



# Parish Newsletter December 20, 2015

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**  
 MASS: Saturday 6.30pm (on the eve of each 2nd & 4th Sunday in the month)  
 LAY LED ASSEMBLY: Sunday 10.30am (1st Sunday ONLY in the month)  
 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: www3.sacreswick.catholic.edu.au*  
 DIOCESAN *Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (inc ONLINE PARISH BULLETIN)*

## JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

### 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	<b>WEEKDAY services:</b> No regular weekday services for next 2 weeks. <b>ONLY CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR's DAY SERVICES</b>
	<b>Next WEEKEND Masses:</b>
	St Thomas Aquinas', Clunes: 6.30pm Sat Dec 26
	St Augustine's, Creswick: 8.45am Sun Dec 27

	Anne Griffin, Eileen Tacey, Margaret James, Ralph Bell, Merle Beves, Catharina Schellens, Franz Vluegel <b>(anniversaries of death)</b>
	Steven Treacy, Sandra Kenyon <b>(unwell)</b>

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

### Christmas Eve

*(Thursday, December 24)*  
 Daylesford: **6.30pm**  
 Creswick: **8.30pm** with  
*CAROL SINGING @ 8pm*

### Christmas Day

*(Friday, December 25)*  
 Creswick: **8.45am**  
 Daylesford: **10.30am**

## NEW YEARS DAY MASSES

*(Friday, January 1)*

Creswick: **8.45am**  
 Daylesford: **10.30am**

**WE WELCOME the**  
 Anglican Parish of Springmount  
 to St Augustine's Church, CRESWICK  
**@ 10.00pm** on CHRISTMAS EVE  
 for their 'midnight' service  
*(due to building works at St John's)*

**CHRISTMAS EVE ROSTER:-**  
**WELCOMERS/OFFERTORY:** Steve, Jessie & Phoebe S **READER:** Jeanette M  
**COMMENTATOR:** Angeline T **REMOTE:** Neil D  
**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Margie G - Aileen P - Barb H

**CHRISTMAS DAY ROSTER:-**  
**WELCOMERS/OFFERTORY:** Kaval Family **READER:** Lois K  
**COMMENTATOR:** Brian R **REMOTE:** Lois K  
**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Ron K - Brian R - Margie G

**TODAY** (Sunday): PARISH CHEER - 'PORT & CHRISTMAS CAKE' STRAIGHT AFTER St A's MASS

- ### TEN COMMANDMENTS OF CHRISTMAS
1. You should not leave "Christ" out of Christmas, making it "Xmas." To some, "X" is unknown.
  2. You should prepare your soul for Christmas. Spend not so much on gifts that your soul is forgotten.
  3. You should not let Santa Claus replace Christ, by robbing the day of its spiritual reality & meaning.
  4. You should not burden the shop girl, the mailman, and the merchant with complaints and demands.
  5. You should give yourself with the gift. This will increase its value a hundred fold, and he/she who receives it shall treasure it forever.
  6. You should not value gifts received by their cost.

7. You should not neglect the needy. Share the blessings of Christmas with many who will go hungry and need a supporting hand.
  8. You should not neglect your church. Its services highlight the true meaning of the season. Christ is reason, for the season.
  9. You should be as a little child. Not until you have become in spirit as a little one -- then you are ready to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.
  10. You should give your heart to Christ. Let Him be at the top of your Christmas list.
- Anyone keeping these commandments is sure to have a blessed Christmas.*

**DEC 26/27: CLUNES**

**CRESWICK**

Reader:	Rinaldi	Ace A
Leaders:	n/a	n/a
Comm'tor:	n/a	Betty K
Sp Minister/s:	Richardson	Brian-Alastair-Ron
Welc'/Offer'y:	n/a	Josie & Brian R
Remote:	n/a	Neil D
Counters:	n/a	Keiran & Mick
Cleaning:	DURING THIS COMING WEEK – before NEXT Sunday Martin Elly Van O & Sue C	

Collections: Both weekly collections occur after the General Intercessions.  
Last week: 1st (Priest Support) - \$251.60 2nd (PG/Parish) \$838.25(2w)

## **STATIONS OF CHRISTMAS** *(continued)*

### **7th Station: The Nativity**

Now is the most important moment of Mary's life, and she must face it alone; just as her Son would face his moment of truth some thirty years later. The holy Son of God is born in a stable. As the animals look on, God performs his greatest miracle. The promise of salvation, dreamed of for thousands of years, is accomplished by a loving God and a poor girl in a stable.

**Holy Lord, as we sit in awe of your blessed Nativity, we are shaken by the wonder of your glory and your meekness. Having so humbled yourself, help us not to be caught up in our own importance. Remind us of the great things that are accomplished when we are perfectly submissive to your will .**

### **8th Station: The Heavenly Choir**

Unaware of the miracle happening that night, shepherds keep watch over their sheep. Suddenly their familiar night sky is filled with glorious angels singing divine praises. The angels reassure the shepherds. They have come with good news. God has sent them a Saviour.

When the angels vanish, the shepherds are left in wonderment. If the Saviour has come, why didn't God send his angels to the king or the high priests? Yet they seek to confirm the truth of the angel's words, the strange tale of a baby in a manger .

**Father, the splendour of your glory is beyond us. What can we possibly give you that approaches it? May we always be willing to give our all, just as the shepherds abandoned their worldly possessions to seek the Christ-child.**

## **4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT** **Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

**Fr Gary:** God our Father, may the light that Jesus your son brings to us all, dispel any darkness in our lives and make us aglow with the light of his Spirit .

**All: We make this prayer in Jesus' name Amen.**

**Lighting of the fourth candle:**  
**the Angels' candle.**

**Commentator:** The angels have a special place in the Scriptures. They announced the birth of Jesus, first to Mary, then to the shepherds, after which they sang their song of praise: "Glory to God in the highest".

*The fourth candle is lit.*

**All: Heavenly God, may our time of waiting be rewarded, may our need for your continuing love and mercy be answered, may our hope for the future be renewed. Together with the angels, may we joyfully announce the birth of Jesus. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS** **for the Jubilee 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. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

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, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with His 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, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

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.