

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 6th August 2017

Feast of the Transfiguration (A)

Recent Deaths: Ivan Kovacic

Anniversaries: Bev Austin, Lucy Bauska, Bruce Bowman, Reginald Carr, Kath Donnelly, Bryan Dowling, Eileen Dowling, Sheila Driscoll, Des Elliott, Paschal Farren, Frances Gill, Martin Hartigan, Gregory Hayes, Bill Heagney, Horace Jones, Michael Cucina, Theresa McKay, Phonse O'Loughlin, Wendy & Rod Page, Maureen Sandry, Shirley Swinkels, John (Micky) Willmott, Kathleen Yean

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 13th 2017*

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A,)

1 Kings 19:9.11-13

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:22-33

Masses: **12th/13th August** 6.30 pm Skipton 8.30am Beaufort 10.30 am Snake Valley
 19th/20th August 6.30 pm Smythesdale 9.00am Skipton 10.30 am Rokewood

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**

ACYF 2017

Registrations for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival are already over 80% capacity and Early Bird Registrations close on 18 August. The Festival is 7-9 December 2017, for Year 9-30 yo. Ballarat Diocese Youth and Young Adult Ministry has secured accommodation in Sydney and bus transport there and back. Please contact Amanda soon to 'book in' your group. If you are not yet part of a group, we can help – contact Amanda youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or 0427 748 867. More information on www.ballarat.catholic.org.au / Youth and Young Adult pages.

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.

Child Safety Standards

New state government legislation has come into effect with the New Year which sets standards for child safety. The Linton parish has appointed Cecelia Rowberry (Smythesdale) as our Safeguarding officer and have a [Child Safety Policy](#) to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in our care. A [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#) has been adopted for all who work with children in the Parish.

Parish Appointments

Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Matthew Thomas Parish Priest of the Parish of Sea Lake in addition to being Parish Priest of Swan Hill, forming the Swan Hill Ministry district. Fr Michael McKinnon has been appointed Parish Priest of Ouyen which will join the Sunraysia Ministry district of Mildura, Merbein and Red Cliffs. These appointments will be effective from September 1st 2017.

Alpha Adult Faith Opportunity at the Cathedral

Each Thursday evening, 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm you are invited to join with others to explore your own adult faith. The Alpha format is very accessible, involving a 25 minute presentation on some aspect of our faith which is followed by small group conversation, then some whole group reflection and prayer. Some of those who are inquiring into the Catholic Church and who will join the RCIA have joined the Alpha experience together with existing Catholics at every stage of the faith journey. This past week the presentation was on Prayer- Why and how do I pray? Next week's presentation is on reading the Bible.



“Gospel Leadership in Times of Chaos: the Hope of Pope Francis” National eConference Thursday, August 10th, 10.30am-2.45pm. For the program to go

<http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/short-courses/eConference-2017>. The e-conference will be offered here in Ballarat in the MacKillop room of smaller hall at St Patrick's Cathedral from 10.00 am.

Byo lunch. All parishioners and friends are welcome to attend this adult faith formation opportunity.

Our Lady of Fatima Independent School (subject to VRQA approval)

The next public meeting will be held **August 6th** following 10.30 am Mass at St. John's Catholic Church, Skipton. Geoff Brodie will offer a perspective for their vision of Catholic Education for the school followed by a short update on the proposed opening for **Term 1, 2019**.

The Ballarat Frassati Group. For more information go to <http://frassatiballarat.net.au>

Catholic Women's League Centenary Year State Conference

In their centenary year the CWL will hold their conference in Ballarat in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall on Wednesday – Thursday August 16th – 17th with the Conference Mass being celebrated at 12.05 pm on Wednesday.

Mass times for the Feast of the Assumption of Mary – Tuesday August 15th

Skipton	5.30 pm,	Snake Valley	7.00 pm.
Cathedral	7.30 am,	10.00 am,	12.05 pm, 5.30 pm
St Thomas More School Alfredton (parishioners welcome)	9.15 am		

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Proposals

In April this year, the 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, a group of lay people has prepared a flyer encouraging people to write to parliamentarians and express their opposition to such legislation. Copies of the flyer have been made available for your consideration. You are invited to write to parliamentarians as suggested.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. A wide range of subject areas are offered: Scripture, Sacraments, Social Justice, Youth Ministry, many more. Registration for the July study cycle closes on 10 July - or you can start in September or later in the year. Details on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (link is on front page), or contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Gospel Reflection

The Feast of the Transfiguration takes precedence over the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time and features its own particular readings. Today we are invited to reflect on a transformative moment in the life of Jesus as experienced by his closest followers. It is important to note that Matthew's account of the "transfiguration" is loosely framed by reminders that Jesus is to suffer and eventually to meet a violent death (16:21 and 17:23). It would seem that Jesus' three companions, Peter, James and John, get a glimpse of God's glory shining on his face and penetrating even his clothing, a hint that God's grace is more life-giving than the forces of violence and opposition to God's reign. They see Moses and Elijah, the key prophetic figures of Israel, speaking with Jesus, God's new and definitive prophet.

The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he comes to terms with the fate he is likely to meet: if he continues to confronts the forces of oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with that realisation in the wilderness at the outset of his ministry. He comes to peace with what it involves on the mountain top. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. Rather, he and his companions are called to "listen" to Jesus, the beloved of God.

Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We also need the good sense to listen and to follow through on the path that brings life to all the earth's inhabitants, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we experience from the most unexpected quarters. If we are to sustain the struggle for a healthy, safe, and peace-filled world, we have to resist the temptation to hold on to the experience of glory, and come to terms with the personal cost of going all the way to Jerusalem, to the place of victory. We might take time this Sunday to consider the challenges facing us as contemporary disciples. According to the 2017 International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Report, almost three quarters of a billion people have less than \$US1.90 per day to meet all their basic needs for food, shelter and security, even as the gap between rich and poor in our world is widening. Only when we willingly accept the pain of relinquishing our hold on an unfair share of the world's resources will we understand the meaning of this feast.

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm