

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 31st December 2017



Recent Deaths: Tom Cash, Bob Morris, Marie Thomson

Anniversaries: John & Edward Hynes, Winnie Hynes, Joanna Kennedy, Ted Mulcahy, Kathleen Myers, Francis O'Bierne, Dorothy O'Loughlin, Nancy Reidy, Maude Smith, James Wheelan, Val Wood.

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 7th January 2017*

The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

Isaiah 60:L1-6

Psalms 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see v.11

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

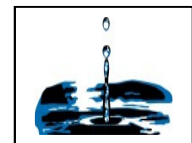
Masses: **6th/7th January** 6.30pm Smythesdale 9.00am Linton 10.30am Skipton

13th/14th January 6.30pm Skipton 8.30am Beaufort 10.30am Snake Valley

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism at Linton

Alejandra Margaret Douglas daughter of Phillip & Rubilyn

May she grow in faith in her loving family and our Catholic Community.



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. 12 – 14 July 2018 in Brisbane. To find out more www.proclaimconference.com.au and register at the early bird rate.

Catholic Social Services National Conference “Hearing Healing Hope”

The 2018 Catholic social services national conference, *Hearing Healing Hope* (from February 21-23, 2018) provides an opportunity to reflect on the major issues that affect our communities of concern, our Catholic social service organisations, our parishes and ourselves as leaders. It is always so rewarding to be joined by many who share our mission of service and work for justice. Today’s rapidly changing policy and social environment makes such gatherings even more important. The conference will be held in Melbourne and will be interactive at all stages – hearing, healing and building hope is not a passive program! The conference includes forums on:

A healthy earth for a flourishing society, with Jacqui Rémond, Gavin Dufty and Bronwyn Lay

- Economics for a flourishing society, with Joe Zabar, Ged Kearney and John Roskam
- Responding to abuse, ensuring safe environments and dedication to service, with Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald, Sheree Limbrick and Lana Turvey-Collins
- The 2020 Plenary Council of the Church in Australia, with Archbishop Mark Coleridge
- Fr Frank Brennan SJ discussing current issues in human rights (as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Workshops will focus on NDIS, housing, governance issues, Indigenous engagement, parishes and service, caring for vulnerable clients and family violence.

For more information and bookings, go to: www.css.org.au

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, Leadership skills, Youth Ministry, many more. Study one subject or many - it’s a flexible program! Registration for the January 2018 study cycle is open now (closes 5 January). A study cycle means you do one subject over 5 weeks. There are 6 study cycles each year, you can start at any one. Details on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (link is on home page), or contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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.

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.

2018 World Day of Peace Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace

How can you turn a “contemplative gaze” toward our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters? Building on his September launch of the “Share the Journey” campaign in support of migrants and refugees, Pope Francis’ Message for the 51st World Day of Peace (January 1st) invites Catholics to embrace those who endure perilous journeys and hardships in order to find peace. He urges people of faith to turn with a “contemplative gaze” towards migrants and refugees, opening our hearts to the “gaze of faith which sees God dwelling in their houses, in their streets and squares.” In his Message, Pope Francis echoes St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, pointing to war, conflict, genocide, ethnic cleansing, poverty, lack of opportunity, and environmental degradation as reasons that families and individuals become refugees and migrants. Four “mileposts for action” are necessary in order to allow migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and trafficking victims the opportunity to find peace. These include:

1. Welcoming, which calls for “expanding legal pathways for entry” and better balancing national security and fundamental human rights concerns;
2. Protecting, or recognizing and defending “the inviolable dignity of those who flee”;
3. Promoting, which entails “supporting the integral human development of migrants and refugees”;
4. Integrating by allowing migrants and refugees to “participate fully in the life of society that welcomes them.” Doing so enriches both those arriving and those welcoming.