

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 20th August 2017

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Migrant & Refugee Sunday

Recent Deaths: Brian Wilton

Anniversaries: Jack Barbetti, Alby Button, Antonio Churkovich, Dorothy Davey, Elizabeth Goodwin, John (Joe) Groten, Monica Lange, Natale Lubicich, Frank McAloon, Jenny McKenzie, Vinko Marnica, Josie Micich, Mary Anne (Molly) Nunn, Lorraine Parker, Mary Margaret Rinaldi, Valerie Smith, Mark Timmins,

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 27th 2017* *21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A,)*
Isaiah 22:19-23 Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8 Romans 11:33-36 Matthew 16:13-20

Masses: **26th/27th August** 6.30 pm Snake Valley 8.30am Beaufort 10.30 am Skipton
 2nd/3rd September 6.30 pm Smythesdale 9.00am Linton 10.30 am Skipton

Some years ago the famous Italian Jesuit, Cardinal Carlo Martini, wrote:

Everything has a meaning, and this meaning is luminous and life-giving. In other words, despite the darkness of humanity's current circumstances, despite the human tragedy surrounding us, despite the trials of the Church and the well-nigh absurd situations through which the world and we ourselves have to pass, at the bottom of everything there lives a Gospel, a Gospel which assures us that there is indeed a luminous and life-giving reason for all these things, if only we know how to grasp it and let ourselves be transformed by it.

Assumption College Kilmore

Are you a former student of ACK? It will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2018 and there are many events being planned for former students. Please phone Maria Cleve in their Alumni office on 5783 5343 or email maria.cleve@assumption.vic.edu.au

Legion of Mary

Screening of the DVD 'The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima' Tuesday, 22 August 2017, at 1.30 pm. In the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms of the smaller hall. A light lunch will be provided before the DVD.

9 Day Novena

To celebrate the Centenary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, the Legion of Mary invite you to join a 9-day Novena commencing on Wednesday August 30th - Friday September 8th (Feast of the Nativity of Mary). A time is designated each day for Prayer in the Cathedral. Details are on the Notice Boards.

Fr Robert McCulloch (Columban Priest) visiting House

Monday, August 28th, 6.00 pm Mass in the Chapel at Nazareth House, followed by a presentation commencing at 7.00 pm "Can Christianity survive in Pakistan?" All welcome. Inquiries 0401175045.

Catholic Women League Social Afternoon

Wednesday September 6th in the Mary Glowrey Room at St Patrick's Cathedral. Diane Colbert will present "Our children and the Media". Stall and competition. All welcome. Free entry. Inquiries - Carmel 0401175045.

Spiritual Care Program

A second program for parishioners engaged in pastoral ministry in its many expressions in our parishes is being offered soon. Bethany Pennington will facilitate this program on the following dates – September 20th, October 4th and 25th, November 8th and 22nd. Each of these sessions will be held in the MacKillop and Glowrey rooms in the smaller hall at the Cathedral. Parishioners engaged in Funeral ministry, Visiting, Communion to those at home or in care are welcome to participate. Spiritual Care encompasses all the ways in which attention is paid to the spiritual dimensions of life. It is most commonly offered in a one-to-one relationship, is person centered. Please register with Jacinta in the Cathedral Parish Office by Friday September 15th.

Observations on the upcoming postal plebiscite on same-sex marriage

Debra Vermeer, Chair, Australian Catholic Media Council says that the Coalition for Marriage is the key campaigning entity for the 'No' vote. The Coalition has highlighted four key issues of focus in its campaign. They are: Freedom of religion, Freedom of speech, Gender identity, Safe Schools.

The Media Council proposes three simple, clear points: **Enrol to Vote** - This vote is important for the life of our nation. It is important to enrol to vote. **A chance to have your say** - If you believe that the traditional definition of marriage has served society, families and children well, and should continue to be protected under the law, but maybe feel as though your voice has not been heard, now is the time to have your say in the privacy of your own home, on the ballot paper. **Religious liberty/freedom of speech** - If you believe in your right to state and live your belief in traditional marriage without being legally penalised for doing so, then consider the consequences if same-sex marriage becomes law.

Basically, it's providing a positive argument for marriage as we currently understand it, and helping to mobilise people in support of it, rather than a negative campaign against same-sex marriage. The Council feels it would also be helpful to encourage people to be respectful of all sides in the debate.

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. Starting in September. Details on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (link is on front page).

Caritas responds to the Famine in Africa affecting millions of people

The world faces the largest humanitarian crisis since the second world war with more than 20 million people facing starvation and famine. Caritas Australia, as part of the Caritas Internationalis network, has helped provide lifesaving support to over half a million people impacted by the famine. We are seeking donations to scale up our efforts and get food and water to people and communities in dire need. Please support this humanitarian effort on Social Justice Sunday September 24th. Enquiries to Sue Searls, 0409 401 329 or email sue.searls@ballarat.catholic.org.au



Clergy Support Fund Annual Appeal 2017

A reminder that the Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Annual Appeal will be held next weekend (August 26th – 27th) with the envelopes available. Last year, Linton Parishioners contributed \$389.65 of the nearly \$60,000 collected throughout the Diocese in support of the ongoing care of the 18 retired priests of the Diocese of Ballarat- thank you.

Benefit concert to aid the homeless in Ballarat.

The Melbourne Singers of Gospel capture the energy, excitement, rhythm and harmonies of the mass gospel choirs of the USA. Sunday 27th August, 3.00pm at Ballarat Central Uniting Church, cnr Lydiard & Dana Sts. Ballarat. www.trybooking.com/OYMT tickets available at the door
Inquiries 53331361

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.

Today, the Catholic Church in Australia observes Migrant and Refugee Sunday. The Church in Australia is the Church of migrant Catholics from many countries and where the Holy Mass is celebrated in more than thirty languages every Sunday. Migrants leave their homes in search of a better life and face the difficult experience of migration in its various forms. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees is "Child Migrants, the vulnerable and voiceless." As Christians, we are called to reach out to and pray for all migrants to emphasise the unity of the human family and the Gospel values of acceptance, hospitality and love of neighbour.

Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel teaches us that at the heart of the mission there must be an inter-personal relationship. This is most true for the mission to migrants, refugees and people who are on the move for many different reasons. Our parish communities have the responsibility to find migrants and refugees, especially the young migrants and to reach out to them to build inter personal relationships. We need to offer places and opportunities where the migrant youth can express their faith and to share their experience. Very many of the youth in our parishes come from important experiences of faith and involvement in the Church back home and some have suffered a great deal for the sake of their faith. The question: "who do you say I am" challenges us: as Christians, we are called to create inter personal relationships that, by promoting every human person, can bring all to the encounter with Christ recognised as "the Son of God". The pastoral document Welcoming Christ in Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons helps us to build the depth of this inter personal relationship: In the "strangers" the Church sees Christ who "pitches his tent among us" and that "knocks at our door" [n. 22]. It also points out that very often, "through the action inspired by the Gospel of Church related agencies, or even individuals, wrought with great generosity and self-sacrifice, one comes to know the love of Christ and the transforming power of His grace in these situations that are, in themselves, very often hopeless" [n. 3]