

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

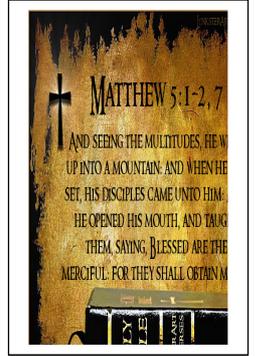
Please Contact the Cathedral Office 5331 2933

Parish Office: Jacinta Westbrook,

Priests: Frs Justin Driscoll, Anthony Nagothu, Sajan Matthew

Sunday 29th January 2017

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)



Recent Deaths: Fr Joe McMahon, Sr Ellen Holland (Cluny), Graeme Phillips, Linda O'Reilly

Anniversaries: Louisa Fay, William Grigg snr, Belle Holding, Marty Molloy, Anne Nunn, Irene Quish,

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 5th February 2017 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 58:7-10 Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Matthew 5:13-16

Masses: 4th/5th February 6.30pm Smythesdale 9.00am Linton 10.30am Skipton
11th/12th February 6.30pm Skipton 8.30am Beaufort 10.30am Snake Valley

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

Youth Ministry Formation - *Called and Sent: Developing foundations in youth ministry*

Youth leaders are invited to a youth ministry formation camp. February 10-12, Safety Beach (south of Melbourne, equipping you with practical ideas and helping you set goals for 2017.

Phone 9287 5565 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Clergy Appointments

Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Matthew Thomas as Parish Priest of Swan Hill Parish with effect from February 25th 2017. Fr Matt will replace Fr Marcello Colasante who will become the Parish Priest of the Parishes of Ballarat North and Wendouree. Fr Peter Sherman has commenced as Parish Priest of Ballarat East. Bishop Paul has invited expressions of interest from the priests of the Diocese who wish to be considered for the Camperdown Parish to replace Fr Matt.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Francis Sullivan writes *The final hearing into the Catholic Church begins in Sydney on February 6th and is expected to run for three weeks. Unlike the case studies this hearing will be less forensic in nature and more of an exploration of the causes and contributing factors for the institutional responses from Church Authorities to child sex abuse cases. This is an important hearing is vital to the overall assessment the Commission will make of the Church's response to this scandal. All need to be mindful of the 'time warp' that can trap our thinking about the incidence of and response to child abuse. The history of abuse in the Catholic Church has been confronting and shameful. There is no excuse for it. There may well be reasons why it occurred but the fact that it did cannot be merely contextualised away. In its private sessions and through its data collection the Royal Commission has an estimate of the extent of the sexual abuse of children within the Church. I am sure this will be made public in the hearing and I for one am bracing myself for this revelation. This will be the first time anywhere in the world that the data of the Catholic Church on child sexual abuse has been compiled and analysed for public consideration. The data and the evidence from expert witnesses will make for an intense examination of the abuse scandal. It will point to cultural and sociological issues in the Catholic Church in Australia – how decision making occurred, who was involved and why. It will look at where responsibility fell and to what degree accountability and compliance processes were effectively deployed. The hearing will seek to provide an understanding of how priests and religious were selected and trained in decades past as well as in current times All this within the general understanding that sexual abuse of children has occurred across institutions, and almost universally those institutions had cultures of cover up and obfuscation. We have engaged in this Commission process openly and in a spirit of co-operation. This will be the 20th public hearing involving the Catholic Church and the 15th directly focused on the Catholic Church. It will be an important exploration of a devastating chapter in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia. And it will be difficult for the Catholic community. But the revelations will provide a litmus for how we as Church recover and move on from this low point.*

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

The gospel of Matthew is keen to cast Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses'. Moses was revered in Jewish history not only as the one who led the people out of Egypt, but even more importantly as the one who received the Ten Commandments from God. The first five books of the Bible, known to Jews as the Torah, or the Law, were accredited to Moses for a very long time. So Moses was seen as the one who received the Commandments from God and who also wrote down the Law of the people, the Torah. He was the Law-Giver for the Jewish people. When the gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus as the new Moses it emphasises the way in which Jesus sought to bring the Law of Moses to fulfilment and bring about a new understanding and appreciation of both the Law and God. Jesus introduced a new way of perceiving God; as a God of compassion and mercy, rather than the jealous, vengeful God that is often expressed in the Old Testament.

The Sermon on the Mount that begins with the Beatitudes comes out of this historical context. Jesus is trying to present a new interpretation of the right way to be in relationship with God; one that is not dominated by rules and regulations. The text is so familiar to us today that it is almost bland. However, at the time it must have been incredibly confronting. The attitudes and states of being that Jesus blesses were not the characteristics that were valued in the society of his time. Poverty, gentleness and mourning were not considered strong, desirable qualities. So, the picture Jesus paints of how to be in right relationship with God and others was confronting the standards and expectations of the time.