

St Peter's Parish

Linton, Skipton, Smythesdale, Snake Valley

Please Contact the Cathedral Office 5331 2933

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Parish Office: Jacinta Westbrook,

Priests: Frs Justin Driscoll, Anthony Nagothu, Sajan Mathew



Sunday 3rd December 2017 1st Sunday of Advent (B)

Recent Deaths: Corrie van Raaphorst,

Anniversaries: Kate Firns, Molly Hogan, Harry Kennedy, Theo Peters, Ann Prendergast

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell, especially Athanasius Casanova, Margaret Cranko, Nic Gowans, Nancy Hand, Grace Molloy, Kerrie Mulcahy, Marie Stevens, Milly Yeoman

Next week's readings: *Sunday December 10th 2017* 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

2Pet3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Masses: 9th/10th December 6.30pm Skipton 8.30am Beaufort 10.30am Snake Valley

16th/17th December 6.30pm Smythesdale 9.00am Skipton 10.30am Rokewood

Making a Scene at Christmas

We will have a special showing at the Robert Clark Centre in the Ballarat Gardens from Friday, December 15 - Monday December 18.

This Christmas, Give a Gift That Changes the World

If you would like to give a little extra to those who need it most at Christmas time, Caritas Australia offers Global Gift Cards. Donations go towards empowering the most marginalised members of our One Human Family to eradicate poverty in all its forms

<https://fundraise.caritas.org.au/globalgifts>

The Neil Street Uniting Church Choir Presents

A Christmas Musical Arranged and Orchestrated by Camp Kirkland "Heaven On Earth" Sunday 10th December at 10.00am Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm Admission is Free ~ Freewill Offering Cnr Neill & Macarthur Streets, Soldiers Hill Vic 3350 45 strong choir plus 12 piece orchestra, bring a friend, enjoy free refreshment after.

Year of Youth 2018

2018 is the Year of Youth in Australia starting Advent (3 December 2017). The Year of Youth theme is *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy*. Parishes and others are asked to incorporate the Year of Youth in their planning: how might you celebrate locally or in conjunction with neighbours? Year of Youth information is on Ballarat Diocese website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au /Youth and Young Adult pages, or email youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Stewardship

We ask that existing contributors also complete a pledge card so that your details can be updated and receipts of your giving can be provided to you on a regular basis. Direct debit is also possible and encouraged!

PROCLAIM 2018 – Early Bird Registrations Now Open

This exciting conference will engage parishes in an ongoing conversation focusing on Leadership, Culture Change, Young People, Belonging and Evangelisation. This conversation will draw together over 500 participants from across Australia for keynote presentations, facilitated conversation sessions, peer learning, expert discussion panels and future visionary planning. Keynote speakers include Cardinal John Dew (Archdiocese of Wellington, New Zealand), Ms Lana Turvey-Collins (Plenary Council 2020 Facilitator), Ron Huntley (Divine Renovation – Canada), and host of PROCLAIM 2018 Archbishop Mark Coleridge (Archdiocese of Brisbane). 12 – 14 July 2018 in Brisbane. To find out more www.proclaimconference.com.au and register at the early bird rate.

Opportunities for Adult faith formation

Heart of Life Spirituality Centre

Would you like to become a Spiritual Director? The 'Siloam' Program for the Formation of Spiritual Directors can be studied on Mondays (9am-5pm) over two years at Heart of Life in Box Hill. The program fosters a discerning, contemplative approach whereby spiritual directors-in-formation become more and more attuned to the movement of God's spirit in themselves and in their directees. The Program may be studied as a Grad Dip in Spiritual Direction for those who meet the criteria. Further information holsc@bigpond.com or tel 03 9890 1101.

Pastoral Care Education

An exciting opportunity for education and formation in Pastoral Care recognised and accredited towards theological studies through the University of Divinity is now available in regional Victoria. A newly created South West Victoria Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Centre has been registered through the Association for Supervised and Clinical Pastoral Education Victoria (ASACPEV Inc.). An extended part-time program will commence in February and conclude in November 2018. For more information and an application form, go to the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children Ballarat

Be inspired by the stand at Eureka by ordinary people that led to the reform of unjust laws. Join the Grandmothers and friends in calling for the evacuation of the unjustly held men on Manus to the safety of Australia where they can find a place of safety Tuesday 5th December Under the Eureka flag – Bakery Hill round-a-bout at the start of Victoria St. 11.00 – 12.00

Mercy Connect Ballarat – Supporting refugee and asylum seeker students in local schools.

Volunteer mentors needed. Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students, in Ballarat Schools, through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in February 2018. Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and application form.

What next after the Royal Commission?

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will sit on December 14th to publicly mark the conclusion of the five-year long inquiry. Royal Commission CEO, Philip Reed, said the sitting will be a chance for Commissioners to thank the community for their continued support of the Royal Commission and its work. "When we began in 2013, we had no idea just how widespread or prevalent child sexual abuse in institutions was in Australia, or how many people would come forward to share their story," Mr Reed said. "Since then we have held 57 public hearings, where we sat for 444 days and heard evidence of more than 1,300 witnesses.

Commissioners have also listened to the personal accounts of almost 8,000 survivors of child sexual abuse in institutions through 'private sessions'. "Combined with our comprehensive policy and research program, the Royal Commission has been able to contribute to the community's understanding and awareness of institutional child sexual abuse."

Two reports from the Royal Commission, one on the Ballarat Diocese and the other on the Catholic Church in Australia are expected to be released in the coming weeks before December 14th.

Reinventing Loudfence?

The Loudfence movement has been significant part of our experience throughout the Royal Commission. Maureen Hatcher, founder and organiser of Loudfence has said previously *"It started as a reaction to the Royal Commission into Institutional Abuse when it was being held in Ballarat. So many people I knew were shocked and saddened by what they were hearing and were saying they wanted to do something but didn't know what. I knew there had to be something...tying a ribbon is such an easy thing to do, but it is such a visually and emotionally powerful statement... It's time for it to evolve further and reinvent itself."*

