



## Parish Newsletter - September 4th 2016

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

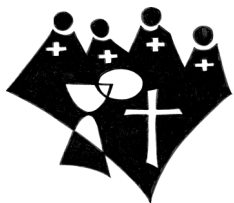
Diocesan Website: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSS

The wisdom tradition from which the first reading is taken is rooted in the fact that life is a series of choices. The epistle and the gospel reading provide us with examples of the way Christians should choose. Finally, the psalm's description of the fleeting nature of life sets the context and tone of our decision-making.

Discipleship demands that, in the face of all the choices available to us, we keep our priorities straight. In the gospel, Jesus insists that we must be single minded. We must cling to the one thing necessary, and that one thing is authentic discipleship. In choosing Jesus, we choose other things as well. We choose new relationships with the very people to whom we have already been committed. Those who were slaves, or lower class, or employees, or providers of service are now regarded as sisters and brothers in Christ. In choosing Jesus, we also choose the cross. We choose to live in a way that calls us to travel the high road: to forgive offences committed against us; to live simply so that others can simply live; to take responsibility for the moral character of society.

The fleeting nature of life as characterised in the psalm forces us to look at the meaning of life. When the day dawns for us to return to dust, what will we have gained from life? The realisation of our finiteness and the transitory nature of life should help us to set our priorities right and should give us the courage to remain faithful to them.



## BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

### Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for eighteen retired priests. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into retirement, and will also need to be supported by the fund.

This collection has raised nearly 1.7 million dollars since it began in 1991, including nearly \$54,000 last year. Along with the priests' own contribution of approximately \$38,000 per year, this annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy. Please give as generously as you can, and help us continue *'caring for those who cared for us'*. Special envelopes are available for this collection, which will be taken up today. You may also return your envelope next week.

**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 RESPONSIBILITY***

