



Parish Newsletter - December 27th 2015

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

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

St. Joseph's, Blampied (Midland Hwy)

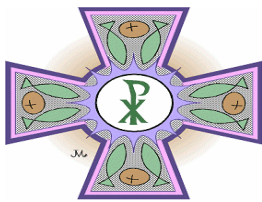
Mass Celebrated first & third (Sat vigil 6.30pm)

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



Recent Deaths: Peter Lannigan, Elizabeth de Jong

Anniversaries of Death: Mavis Gilmartin, Irene Banfridi, Joan Murphy, Dorothy Booth, Gloria Huggard



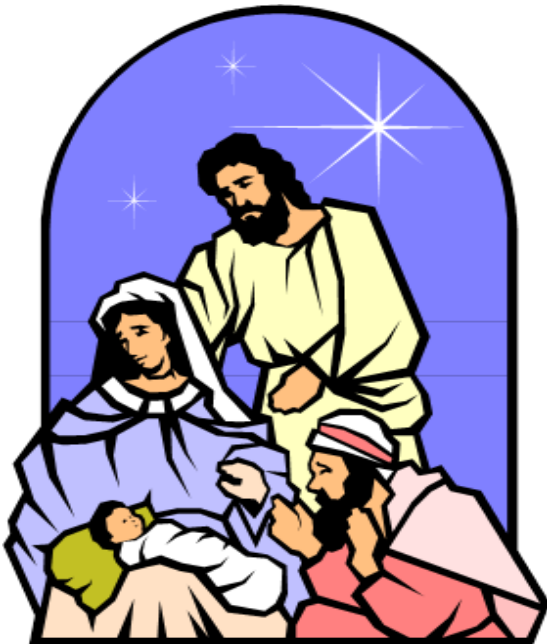
Epiphany of the Lord—Sunday January 3rd

St Augustine's Creswick
St Joseph's Blampied
St Peter's Daylesford

Sunday January 3rd	8.45am
Saturday January 2nd	6.30pm
Sunday January 3rd	10.30am

No Midweek Masses this week

New Years Day Masses will be celebrated at Creswick at 8.45am and Daylesford at 10.30am



2016 Planned Giving envelopes are available in the Parish Centre. Please take yours, and those you feel you can pass on. Thank you.

Jubilee Year Of Mercy Parish Prayer

Lord Jesus You are loving and
Your mercy endures forever.
You are compassionate and
gracious,
slow to anger, overflowing
with love and faithfulness.

Turn to me and have
mercy on me,
forgive my sins and grant me
the Grace to live the life
worthy of Your praise,
We ask this in the name of
Jesus Christ, Our Lord
Amen.

Last Week's Collections: Two collections are taken up after the Prayers of the Faithful. The 1st Collection is the Presbytery Collection – this collection is for the support of the local priest, with 13% going towards the support of the retired priests and the Bishop. The 2nd Collection is the Planned Giving (envelopes) for the support of Parish endeavours and structures. 1st Collection (Presbytery – supporting our Priest) \$401.30

2nd Collection (Planned Giving): \$71.00

Stations of Christmas

1 1. THE EPIPHANY

More visitors to the stable. These are in fine dress and speak in a foreign tongue. They explain who they are and why they have come, and Joseph allows them to enter. They fall to their knees at the sight of Jesus. How ironic to see these visitors, so different from the shepherds, react in such a similar fashion. The Magi offer gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Then they are gone. Before they return to Herod, God warns them to return by another route.

Holy God, as the magi humbled themselves before you, may I always do the same. May I also be willing to spread your Word to peoples of all lands. For all people, great and small, are humbled in your presence.

Closing prayer

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for this time together. Just as the Father used Mary to bring you into this world, help us to use this time to bring your message into the world. May we never forget the love you have for all of us, and may we never forget to share that love with others as you shared yourself with us. Amen.



Rosters— Jan 3

Reader:

Commentator:

Offertory:

Ministers: L Mulraney, C Collins, I Tinetti **Counters:**
Team 7: (Dec 27th) W Chamberlain, S Whiffen, H Cummings **Team 8:** (Jan 3) J Barker

There will be no rosters over January, please assist where you can. Thank you.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Year C

Sunday, 27 Dec 2015

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Forget the tinselly sentimentality of most depictions of the Holy Family. This Gospel is real life. Anyone who has temporarily lost their child in a crowd knows the stabbing pain of uncertainty and fear. Even more real, and occurring more often, is the adolescent impatience of Jesus: 'Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?'

Every parent, bewildered and saddened by the growing up and the growing distance of a son or daughter, knows what Mary and Joseph must have felt.

By the time Mary and Joseph found Jesus, he had found the words to express his unique identity. In this little scene so full of pathos and heartbreak, we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospels: 'Did you not know I must be about *my* Father's business?'

What was his 'Father's business' which was so engaging for Jesus? To draw every human being into the same family relationship as He enjoys.

But did you note that it is our privilege to celebrate this realisation as a community? Only Jesus can say '*My* Father'. We say '*Our* Father'. We enter into the grace of intimate relationship with God, not as an atomised individual, but as a person within a society of baptised Christians – the Church.

We could take a moment to pray for the integrity which will enable us to express this sense of identity in the unfolding of our lives. We can pray also for those saddened or bewildered by our following of the One who taught us to pray 'Our Father'.