



## Parish Newsletter - May 28th 2017

**Telephone:** Parish Office: 5348 2026 / Presbytery: 5348 3911

**Email:** [daylesford@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:daylesford@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Parish Priest** – Fr Gary Jones [gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Parish Administration: Mrs Leah Monaghan

St Michael's Parish Primary School- Principal: Mr Ethan Corfee

**St. Joseph's Church Blampied**

***No Mass until Further notice.***

**Diocesan Website:** [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**RECENT DEATHS:** Nancy Colasante (mother of Fr Marcello), Pat Pedretti (Therese Fitzgerald sister)

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** Dianne Morrish, Thomas Pardon, Alan Upham, John Suckling, Edwin Stephens,

**Prayers for Sick:** Gary Eyles



### Reflection: Solemnity of the Ascension

Absent, Yet Present

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension: the Lord Jesus returns to the glory of the Father. There is an apparent contradiction in this leaving of Jesus: while leaving, he assures us that he is staying with us. These are his last words in Matthew's gospel, just as Matthew had assured us in his first chapter that Jesus is our God-with-us. Jesus' going to heaven is really no farewell: He was God-with-us in his life on earth, close to people, especially the poor and the weak. He is now with us, but in another way, through his Spirit, in the Church, for we are his body, in the signs of bread and wine, wherever people meet in his name, as we are doing at this moment, in the poor and the weak of our day too. Our prayer today is: Stay with us, Lord.



### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

