

Parish Newsletter - October 9th 2016

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Parish Priest – Fr Gary Jones gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Administration: Leah Monaghan

St Michael's Parish Primary School- Principal: Chris Pollard

St. Joseph's Church Blampied

Lay Led Assembly (2nd Sunday of the Month) 9.00am

Vigil Mass Sat 6.00pm (4th Sunday of the Month)

Diocesan Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Today's gospel is one of the stories unique to the gospel of Luke. At the same time, it is a commonly known story that is often cited to demonstrate the value of saying thank you. However, as usual, there's more to this story than initially meets the eye. One of the recurrent themes of the gospel is at play here: the message of salvation that Jesus brings is available to all, not just the Jews.

The first reading is an interesting link with the gospel of Luke. In chapter 4 of the gospel, when Jesus visits Nazareth and preaches in the synagogue, he later tells a story about the prophets Elijah and Elisha responding to the needs of Gentiles rather than Jews. He tells the story to make the point that the message of salvation is not reserved exclusively for the Jews. The incident involving Elisha that Jesus refers to in chapter 4 is the one we hear in today's first reading.

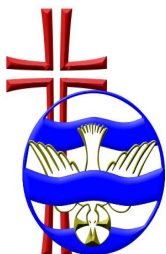
Whilst both the first reading and the gospel tell stories about the healing of those with skin diseases, the common factor is actually about their expressions of gratitude and conversion of heart. In the gospel, all ten men are healed but it is only the stranger; the foreigner; the Samaritan, who comes back to give thanks and to praise God. The others – Jewish men, presumably – are only concerned about themselves and have no time to acknowledge the graciousness of God that they have experienced. The gospel writer has Jesus emphasise the point that it is the Samaritan – the outsider – who has recognised God's activity in his cure and come back to give praise and thanks. It is only he who has experienced the change of heart; the conversion of faith.

Historical Context – Leprosy

In ancient times, a wide variety of skin diseases were loosely labelled as 'leprosy'. Because of Jewish purity laws, people with skin diseases were automatically regarded as 'unclean' and were forced to live away from others. The assumption was that such disfigurement must be a punishment from God for sinful behaviour. When Jesus encounters the men they are outside the town and keep the required distance from Jesus. He tells them to go and show themselves to the priest, whose authority was relied upon to declare a person healed and fit to return to society after extensive ritual purification.



Baptism



Congratulations to Nathan and Michelle de Sachav on the Baptism of their daughter Harper Ann today.

All Saints & All Souls Mass Times

All Saints: 10am St Peter's Daylesford

All Souls: Mass will be celebrated at St Francis Xavier Chapel Eganstown at 11.00 am



Last Week's Collections: *Two collections are presented after the Prayers of the Faithful. The 1st 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 2nd Collection is the Planned Giving (envelopes) for the administration of the Parish*

1st Collection \$540.90 2nd Collection \$703.00

Retired Priest Collection: \$256.00

RECENT DEATH:

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH: Margaret Richards, Annie O'Connor, Margaret Nicholes, Eileen Gruer



National Church Life Survey Our Parish, along with 6 others in the Diocese, have been selected to take part in the National Church Life Survey. We will be conducting this survey next Sunday October 16th during Mass - after the Gospel. Thank you for your participation.

Diocesan News

An End of an Era Celebration at St Michael's School, Springbank St Michael's School Springbank will close at the end of the 2016 school year and on December 3, 2016 we will be celebrating the life and times of the school. Celebrations will commence with an afternoon tea at 4.00pm, Mass at 6.30pm, then join us for a spit roast tea, meeting old friends, colleagues and dance the night away. A recovery brunch will be held on Sunday, December 4 (this will be a BYO drinks event). Please register your interest to attend to one or all of the events by email to quinlanwater@gmail.com or by message to Margie Quinlan, ph. 0417587235. Please note that you will not be catered for if your name is not on the guest list.

Beyond the Year of Mercy A retreat afternoon, which is open to all adults, is to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Ballarat on Sunday, October 30, 2016 from 1.30pm concluding with 5.00pm Mass. The afternoon will be led by Sr Veronica Lawson, a Sister of Mercy from Ballarat, biblical scholar and author of "Blessings of Mercy." Registrations through the Cathedral Parish Office ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5331 2933.

St Patrick's College 2018 Year 7 Information Evening The College will conduct the **2018 Year 7 Information Night on Wednesday October 26 from 7:30 pm in the College Chapel.** To receive a 2018 Enrolment Package please contact Mrs Caitlin Bennett on 53 311688 or cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au

Loreto College Ballarat Open Mornings (including College Tours): Tuesday, October 11 and Monday, October 17 from 9.30am – 11.30am. College Tours: Thursday, October 6, Thursday, November 3 and Thursday, December 1 at 9.30am. Please register for Open Mornings and College Tours on the Loreto website www.loreto.vic.edu.au

Mass at Pootilla Cemetery

Mass will be celebrated at Pootilla Cemetery (Bungaree) on Sunday 13th November, 9.30am. All welcome. Some chairs provided; BYO if possible. Info: ph. 5334 0450

BLAMPIED - St Josephs Community

Dinner at Swiss Mountain Hotel after 6.00pm. Mass Saturday 22/10/16 To Honour and Farewell Carmel Rieniets and Thank her for her many years of Service as Sacristan. Dinner and Drinks at Hotel Prices - All Welcome Please Book with Colleen 53457281 or Marilyn 53457475.

Roster - Sunday 16th October

Reader: M Righetti **Comm:** M Yanner **Ministers:** M Yanner, M Bruce, M Coffey **Offertory:** Chamberlain Family **Counters** Oct 9th (Team 8) J Barker, Oct 16th (team 1) L & M Righetti

Weekday Mass - Creswick Wednesday 10am, Daylesford Friday 10am

