

## **St Peter's Parish**

Linton, Skipton, Smythesdale, Snake Valley

Please Contact the Cathedral Office 5331 2933

Parish Office: Jacinta Westbrook,

Priests: Frs Justin Driscoll, Anthony Nagothu, Sajan Matthew

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017**



**Recent Deaths:** Wendy Shea, Dominic Varghese

**Anniversaries:** Fr Cyril Blake, James Cornips, Eugene Grigg, Terry Grigg, Peter Hammond,  
Fr Paddy King, Robin Lines, Tom Murphy, Theresa McDonald, Alwyn Parker,  
Vinnie Ver Dooran

**Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell,** especially Margaret Cranko, Bill Gordon,  
Nic Gowans, Fr John Keane, Kerrie Mulcahy, Milly Yeoman

**Next week's readings:** *Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> 2017*                      *6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (A,)*

Acts 6:1-7      Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22      1 Peter 3:15-18      John 14:15-21

**Masses:**      **20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> May**    6.30 pm Smythesdale    9.00am Skipton    10.30 am Rokewood  
                  **27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> May**    6.30 pm Snake Valley    8.30am Beaufort    10.30 am Skipton

### **Removal of the Trees at St Mary's Smythesdale**

Following requests from both the Historical Society and the Golden Plains Shire Council, the decision has been taken to engage Gerard Styles to remove the trees. This will be undertaken on May 18<sup>th</sup> at a cost to the parish of \$4250.00 plus GST.

### **Mass Count continue in the Linton Parish over the weekends of May**

The Annual Ballarat Diocesan Mass Count will take place over the 4 weekends of May commencing on the weekend of 6-7 May.

### **Nazareth House Ballarat Apartments**

The new one bed apartments are near completion at Nazareth House, Ballarat. Eight have been sold and there are still two available. Please contact Nazareth House Reception for an appointment to view the apartments Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 4.00pm, ph. 53295100.

## **Budget 2017: Fairness and compassion should be the cornerstone of our society**

*Fairness and compassion should be the cornerstone of our society. How we treat our poorest and most vulnerable is a measure of our commitment to a fair and just society.* Archbishop Denis Hart, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference said, the Catholic Bishops welcome the government's commitment to fully fund the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** and its housing measures to help people secure more **affordable housing**. The Bishops acknowledge the government's decision to remove earlier measures from the 2014-15 budget that may have affected families and the vulnerable in our society. For **those on the very margins** of our society, especially those with no prospect of meaningful work, the budget offers no new hope.

*'A lack of regard for the poor and marginalised alienates them from society rather than allowing them to participate fully within it,'* Archbishop Hart said. In relation to education, the Bishops acknowledge the overall increase in funding, including to **Catholic schools**. The Bishops however remain concerned about some of the changes to the funding model. These changes are generating uncertainty and confusion among parents who send their children to Catholic schools, and among school leaders. The changes may over time impact adversely on the affordability and even the viability of many Catholic Schools, especially in some States. This uncertainty could be resolved by greater ongoing consultation with the National Catholic Education Commission. With regards to **health**, any individual with advanced terminal disease should be considered particularly vulnerable and deserves access to affordable, **high quality end of life care**. 'While the Bishops support the \$8.3 million investment over three years in **palliative care** services in the home, much more needs to be done,' Archbishop Hart said. The Bishops endorse the government's decision to allocate funds for the establishment of the **National Redress Scheme for victims of child sexual abuse** in institutions to which the Catholic Church has already committed. We call on all State and Territory governments to participate in this important initiative. *'Further diminishment of Australian foreign aid funding is a step away from our international responsibility to developing countries.'*

### **Alpha in a Catholic Context**

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explores the Christian faith for adults. It is a parish tool for evangelisation based on welcome and hospitality, sharing and prayer. Each session includes a talk and small group discussion, where no question is too simple and no answer prepackaged. Participants are welcomed into a relaxed and friendly setting and have the opportunity to get to know one another. Within the group, we learn the art of listening, reading the Scriptures and praying. Alpha will be offered again in 2017 in the Cathedral Parish but a different format from different locations and has younger presenters as well as Nicky Gumbel. There are also interviews with several leading Catholics, including Fr Raniero Cantamalessa & Cardinal Schonborn. The link for a preview is <http://australia.alpha.org/watch/>. For those interested in being part of this adult faith opportunity – contact the Parish Office. Alpha will be offered in our Parish over the coming months which will be conducted on Thursday evenings in the smaller hall at the Cathedral.

## **Child Safety Standards**

New state government legislation has come into effect with the New Year which sets standards for child safety. The Linton parish has appointed Cecelia Rowberry (Smythesdale) as our Safeguarding officer and have a Child Safety Policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in our care.

A Child Safety Code of Conduct has been adopted for all who work with children in the Parish. To assist her in this role Cecelia will be attending a training day through the National Council of Churches in Australia which will be held on Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)**

ACYF is in Sydney December 7-9, 2017. A joyful 3 day immersion in faith with 15,000 other young Australians. Young people (yr 9-30yo) are encouraged to go. Information is on the diocesan website Youth and Young Adult pages: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or contact Amanda on 5337 7125 or [youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## **A Prayer for Mothers**

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old. We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy. We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways. We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion. We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen

## **Gospel Reflection - Greg Sunter**

The gospel readings for this week and next week shift the focus away from the resurrection and begin to set us up for the departure of Jesus from the earth – the Ascension – and the sending of the Holy Spirit – the Pentecost event. Today's gospel passage comes from the very long Last Supper discourse in the gospel of John. When Jesus speaks about 'going away' for a time it could be interpreted as the period of his death and rising that are about to occur in the chronology of the story. However, the gospel of John is written a very long time after the death of Jesus; perhaps as much as 70 years after Jesus. Given this period of time between the events and the writing, we know that the writer was also referring to this longer time of Jesus 'going away'. By the time of the writing of this gospel the early Christians were starting to come to terms with the fact that Jesus probably wasn't going to return in their lifetime. They had seen the devastating destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans in 70CE which they thought had signalled the end of all time. However, here they were, still alive and still no sign of Jesus' return.

The theme of being present and being absent is very strong in this gospel. The discussion about Jesus and the Father being one is part of this theme. Jesus is God present in the world. God has come to dwell among the people. When Jesus speaks of preparing rooms in the Father's house, it is a reference to preparing the disciples to 'live' in God; to dwell in God just as God has dwelt in the people.



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April 26 2017

Rev Justin Driscoll VG  
St Patrick's Presbytery  
3 Lyons Street South  
Ballarat Vic 350

Dear Father Justin,

I write with reference to your letter dated April 19, in which you seek permission to alienate property that belongs to the Parish of Linton, described as the Springdallah Church as well as a vacant allotment of unused land in the town of Linton.

After due consideration and with the consent of the College of Consultors and the Finance Committee for the Diocese of Ballarat, I am pleased to grant you permission to proceed with the sale of the said property at or above market value.

Kindly discuss with my Finance Office any tax implications of the sale prior to entering into contract negotiations.

In accord with Diocesan policy, I strongly recommend that you invest the proceeds from the sale of the property in the Catholic Development Fund for the Diocese of Ballarat.

Proceeds can be made available to fund future capital works in your Parish by first seeking my approval.

With every good wish, Father Justin

Yours in Christ,

Paul Bird CSsR  
**Bishop of Ballarat**