



Parish Newsletter - May 21, 2017

Parish Administration: Mrs Leah Monaghan

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Parish Priest – Fr Gary Jones gary.jones@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Daylesford Presbytery: 5348 3911

St Augustine's Parish Primary School - Principal: Mr Terry Brennan
Administration Officer: Ph 5345 2106

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

St. Joseph's Church, Blampied

Lay Led Assembly: 9.00am (2nd Sunday of the Month)

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.00pm (4th Sunday of the Month)

Diocesan Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (online parish newsletter)



Recently died: Gladys Cheney, Emma Kate McGrath

Anniversaries of Death (Thurs - Weds): Yvonne Haintz,
Jessie Stone, Thomas Dixon, Vincent Downes,
Mary McInerney (Thurs 25 May)

Unwell at this time: Brad Simpson (son of Mandy, St A's school
admin officer) James Stacey, Pat Prendergast, Mary Bell

**YES, 10am
TUESDAY MASS
in CRESWICK this week**
(10am Thursday & Friday
in Daylesford)



Over the past few weeks, there has been a lot of information in the media about the Turnbull Government's **Quality Schools funding package** and its impact on Catholic school fees.

The package proposed by the Government is a 10-year funding model, which will see significant changes to how Catholic schools are funded in the future.

Like the majority of Catholic schools, our school aims to be open and accessible to all families seeking a Catholic education. That means we aim to be affordable as well.

One of the big impacts of the Turnbull Government's funding package is that Catholic school fees will have to rise

This won't happen tomorrow, but over the next 10 years, cuts to school funding will mean fees will gradually increase.

Catholic education leaders across Australia have been working hard to make sure the Government and the Opposition understand that our students will be disadvantaged by the funding model.

Everything is being done to make sure the Turnbull Government's funding package does not become law.

That's where our school community comes in. In coming weeks, please keep an eye out in the school newsletter (or at the bottom of school bags) for information about how you can add your voice to help prevent unreasonable fee increases.

We need to step up. Unreasonable fee increases are only a possibility at this stage – not a certainty. Parents in nearly 500 other Catholic schools in Victorian have also been asked to get ready and join the campaign.

With your help, we can make sure our politicians in Canberra are listening to Catholic schools.



St A's MONTHLY PARISH GET-TOGETHER

TODAY, May 21

Smokeytown Cafe, Creswick
straight after Mass—ALL WELCOME!

Kindly hosted by our Parish Family Group

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 and 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: \$261.60

2nd Collection: \$241.00

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Although this week's gospel passage comes from the Last Supper discourse, it is the perfect reading for this time in the liturgical cycle. In next week's liturgy we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord and the following week we celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples.

This week's reading is the perfect precursor to these coming weeks. Prior to this section of the Last Supper discourse, Jesus has told the disciples that he will be leaving them. He alludes to that fact again in this section but also spells out that he will ask the Father to send to the disciples another advocate (sometimes translated as paraclete or counsellor). By referring to the Spirit as 'another' advocate or paraclete, Jesus names himself as having been an advocate.

The Spirit is to continue the work that Jesus has begun in and with the disciples, standing as witness and strength for them to help them when the world turns against them.



TODAY

We welcome our **First Communion Candidates** to the first of their **three Dismissal Masses** as they prepare to receive the **Sacrament of First Communion** on Sunday, June 18.

Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

-- new study opportunities --

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. Registration for the May study cycle closes on May 22, 2017 - or you can start in July or later in the year. See the details on the diocesan website (link is on lower part of front page), then contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

LATER THIS MORNING

Bishop Peter Connors 30th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination

Mass will be held **THIS MORNING, May 21, 2017** at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat @ **10.30am**. **All welcome.** Morning Tea will follow in the hall.

First Eucharist – For Grade 4 Students

Dismissal Sundays: May 21st ; May 28th ; June 4th
(Dismissal Sundays: If any child does not attend the Dismissal Sundays, then Celebration of First Eucharist will be deferred until the next year 2018)

Sacrament of First Eucharist: **Sunday June 18th**
St A's, Creswick @ **8.45am** ; St P's, D'ford @ **10.30am**

Confirmation – For Grade 3 Students

Parent Meeting: **Tues Oct 24th** @ St A's Creswick **4pm**
Weds October 25th @ St M's, D'ford **4pm**

Dismissal Sundays: Nov 5th, Nov 12th, Nov 19th
(Each child must attend Dismissal Sundays)

Sacrament of Confirmation: **Sunday Nov 26th**
St A's, Creswick @ **8.45am** ; St P's, D'ford @ **10.30am**

ROSTERS for NEXT weekend Sunday, 28th May

Cleaners (before next Sunday): McMahons;
Welcomers/Offertory: Loretta & Roland K;
Remote: Jesse & Steve SCHN;
Commentator: Pat T; **Reader:** Bernie T;
Special Eucharistic Ministers:
Barb H, Aileen P, Judy S;
Counters: Mick G & Pete G