



## Parish Newsletter - August 20th 2017

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Parish Priest – Fr Gary Jones [gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Parish Administration: Mrs Leah Monaghan

St Michael's Parish Primary School- Principal: Mr Ethan Corfee

**St. Joseph's Church Blampied**

*No Masses at St Joseph's— at the moment*

Diocesan Website: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### RECENT DEATHS:

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** Gus Silvestri, Ethel McConnell, Judith McColl, Tony Capes, John O'Loughlin, Alice Stephens, Margaret Richards, Heidi Roleff

**Prayers for Sick:** Gary Eyles



## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table. The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.



## *St Vincent De Paul*

### *Information Session*

*Tuesday August 22nd*

*Parish Centre 7pm*

*All Welcome*



*The hand of Christ  
blesses the cup*



*The hand of love  
offers the cup*



*The hand of suffering  
receives the cup*

### *Diary Dates:*

*Friday September 8th - St Michael's attending Mass*

*Friday September 15th - St Michael's attending Mass*

*Sunday September 17th - Morning tea after Mass.*

*Tuesday September 19th—St Vincent de Paul Meeting in Parish Centre @ 7pm*

*Friday October 13th— Whole School Mass*

*Sunday October 15th - Celebration Mass for Fr Gary's 30th Anniversary of Ordination, followed by Morning Tea in the Parish Centre*

*Sunday October 22nd - Swiss Italian Weekend*

*Thursday November 2nd - All Souls Day Mass , 11am at Eganstown*



**Last Week's Collections:** *Two collections are presented after the Prayers of the Faithful. The 1<sup>st</sup> Collection is cash toward the Presbytery for the sustenance of our Priest – with a contribution of 13% to provide support for our retired priests and the Diocese. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection is the Planned Giving (envelopes) or cash for the administration of the Parish & general running costs*

1st Collection \$191.20      2nd Collection \$136.95

### BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

Collection for Sick and Retired Priests – September 3rd

Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Eighteen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation.

The funding required for these commitments is ongoing. Thanks to your generosity, this collection has raised nearly 1.8 million dollars since it began in 1991, including nearly \$60,000 last year. Along with the priests' own contribution of approximately \$37,000 per year, this annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy.

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

**CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US – THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY**

*Are you a former student of Assumption College? If so, Alumni Development Officer Maria Cleve would like to hear from you, Assumption College will celebrate its 125th Anniversary in 2018 and there are many events being planned for former students.*

*Please phone Maria on 5783 5343 or email:*

*maria.cleave@assumption.vic.edu.au*



**NEW OFFICE hours as of this coming WEEK:** Office hours: Tuesday Creswick from 9.30am– 11.00am, Wednesday Daylesford from 9.30am until 3.00pm, Thursday 9.00am – 11.30am. **Daylesford Parish office is closed on Fridays.**

**News from the Diocese: 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 comprising five sessions on the following dates – September 20<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Each of these sessions will be held in the MacKillop and Glowry 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. Please register with Jacinta in the Cathedral Parish Office 5331 2933, by Friday September 15<sup>th</sup>.



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**Sunday August 27th**

**Reader:** E Corfee **Commentator:** B Barlow **Offertory:** M & M Yanner **Ministers:** C Collins, R Thannhauser, C Bolton **Sacristan:** Kath

**Counters:**            Aug 20    (Team 5) M Phypers, B Ryan  
                                 Aug 27    (Team 6)

**Weekday Masses:** *No week day Masses till Fr Gary returns from Holidays*