

Parish Newsletter - July 2nd 2017

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Parish Priest – Fr Gary Jones 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 Masses at St Joseph's- at the moment

Diocesan Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au



RECENT DEATHS: Kevin O'Brien (Kanga)

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH: Lorraine Carty, William Morrison, Aileen Baker, Sheila Tori, Fred Woods, John Shea, Alfred Vanzetta

Prayers for Sick: Gary Eyles



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DIOCESAN BULLETIN NOTICES

Liturgy Formation 2017 The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is offering Liturgy Formation Sessions again in 2017 at Colac on June 25, Ballarat Cathedral on July 9 and Warrnambool on July 23. Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass in parishes on these days. Workshops on offer are Funeral Ministry, the Diocesan Sacraments of Initiation Program, "Let the Children Come" and Formation for Lectors. Attached is a

flyer and registration form for distribution in your parish. Registration is also available via the diocesan website .

Uniting Church 40th Anniversary Combined Churches Service Will be held on Thursday, July 22, 2017, 7.00pm at the Ballarat Central Uniting Church preceded by a street party BBQ at 5.00pm. There are also other events throughout the week. For more information ph. 5333 1361 Tuesday-Thursday from 8.30am- 2.20pm.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The gospel for today can be a difficult one to hear. It calls us to place our discipleship before our loyalty to family and even before our own life. It is important to place this passage in the broader context of not only the chapter in which it sits, but also within the gospel as a whole.

Today's passage appears at the conclusion of Chapter 10 in the Gospel of Matthew. The entire chapter deals with the commissioning and sending out of the disciples to 'proclaim the gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy and drive out demons.' (Mt 10:8) The previous chapter concludes with the words, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' (Mt 9:37-38) Chapter 10 is a response to this call. Jesus sends the disciples to 'work the harvest' through proclamation, healing and exorcism.

At the end of the chapter, having spelt out all the difficulties a disciple must face, Jesus assures them that even the smallest act of welcoming the disciple will be rewarded.

It's also important to understand that the Jewish audience of the Gospel of Matthew found themselves under increasing persecution and there was often division within families between those holding to orthodox Jewish beliefs and those following the new Christian way. For some early Christians, there was the very real choice to be made between following their faith and remaining loyal to family. The Gospel of Matthew repeatedly affirms Jesus as the promised Jewish messiah; as the fulfillment of Jewish prophecy. For early followers of the Christian way, this difficult message about being a follower was in the context of an affirmation that the message of Jesus was deeply grounded in their Jewish faith.



