



## Parish Newsletter - September 3, 2017

**Parish Administration:** Mrs Leah Monaghan

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**Parish Priest** – Fr Gary Jones [gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
Daylesford Presbytery: 5348 3911

**St Augustine's Parish Primary School - Principal:** Mr Terry Brennan

**Administration Officer/Receptionist:** Ph 5345 2106

**St Thomas Aquinas, Clunes**  
(no longer a Sunday Mass Centre)

► **St. Joseph's Church, Blampied**

**Note: No Mass until further notice** ◀

**Diocesan Website:** [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) (online parish newsletter)

**Anniversaries of Death (Thurs - Weds):** Suzannah Barrett,  
Ermelinda Beard, Terence Brennan, Annetta Quin.



**Unwell at this time:** Chris Jones,  
Luke Taylor, Mary Bell, Pat Prendergast,  
Walter Streckfuss, Brad Simpson.

### **WEEKDAY MASSES this Coming Week**

**CRESWICK: YES, 10am** Tuesday Sept 5

**DAYLESFORD: 10am Thurs** (Dining Room)  
**10am Friday** (Church)

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION** by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is the first of three predictions of Jesus' death and resurrection in Matthew's gospel (see also Mark and Luke). Despite Peter's confession of faith that immediately precedes this passage (see last week's gospel), the disciples still do not have a very solid understanding of Jesus' purpose. They may regard him as the Messiah, but still do not fully understand what that means. In this passage, Jesus is beginning to prepare them for the events of the passion – his death and resurrection. He is trying to lead them to a greater understanding of his mission and message. But Peter abruptly 'rebukes' Jesus and tells him not to speak like that. One can almost hear Peter saying, 'Look, Jesus, you've got a good thing going here, don't spoil it by talking about dying!' However, Jesus responds to Peter very sharply, suggesting that his lack of understanding is inspired by evil and reflects human thought, not divine wisdom.

The passage then leads in to a description of the challenge of discipleship. To be a follower of Jesus means to 'deny' oneself, take up one's cross and follow Jesus. In the context of this passage, to 'deny' oneself means to not be concerned about 'I' but to be concerned about 'You' – to put others before self. To be a follower of Jesus means to be selfless, not self-centred. In the ultimate example of this, Jesus tells his disciples that whoever wishes to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Jesus' sake will find it. To 'save' your life is to hold back from giving yourself fully to the message of Jesus – to be 'half-hearted' in your faith. But to 'lose' yourself in the message of Jesus is to fully give yourself over to living the reign of God and through 'losing' yourself in this way, Jesus tells us, is how to truly find life.

### **Historical Context. Whoever loses his life for my sake...**

At the time of the writing of Matthew's gospel (around 75-80 CE), Christians were being persecuted and put to death for their beliefs. They were literally giving up their lives for their faith. These persecuted Christians saw Jesus' triumph over death as a sign of great hope and trust in the future for themselves. Jesus' words in the gospel – 'whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' – would give hope to those under persecution that ultimately they too would triumph and that the deaths of their friends were not in vain.

**St Thomas Aquinas' Monthly Parish Catchup**

**WIDOW TWANKY Café**  
in **CLUNES**



**TODAY**  
3rd September  
**10.30am**

**TWO COLLECTIONS** *are taken up and presented*  
*after the PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL*

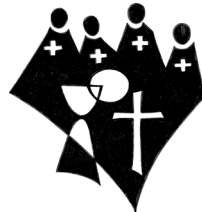
*The 1st COLLECTION is cash toward the Presbytery for the sustenance of our Priest; with a contribution of 13% to provide support for our retired priests of the Diocese.*  
*The 2nd COLLECTION is the Planned Giving (envelopes) or cash for the administration of the Parish & general running costs.*

**Last Week's Collections** *(with thanks)*

*1st Collection: \$233.30; 2nd Collection: \$399.00*

**Thanks and Prayers**

Ann, Sr. Lou and family wish to thank Parishioners for their loving support and all the help in preparing the Church, Grounds and Mass for Alan.



**TODAY:**  
**BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND**

Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

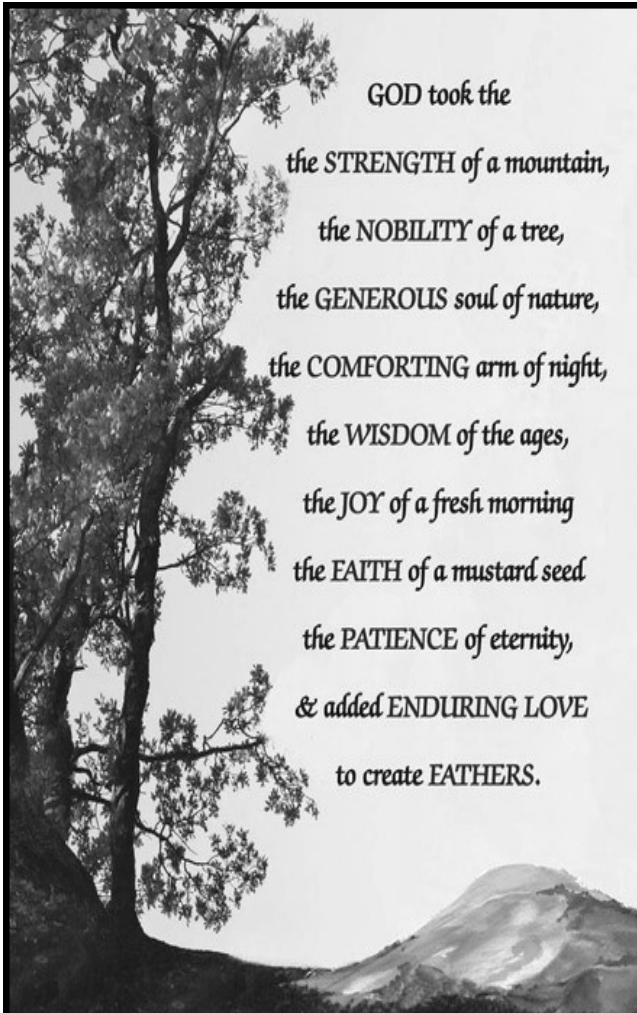
Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Eighteen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation.

The funding required for these commitments is ongoing. Thanks to your generosity, this collection has raised nearly 1.8 million dollars since it began in 1991, including nearly \$60,000 last year. Along with the priests' own contribution of approximately \$37,000 per year, this annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy.

A credit card facility will be available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

**CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US**  
**- THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY -**

Envelopes are available at the rear of the Church



GOD took the  
the STRENGTH of a mountain,  
the NOBILITY of a tree,  
the GENEROUS soul of nature,  
the COMFORTING arm of night,  
the WISDOM of the ages,  
the JOY of a fresh morning  
the FAITH of a mustard seed  
the PATIENCE of eternity,  
& added ENDURING LOVE  
to create FATHERS.

**DIARY DATES**

Farewell Morning Tea (Sept 10)  
Child Protection Sunday (Sept 10)  
St A's Parish Catchup @ Smokeytown Cafe (Sept 17)  
Social Justice Sunday (Sept 24)  
Fr Gary's 30th Anniversary of Ordination (Oct 15)

**NEW PARISH OFFICE opening hours:**

TUESDAY Creswick: 9.30am – 11am (**NOT** when school holidays or NO Tuesday Mass),  
WEDNESDAY Daylesford: 9.30am – 3pm,  
THURSDAY Daylesford: 9am – 11.30am.

**Daylesford office NO LONGER open on Fridays**

**ROSTERS for Sunday, 10th Sept**

*(with thanks)*

**Cleaners (for this week):** Elly van O  
**Welcomers/Offertory:** Aileen & Dave P  
**Remote:** Jesse & Steve  
**Commentator:** Loretta K; **Reader: ? plz**  
**Special Eucharistic Ministers:**  
#Margie G, Angeline T, Roland K  
**Counters:** Josie & Brian R

**"Deësis: Prayer and Image" Exhibition:-** This exhibition is dedicated to the role of icons as agents of intercession. **Art Gallery of Ballarat UNTIL Sunday, September 10, 2017. Flyer on back table.**