

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 Mathew

Sunday 30th July 2017

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)



Recent Deaths: Dave Carter, Sr Lucilla Prendiville (St John of God Sister, Perth) Ken Ryan

Anniversaries: Bryan (Joseph) Dowling, George Morrison, William Raymer, Maria Sabo,
Noreen Sherritt

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell, especially Margaret Cranko, Nic Gowans,
Fr John Keane, Grace Molloy, Kerrie Mulcahy, Marie Stevens, Milly Yeoman

Next week's readings: *Sunday August 6th 2017*

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Daniel 7:9-10. 13-14

Ps 96:1-2. 5-6. 9. R. vv.1. 9.

2 Peter 1:16-19

Matthew 17:1-9

Masses: **5th/6th August** 6.30 pm Smythesdale 9.00am Linton 10.30 am Skipton

12th/13th August 6.30 pm Skipton 8.30am Beaufort 10.30 am Snake Valley

Change of Saturday evening Vigil Mass Time at St Patrick's Cathedral

During the three winter months June, July and August. Vigil Mass will be celebrated at **5.30 pm**

Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)

ACYF is in Sydney December 7-9, 2017. A joyful 3 day immersion in faith with 15,000 other young Australians. Young people (yr 9-30yo) are encouraged to go. Go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or contact Amanda on 5337 7125 or youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Youth Synod Questionnaire

The second part of the Youth Synod 2018 preparatory consultation with our Diocese is a Questionnaire. Groups and individuals of all ages are invited to respond. Pope Francis wants to hear from Dioceses around the world and responses to the Questionnaire will form part of the preparations for the world-wide **Ordinary Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment** in Rome in October 2018. The Questionnaire is available on the Diocesan website (*Latest News* on home page). Please email responses by 15 August 2017.

For more info contact youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or 5337 7125.

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Proposals

In April this year, the Catholic bishops of Victoria published a pastoral letter in response to proposals to introduce legislation allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide. As a follow-up to that letter, you are encouraged to write to parliamentarians to express your opposition to such legislation.

When Life Is ending. Discussing Dying, Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia written by Dr Carol Ong is available to inform us. She writes that *"Instead of providing the option to end life, we need to focus on the merits of end of life care and planning, and on making continuous improvements in these areas. There is much to be done to ensure that everyone in our community can die well."*

How to defeat the proposed euthanasia bill

Euthanasia is when a doctor, not an illness, kills a patient but it not only kills the patient, it also kills good medical care and remember euthanasia is not part of palliative care. Palliative Care is merciful care for people approaching their death. Euthanasia is premeditated killing.

You are invited to act before legislation comes before the Parliament of Victoria in early August 2017.

- Write a short letter to your MP stating your objection to the proposed legislation.
- You could also phone your MP asking for an appointment to discuss the proposed legislation.

Some points you may like to make

- The Victorian Government should be spending its time tackling important issues like law and order, not pursuing radical social policies like euthanasia.
- Euthanasia turns doctors into life takers and patients into victims. It completely distorts the patient/doctor relationship and undermines the essential trust at the heart of the relationship.
- The Government used to stand for protecting society's most vulnerable, but now they are putting their very lives at risk.
- Assisted suicide sends a dangerous message that suicide is an acceptable response to suffering

Members of Parliament for the State of Victoria

The Hon. Daniel Andrews	MLA for Mulgrave	Premier of Victoria
517A Princes Hwy	Noble Park VIC 3174	03 9548 5644 daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au
The Hon Matthew Guy	MLA for Bulleen	Leader of the Opposition
Shop 30D, Bulleen Plaza	101 Manningham Road VIC	3105 03 9850 7983
matthew.guy@parliament.vic.gov.au		

Lower House MLAs in Ballarat

Ms. Sharon Knight	MLA for Wendouree	
Ground Floor 17 Lydiard Street Nth	Ballarat Vic 3350	03 5331 1003
sharon.knight@parliament.vic.gov.au		
Ballarat Vic 3350	03 5331 7722	peter.crisp@parliament.vic.gov.au
Mr. Geoff Howard	MLA for Buninyong	
Main Road Ballarat Vic 3350	03 5331 7722	geoff.howard@parliament.vic.gov.au

Upper House MLCs for Western Province

Joshua William Morris MLC			
211 Dana Street	Ballarat Vic 3350	03 5332 9443	joshua.morris@parliament.vic.gov.au
Jaala Pulford MLC			
15 Main Road	Ballarat Vic 3350	03 5332 2405	jaala.pulford@parliament.vic.gov.au

World Day against Trafficking in Persons - July 30th

Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes. The International Labour Organization estimates that 21 million people are victims of forced labour globally. Children make up almost a third of all human trafficking victims worldwide, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#). Additionally, women and girls comprise 71 per cent of human trafficking victims. In 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, urging Governments worldwide to take coordinated and consistent measures to defeat this scourge. The United Nations designated **July 30th as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons**, declaring that such a day was necessary to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.” This is an issue that affects people in Australia as well as round the world. You can find more info at:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/index.shtml> and <https://acrath.org.au/>

National Vocations Awareness Week (NVAW): July 30 – August 6, 2017

Each year in August the Church in Australia celebrates National Vocations Awareness Week (NVAW). This week is an opportunity for parishes, schools and other groups to pray for and to help young people discern their vocation from God whether that be to Marriage, Priesthood, Single Life, the Diaconate or Religious Life. This is also an opportunity to pray for those who are currently in formation in Religious Houses of Formation and our own Provincial Seminary Corpus Christi College.

“Gospel Leadership in Times of Chaos: the Hope of Pope Francis”

The 13th Annual National eConference will be held on Thursday, August 10th, 10.30am-2.45pm. For the program to go <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/short-courses/eConference-2017>. The econference will be offered here in Ballarat in the smaller hall at St Patrick’s Cathedral from 10.00 am, byo lunch. To register online go to <https://kvgo.com/creomedia/bbi13nationaleconference>.

Gospel Reflection *by Sr Veronica Lawson RSM*

Today’s gospel passage begins and ends with reference to treasure. It invites us to pause and name what constitutes the real “treasure” in our lives, to know our own hearts. What do we really want? Many of our contemporaries are asking that question in relation to a consumerist life-style that appropriates far more than our share of the world’s resources and leaves little time or energy for considering either the plight of our endangered planet or the needs and aspirations of those on the edge. There is a new realisation that standard of living and quality of life are far from synonymous.

Like Matthew’s community, we need to be “scribes” trained for or educated in the ways of God. We need to bring out of the treasury of our traditions “what is new and what is old”, wisely discerning what to keep and what to relinquish. Parables help to subvert our presuppositions, our ways of looking at the world. They disturb our complacency if we allow them to do so. The parables of the buried treasure and the pearl of great price remind us that gospel discipleship demands an all-embracing investment of heart and spirit. We don’t have to re-invent the wheel. We simply need to search our hearts to know where our treasure lies and join with others who show us how we might claim it for the common good of the entire Earth community.