



Parish Newsletter - July 16, 2017

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Parish Priest – Fr Gary Jones gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Daylesford Presbytery: 5348 3911

St Augustine's Parish Primary School - Principal: Mr Terry Brennan
Administration Officer/Receptionist: Ph 5345 2106

St Thomas Aquinas, Clunes
(no longer a Sunday Mass Centre)

► **St. Joseph's Church, Blampied**

Note: No Mass until further notice ◀

Diocesan Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (online parish newsletter)

Anniversaries of Death (Thurs - Weds): John Hill, Val Sealey,
Thomas Willmott *Snr.*



Unwell at this time: Walter Streckfuss,
David Preston, Luke Taylor, Mary Bell,
Brad Simpson, Pat Prendergast .

Please Note:-

NO weekday **MASSES**
in CRESWICK

UNTIL SEPTEMBER

(date to be advised)

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The teaching of Jesus is grounded firmly in the Jewish world of the 1st Century. For most of his listeners, that world was an agricultural one and so the stories Jesus told were about the everyday realities of peoples' lives. He told stories about vineyards, wheat fields, building houses, planting seeds and reaping harvests. The imagery he used was drawn from the lived experience of those he taught. Jesus used a style of storytelling that was popular at the time: parable. A parable is a story with a moral or a lesson. A parable usually involves an extended metaphor and, at its heart, is teaching the listener about how to live or how to behave. Another feature of parables is that they can be understood at different levels. At one level, there is the literal meaning of a parable – what it says is what it is about. In today's gospel, the parable of the sower can be read or heard as a literal story about sowing seed and the lesson one might take from it is to be careful where you throw the seed when sowing. At another level, parables have a metaphoric meaning. In this instance, Jesus actually explains the symbolism of the parable to his disciples. There is a further, interpretive level of a parable where a modern reader asks,

'What has that story got to say to me here and now?'

In his conversation with the disciples, Jesus makes clear that only some people are open to understanding the depth of the message contained within his parables. Some people will only ever hear the story and never hear the message. Mind you, he still has to explain the parable to the disciples! He has just chastised those who fail to understand and yet walks the disciples through the parable step by step!

The gospel of Matthew is written at a time and particular context in which the community audience were feeling the effects of having been ostracised from the Jewish community. They were confounded by the fact that other Jews could not accept the reality of the Jesus message as they had. This parable, and the accompanying conversation with the disciples in which they are blessed for their understanding, would have been a comfort for the Matthew community. Although they were frustrated, they were being told through this story that not everyone is ready to hear the message that they had heard and accepted.

The gospel of Matthew is nothing if not a well-crafted and highly structured piece of writing. Throughout the gospel there are five major 'discourses' or teachings. Chapter 13, which consists entirely of a collection of parables, is the central discourse of the five. It is the pivotal point of the entire gospel. The nature of the parables indicates that the message of Jesus has not been universally accepted and the parables present metaphors about the consequences for those who do and do not accept the message of Jesus about the reign of God.



**St A's Creswick
PARISH CATCHUP
TODAY**

July 23

**@ Smokeytown Café
straight after Mass**

*Kindly hosted by
our Parish Family Group*

TWO COLLECTIONS *are taken up and presented
after the PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL*

*The 1st COLLECTION is cash toward the Presbytery
for the sustenance of our Priest; with a contribution of 13%
to provide support for our retired priests of the Diocese.*

*The 2nd COLLECTION is the Planned Giving (envelopes) or cash
for the administration of the Parish & general running costs.*

Last Week's Collections *(with thanks)*

1st Collection: \$312.50;

2nd Collection: \$354.00

ROSTERS for Sunday, 23rd July

Cleaners (for this week): Bernie & Pat T
Welcomers/Offertory: Loretta & Roland K
Remote: Alastair H
Commentator: Alastair H; **Reader:** Carol V
Special Eucharistic Ministers:
Margie G, Josie R, Aileen P
Counters: Kieran M & Loretta K

NEXT 3 month ROSTERS

(AUG-SEPT-OCT)

available down the back

Pastoral Council COMMISSIONING

On Sunday July 30, our Pastoral Council will be commissioned for 2017-2018. *The Parish Finance Team will also be recommissioned.*
Minutes from last meeting on noticeboard

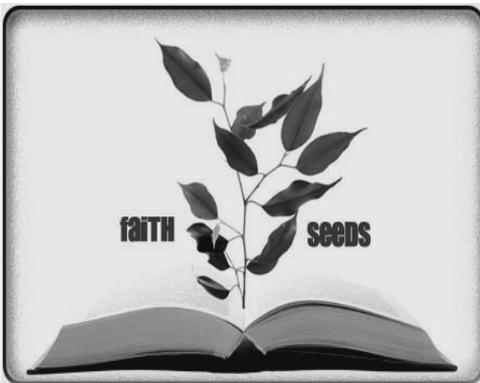
**St VINCENT de PAUL
Annual WINTER APPEAL**

- Envelopes on the seats -
*Clothing, blankets etc can be left
at rear of the Church.*

NEW PARISH OFFICE opening hours

as of this coming WEEK:

TUESDAY Creswick: 9.30am – 11am,
WEDNESDAY Daylesford: 9.30am – 3pm,
THURSDAY Daylesford: 9am – 11.30am.



A Generous Sower *(a little added note - Fr Gary)*

When we look at living beings in nature, plants and animals of all kinds, we see how much seed is generously sown. There is plenty of it, and yet few spring up and reproduce fruit. The Lord himself keeps sowing his Word among us as an invitation, a call, a challenge. But do we even let it take root? What is the crop we let it reproduce? God is generous with his Word but are we generous

with our response? Let Jesus today speak his Word to us, let us welcome it with warmth, let it take root in us and grow and yield a rich and beautiful harvest.

A VIGIL by Ballarat Grandmothers ADRC & friends and Rural Australians for Refugees

invite you to stand with them in solidarity with people who have arrived by boat seeking asylum and detained on Manus Island and Nauru 4 years ago now.

WHEN? THIS coming Wednesday 19th July 5-6pm

WHERE? Queen Victoria Square *(opposite the front of Ballarat Town Hall).*

**Uniting Church 40th
Anniversary Combined
Churches Service**
will be held on Thursday,
July 22, 2017, 7pm at the
Ballarat Central Uniting
Church preceded by a
street party BBQ at 5pm.

GALAH *(a play) being a big wig and going places isn't all its cracked up to be ...
with all proceeds to assist asylum seekers and refugees in Ballarat*

What is that space between being and not being? What are the forces that determine the outcome of a life well lived or not? And what has a galah got to do with it anyway? GALAH, a somewhat existential and yet funny play about the nature of being...*from the Adelaide Fringe Festival 2017*

Presented by GRAPA, NSW THEATRE COMPANY, and local artists

WHERE? Minerva Space, Mechanics Institute, 117 Sturt St, BALLARAT

WHEN? August 5, 8pm - 9.30pm **COST?** Full \$20, Conc \$15, Students \$5