find the new born child, the incarnate Wisdom of God. The gospel does not stipulate how many wise ones or magi come to pay homage to the child who has already been named as Emmanuel, God-with-us, with the entire Earth community. There is no indication in the story as to whether the wise ones are men or women or both. Nor are we told their number. The three earth gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have been traditionally associated with three different characters, usually kings of diverse nationality and colour. These strangers are the first to recognise "God-with-us" in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. They also come to recognise "in a dream" the duplicity of Herod, who senses a threat to his political power from the birth of a new born "king of the Jews". They have the good sense not to accede to Herod's request to bring him word of the newborn king. They return home "by another road". The story-teller Matthew leaves room in the tableau for the insertion of the wise ones who will emerge through the ages. There is an invitation for us to enter into Matthew's drama, to be the wise ones, to join with those of different cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. There is also an invitation to be wary of those who find their positions threatened by a different sort of power, power based on vulnerability and openness to new life.

Veronica Lawson rsm