

St Peter's Parish

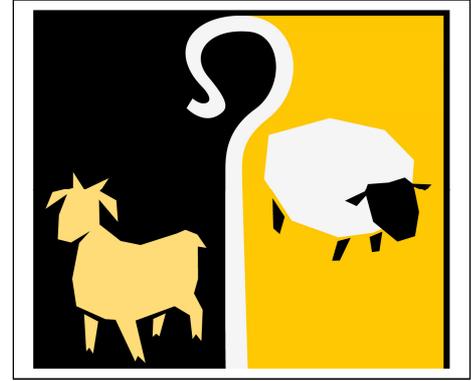
Linton, Skipton, Smythesdale, Snake Valley

Please Contact the Cathedral Office 5331 2933

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Office: Jacinta Westbrook,

Priests: Frs Justin Driscoll, Anthony Nagothu, Sajan Mathew



Sunday 26th November 2017 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (A)

Recent Deaths: Sally Begbie, Margaret Little, John McDowell, Ted Murphy,
Franka Zelencich

Anniversaries: Laurie Bruty, Mary Grigg, Eileen McDonald, Tom Mulcahy snr, Bernie Nicholson,
Barry Stevens, Harold Yeoman

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell, especially Athanasius Casanova,
Margaret Cranko, Nic Gowans, Nancy Hand, Grace Molloy, Kerrie Mulcahy, Marie Stevens,
Milly Yeoman

Next week's readings: *Sunday December 3rd 2017* *1st Sunday of Advent (A)*

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8 Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4 Cor.1:3-9 Mark 84:8

Masses: **2nd/3rd December** 6.30pm Smythesdale 9.00am Linton 10.30am Skipton
 9th/10th December 6.30pm Skipton 8.30am Beaufort 10.30am Snake Valley

Making a Scene at Christmas

All are welcome to visit the *Making a Scene at Christmas* displays at St Alipius School Ballarat East (Tuesday, November 28) and St Brigid's Ballan (Friday, December 1). We will have a special showing at the Robert Clark Centre in the Ballarat Gardens from Friday, December 15 - Monday December 18.

This Christmas, Give a Gift That Changes the World

If you would like to give a little extra to those who need it most at Christmas time, Caritas Australia offers Global Gift Cards. Donations go towards empowering the most marginalised members of our One Human Family to eradicate poverty in all its forms

<https://fundraise.caritas.org.au/globalgifts>

Year of Youth 2018

2018 is the Year of Youth in Australia starting Advent (3 December 2017). The Year of Youth theme is *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy*. Parishes and others are asked to incorporate the Year of Youth in their planning: how might you celebrate locally or in conjunction with neighbours? Year of Youth information is on Ballarat Diocese website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au /Youth and Young Adult pages, or email youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Stewardship.

We ask that existing contributors also complete a pledge card so that your details can be updated and receipts of your giving can be provided to you on a regular basis. Direct debit is also possible and encouraged!

PROCLAIM 2018 – Early Bird Registrations Now Open

This exciting conference will engage parishes in an ongoing conversation focusing on Leadership, Culture Change, Young People, Belonging and Evangelisation. This conversation will draw together over 500 participants from across Australia for keynote presentations, facilitated conversation sessions, peer learning, expert discussion panels and future visionary planning. Keynote speakers include Cardinal John Dew (Archdiocese of Wellington, New Zealand), Ms Lana Turvey-Collins (Plenary Council 2020 Facilitator), Ron Huntley (Divine Renovation – Canada), and host of PROCLAIM 2018 Archbishop Mark Coleridge (Archdiocese of Brisbane). 12 – 14 July 2018 in Brisbane. To find out more www.proclaimconference.com.au and register at the early bird rate.

Opportunities for Adult faith formation

Heart of Life Spirituality Centre

Would you like to become a Spiritual Director? The 'Siloam' Program for the Formation of Spiritual Directors can be studied on Mondays (9am-5pm) over two years at Heart of Life in Box Hill. The program fosters a discerning, contemplative approach whereby spiritual directors-in-formation become more and more attuned to the movement of God's spirit in themselves and in their directees. The Program may be studied as a Grad Dip in Spiritual Direction for those who meet the criteria. Further information holsc@bigpond.com or tel 03 9890 1101.

Pastoral Care Education

An exciting opportunity for education and formation in Pastoral Care recognised and accredited towards theological studies through the University of Divinity is now available in regional Victoria. A newly created South West Victoria Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Centre has been registered through the Association for Supervised and Clinical Pastoral Education Victoria (ASACPEV Inc.). An extended part-time program will commence in February and conclude in November 2018. For more information and an application form, go to the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Mercy Connect Ballarat – Supporting refugee and asylum seeker students in local schools.

Volunteer mentors needed. Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students, in Ballarat Schools, through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in February 2018. Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and application form.

Some reflections and statements on the plebiscite on Marriage Equality

Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney

“I recognise that for some people this debate has been a cause of distress. It is time now to come together as a nation, renew our friendships with those who think differently to us, and ensure that respect for different beliefs is clearly enshrined in our laws and customs.” Archbishop Anthony Fisher said it was vital that new marriage legislation protects rights to religious belief and expression, free speech and association, in education and parenting. *“Polling data shows both yes and no voters support robust religious liberty protections.”*

Bishop Vincent Long of Parramatta

“It is important to remember from the very outset that the postal survey is about whether or not Australians want the legal definition of civil marriage changed to include same-sex couples. It is not a referendum on sacramental marriage as understood by the Catholic Church... For many Catholics, the issue of same-sex marriage is not simply theoretical but deeply personal. These may be same-sex attracted people themselves or that may be the case with their relatives and friends. In such cases, they are torn between their love for the Church and their love for their same-sex attracted child, grandchild, sibling, cousin, friend or neighbour.”

Archbishop Denis Hart (Melbourne)

“The Catholic Church continues to respect the dignity of LGBTIQ Australians and our ministries will continue to care deeply about the dignity and value of all people we encounter. “Parliamentarians must recognise and respect the concerns of the more than 4.8 million Australians who opposed a change to the definition of marriage by putting in place strong conscience and religious freedom protections. “These protections must ensure that Australians can continue to express their views on marriage, that faith-based schools can continue to teach the traditional understanding of marriage and that organisations can continue to operate in a manner that is consistent with those values.”

Bishop Gerard Holohan (Bunbury)

‘Sadly, in the recent debate about gay marriage, many gay people – along with their parents, families and friends – have been hurt by what they have been told is Catholic teaching on homosexual people. Catholic teaching on the dignity of gay people is one thing: Catholic teaching on marriage is another.’