



Parish Newsletter - November 8th 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)

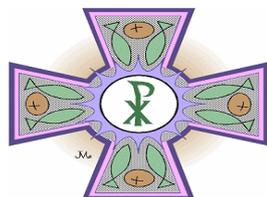
Mass Celebrated first & third, fifth Sundays (Sat vigil 6.00pm)

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



Anniversaries of Death: Nell Muller, Henry Maddicks, Andrew Metyus, Brian Hosie, Marie Butler, Charles Monaghan, Margaret Vendy

Please remember our Sick- not well : Dawn Godfrey, Monica Matthews



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time — November 15th 2015

St Augustine's Creswick

Sunday November 15th 8.45am

St Joseph's Blampied

Sunday November 14th 6.00pm

St Peter's Daylesford

Sunday November 15th 10.30am

Midweek Masses— Daylesford Thurs/Friday 10am

St. Peter's Parish, Daylesford

Christmas Masses 2015

The scheduling of masses for Christmas 2015 has been discussed at the last two meetings of the Parish Leadership Team where consideration was given to a request for a Christmas Eve mass at St. Joseph's Blampied. Fr. Gary has approached several priests seeking their availability to celebrate a Christmas Eve mass however none are able to assist. This situation is not likely to change into the future and as such the Parish Leadership Team has decided that for this year and future years, the primary Christmas Eve mass will be celebrated at our main mass centre, St. Peter's Church. It is hoped that as many as possible will gather together from throughout the parish to celebrate Christmas at St. Peter's.

From the Pastoral Leadership Team

Congratulations to

Keir & Lisa Whitcher on the Baptism of their daughter *Matilda* on Friday.



Sunday November 15th - There will be morning tea in the Parish Centre after Mass next weekend. This will be our Parish opportunity to wish Ziggy a Happy 100th Birthday. The St Michael's school community will also be with us and we look forward to welcoming them as well. If you are able to organise this, could you please let Leah know. Thank you.

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) \$366.45

2nd Collection (Planned Giving): \$213.00

Rosters— Nov 15 **Reader:** S't Michael's **Commentator:** St Michael's **Offertory:** St Michael's **Ministers:** T Tinetti, R Thannhauser, C Jenkins **Counters:** *Team 8 (Nov 8)* J Barker *Team 1 (Nov 15)* J Adriaans, L & M Righetti

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

The willingness to give all that one has is the central theme of today's readings. They offer us three models.

Jesus is the ultimate example of heroic generosity. He first offered himself as expiation for our sin. Now, as the eternal high priest, he stands before God as our mediator, pleading on our behalf, bringing salvation to those who eagerly await him.

It is interesting to note that the other two models of selfless giving are widows, individuals who are doubly disadvantaged by the patriarchal societies of which they are members. Their generosity is religiously inspired, and it comes from women who had the least material possessions to give. This kind of giving requires that we reach deep into ourselves and almost strip ourselves of our hold on life, and that we do this for religious reasons. The giving that is pictured in today's readings is nothing less than heroic generosity.

God will not be outdone in generosity. Sometimes we become the beneficiaries of obvious blessing, as was the case in the story of the woman of Zarephath who was granted a year's supply of flour and oil. At other times, we simply continue living life as usual, like the woman in the temple who was unaware of the commendation that Jesus had given her. The truly generous do not look for reward. They carry out their responsibilities and place the rest in God's hands.

Diocesan News:

Catholic Mission- thank you from Sr Alma In late September several Catholic Mission Diocesan Directors had with the opportunity to speak with Sr Alma through teleconference. Sr Alma has worked for 43 years in home mission, 14 of these in Broom. She expressed her sincere deep appreciation of the support they receive from the Australian Catholic community towards their important and most valuable work with Indigenous Australians. Sr Alma commented that without your support, the programs they offer to the men, women and children would not take place. Programs that address mental health, drug and alcohol abuse and the provision of psychological support which assists in the combating these addictions. Programs where, without judgement, the church offers our first Australians support that leads to a better quality life and enables them to remain within their own family and culture. Sr. Alma said that, "we need to understand what aboriginal culture can do for church and value this. Meet them in their own place." On Sr Alma's behalf and those participating in our programs, thank you.

Centacare Annual Toy Drive Centacare Ballarat's 2015 Annual Toy Drive will run from November 8 - December 15, 2015. Centacare are seeking donations of toys for all families engaged with Centacare programs and the drive aims to provide each child with a gift for Christmas. The appeal allows children who may not otherwise receive a gift the opportunity to experience the wonder that Christmas brings. In 2014 the appeal assisted over 100 families and 200 children to celebrate. To donate please purchase an age specific toy, select a name tag from one of the Centacare gift trees located at Toyworld Ballarat, Curves Sebastopol or Curves Wendouree and place your gift under the tree. The Toy Drive will be launched at Toyworld Ballarat on Saturday, November 21, 2015 from 11.00am-1.00pm with a free barbeque, face painting and a visit from Santa. For more information on donating and assisting this Christmas, please contact our appeal coordinators, Keryn Monshing, Jenny Grima or Joanne Woodland on 5387 7900 or email

keryn.monshing@centacareballarat.org.au