



Parish Newsletter April 3, 2016

CRESWICK OFFICE *Hours:* **Wednesday 10am - 11am. (**If Wednesday Mass)

Ph: 5345 2160 (*Leah*) *Email:* creswick@ballarat.catholic.org.au

DAYLESFORD OFFICE *Hours:* Friday 9.30am - 1.00pm. *Ph:* 5348 2026 (*Leah*)

Email: daylesford@ballarat.catholic.org.au D'FORD PRESBYTERY *Ph:* 5348 3911

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Gary A Jones

ST THOMAS AQUINAS', Bailey Street, CLUNES ~ nb. CLOSING MAY 14, 2016 ***

MASS: Saturday 6pm (on the eve of each 2nd & 4th Sunday in the month)

LAST EVER LAY LED ASSEMBLY: Sunday, April 3 @ 10.30am

Nb. NO service on weekends when a 3rd Sunday or when a 5th Sunday in the month

ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL: Mr. Terry Brennan, Principal.

SCHOOL OFFICE *Ph:* 5345 2106 (*Mandy*) *Website:* www.sacreswick.catholic.edu.au

DIOCESAN *Website:* www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (inc ONLINE PARISH BULLETIN)



PARISH VISION STATEMENT:

Our Parish is a welcoming and inclusive community, based on the Christian ethic where our lives are enhanced by worship that enriches, leadership that is shared and service that cares.

N E X T W E E K

WEEKDAY MASSES:

NO Weekday Masses this coming week (again) at Creswick and Daylesford.

WEEKEND SERVICES:

MASSES:

St Thomas Aquinas', Clunes: 6pm Saturday, April 9

St Augustine's, Creswick: 8.45am Sunday, April 10

St Peter's, Daylesford: 10.30am Sunday, April 10

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be **NO** Weekday Mass @ Creswick on **Wednesday, APRIL 6** (nor Daylesford on Thurs/Fri, April 7/8)



Fr Meredith Delahenty,
Nell Smith, Eileen Keen
(anniversaries of death)

Mary Campbell,
Sandra Kenyon
(unwell at this time)

P L E A S E

Saturday MASS is 6pm now @ CLUNES (with end of daylight savings) starting **NEXT Saturday, April 9** (Second Sunday in the Month) (Final Mass offered at St Thomas Aquinas' is @ 6pm on Saturday, May 14)

A PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved. You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.

(from the Jubilee Prayer of Pope Francis)

CARITAS AUSTRALIA

would like to say "thank you!" for supporting Project Compassion. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online.

Thank you for supporting us this year as we celebrate 50 years of Project Compassion. You are helping to empower the world's poorest children, women and men with vital learning and renewed hope.



Today is
**DIVINE
MERCY
SUNDAY**

'COME to COMMON TERMS'

Ballarat Interfaith Network is happy to promote an opportunity to visit the **Islamic Mosque of Ballarat** on **Saturday, April 16, 2016** @ **116 Elsworth St East, Canadian** 12-3pm.

Free bbq meal, Mosque tour and Presentation on Interfaith Dialogue.

APRIL 9/10:-	CLUNES	CRESWICK
Reader:	Stevens	Barb H
Leaders:	n/a	n/a
Comm'tor:	n/a	Betty K
Sp Minister/s:	Richardson	Brian-Alastair-Ron
Welc'/Offer'y:	n/a	Flynns
Remote:	n/a	Angeline
Counters:	n/a	Josie & Brian
Cleaning:	DURING THIS COMING WEEK – before NEXT Sunday Lenaghan McMahons	

Collections: Both weekly collections occur after the General Intercessions.
 Last week: 1st (Priest Support) - \$384.70 2nd (PG/Parish) - \$277.00
 Project Compassion - 240.00 Good Friday Collection - \$222.50

A FESTIVAL of FINE MUSIC

including
 the DEDICATION and BLESSING
 of the relocated
 FINCHAM and HOBDAV 1889 PIPE ORGAN
 and RENEWED Performing Arts Space
 in St JOHN's ANGLICAN CHURCH,
 CRESWICK (right next to St A's)

Please see 'PROGRAMME OF EVENTS' brochure for
 weekend of April 16/17 on back table

NEW ROSTERS SOON!

Please add, remove or amend your
 names on the lists on back table

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY *by Mary Coloe PBVM*

Receive the Holy Spirit / Revelations 1:9-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31 / Written that we may believe

The Easter Gospel last Sunday finished with the disciples realising that Jesus was not in the tomb, that he was no longer among the dead. But where was he? The second location of the Johannine Easter story answers this question. Jesus is not in the tomb for he is now to be found in the midst of his disciples. If you wish to locate Jesus this is where you must look. Seek him with you now, risen in the midst of your community. Jesus' Easter gift to his disciples and to disciples of all times is 'Peace'.

Unlike the Synoptic Gospels which have a scene of Jesus missioning disciples within his own ministry in Galilee, in John's Gospel disciples are only now sent on mission. With the gift of the Spirit breathed onto them they are sent to continue the mission of Jesus in the world. 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' (20:21)

There are two aspects of this mission. First, they are sent to forgive sin (20:23), and second, they are to take hold of people, in the sense of keeping people firm in their faith. This phrase (20:23) is often read in the light of the Synoptic expression that speaks of binding and loosing, in relation to Peter's authority (Matt 16:19). While the first part of the phrase clearly states, 'if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven,' the second part does not mention the word sin and is better understood to mean holding firm to one another in the community.

The Greek word that is often translated as 'retain' means more accurately to hold firm. Here is a definition from a dictionary: 'krateo': to cause a state to continue, on the basis of some authority or power - 'to hold, to keep, to cause to continue.'

In Jesus' prayer on the eve of his 'hour' he had prayed, 'While I was with them I kept them in your name...; I have guarded them and none of them is lost.' (17:12) Now the task of 'keeping' and 'guarding' is passed onto his disciples.

The problem for Thomas is the problem that all later Christians face. Can we believe the Easter Gospel when we do not see the body of the Risen One? There is a Thomas within all of us, wanting to believe but sometimes finding faith difficult. Thomas' response is not to reach out to touch Jesus, but rather to recognise now the fullness of Jesus' divinity; 'My Lord and my God.' Only in John's Gospel do we find such an absolute statement of Jesus' divinity.

The final words of Jesus in this Gospel reach past Thomas to us, as Jesus pronounces a blessing for those who do not see and yet believe. The evangelist also reaches across time to us when he writes, 'These things are written that you may believe.'

The presence of Jesus, his words, and the words of this Gospel writer live on in the Christian communities of our time. Whenever Christians gather, Jesus rises in our midst. Not even our fears and doubts are sufficient barriers, for Jesus comes to frightened and disbelieving disciples. The Easter gifts of peace and the Spirit are now available to all and blessed indeed are those who believe.