

Parish Newsletter - July 10th 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



RECENT DEATH:

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH: Ang Courtot, Elizabeth Carman, Stephen Sallai, Val Sealey



Sick List:

Pat Rixon,
Clare Dixon

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSS

It was not enough to want to follow Jesus and to be committed to him. Discipleship also demanded the ability to make shifts in understanding in order to recognise what following Jesus required. He did not merely repeat the religious tradition, he re-interpreted it. We too are called to understand the words and deeds of Jesus, but we must understand what they mean for us today. Today we need to make comparable shifts of understanding in order to bring the message of Jesus into conversation with the contemporary world.

Perhaps one of the most exciting and, at the same time, unnerving aspects of our religious tradition is its nonconforming nature. We think that we finally understand the way God is working in our lives and then something happens that seems to turn our understanding inside out. We are told to love our neighbour and when we ask who that might be we are told a story that turns the question around. 'Who is my neighbor?' or 'Whom should I love?' becomes 'Who acts as a neighbour?' or 'Who shows love?'

The same Sunday that we reflect on the paradoxical nature of the ways of God, we are told that the law of God, which appears to be so lofty, is really very close to us, in our mouths and in our hearts. This too is an unusual claim. Following the law results in a way of living that is inspired and informed by love, love of God and love of others, even, and perhaps especially, those whom we are not inclined to love.

God of the Holy Dreaming

God of Holy Dreaming

Great Creator Spirit

From the dawn of creation you have given your children

The good things of Mother Earth

You spoke and the gum tree grew

In the vast deserts and dense forests, in the cities,

At the water's edge, creation sings your praise.

Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our land.

When Jesus hung on the tree

You heard the cries of all Your people

And became one with Your wounded ones

The convicts, the hunted and the dispossessed.

The sunrise of Your Son

Coloured the earth anew

And bathed it in glorious hope.

In Jesus we have been reconciled to You,

To each other and to Your whole creation.

Lead us on great Spirit

As we gather at this special place

Located on land where ancestors of long ago

Gathered for work, play and praise

Enable us to walk together in trust from the hurt of the past

Into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

