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|  Collection amounts for January 2016 ~PARISH NEWS~ ~ PARISH NEWS ~ **~ GOSPEL REFLECTION ~** |

The gospel for today is the concluding section of Jesus’ conversation with a Pharisee called Nicodemus, who comes to him “by night”. It features a number of typically Johannine themes: life, eternal life, believing, seeing, God’s love, salvation, judgment, light, darkness, the world, truth. John loves to play on words. Without losing sight of the material reality underlying each image, we need to keep asking: how is this word or expression to be understood in this particular context? In John’s gospel, the characters often misunderstand and this gives Jesus the opportunity to lead his hearers to a deeper or different understanding of his words.

As 21ST century readers, we operate out of a symbol system that belongs in a different time and a different place, hence the need to explore the traditions informing the stories. The first two verses of today’s reading evoke the ancient Israelite tradition of the bronze serpent (Numbers 21:5-9). According to the story, the Israelites are unhappy with their lot in the desert. They complain about the food or lack thereof. They blame both God and Moses. Their situation worsens with the outbreak of a plague of poisonous snakes whose bite has killed a considerable number of them. The people interpret the plague as punishment for their sin of speaking against God. They ask Moses to intercede with God. God instructs Moses to make an image of a fiery serpent and set it on a pole: anyone affected by snakebite has only to look upon the image to find life and healing. And so it happens: the bronze serpent is lifted up and those who “see” or “look upon it” find life.

Life and death, seeing and believing in God’s love and mercy are at the heart of the story of the bronze serpent. The gospel writer taps into the collective memory of the emerging Christian community: just as the serpent was lifted up and the people found life, so will Jesus be lifted up and those who believe in him will find life. In John’s gospel, seeing is often equated with believing and believing leads to “life”.

The bottom line is God’s saving love for “the world”, for the whole Earth community. Most of the themes in this passage have already been introduced in the prologue to the gospel. Here for the first time in the gospel, God’s saving activity is expressed in terms of “love”. God’s love is explicitly related to the gift of Jesus, God’s Son, for the salvation of the world. Salvation resides in acceptance of Jesus, judgment in the refusal to accept Jesus as the revelation of God. ***An excerpt by Sr. Veronica Lawson***



***Immaculate Conception Parish***

P O BOX 600 Tumut

Catholic Community

**‘CLERGY’**

* **Fr. Sijo Jose (Parish Priest)**
* **Fr. George Ogah (Assistant Priest)**

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-------------------------------------------------------- **‘WEEKEND MASS TIMES’**

 **Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm**

 **Sunday: 10am (children’s liturgy)**

 **Talbingo Sunday: 8.00am**

 **‘THIS WEEKS MASS TIMES’**

**Tuesday: 6pm in Chapel**

**Wednesday: 10am School Mass**

**Thursday & Friday: 8am in Chapel**

**Saturday: 9am (every fortnight - Thursday: 11am BUPA Liturgy**

**Saturday: 9.40am BLAKENEY LODGE Liturgy)**

 **‘ROSARY’ Saturday at 8.45am**

**Exposition at 8.30am (1st Sat of month)**

 **‘RECONCILIATION’**

 **Saturday at 5.15pm**

 **‘LITURGY MEETING’**

 **Tuesday: 2.00pm in Chapel**

 **‘PRAYER GROUP’**

 **(Rosary & Divine Mercy)**

 **Wednesday: 2.00pm in Chapel**

  **‘CONTACTS’**

 **Care Group: Anne Huebner 69473406**

**4th Sunday of Lent Year B**

 **March 11th 2018**

***Gospel Acclamation***

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life, Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

 ***Responsorial Psalm***

**Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

 ***Entrance Antiphon***

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.**

 ***Gospel Acclamation***

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Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed; the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

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| T THIS WEEK Saturday & Sunday 10th & 11th March   |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm |  Sunday 10am |
| Acolyte |  Barry Madigan |  Sue Bulger  |
| Reader |  Kathy Shanahan |  Trish Matthews |
| Commentator |  Anne Huebner  |  Howard Young |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Pat Spannagle |
| Musicians |  Maureen Norman  |  Monica & Patricia |
| Altar Servers |  New Servers | Chloe Turnbull & Lily Webb |
| Church Care\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_LINEN Bev Piper |  ------------------------------------- |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 17th & 18th March  |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | 10am |
| Acolyte |  Tony Butler |  Trish Matthews |
| Reader |  Claire Cole |  Kirsty Beavan |
| Commentator |  Patricia Wilks |  Cath Purcell |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Kerrin Henderson |
| Musicians |  Maureen Norman |  Anna Quinn  |
| Altar Servers |  Gabbi & Maggi Dalisay |  New Servers |
| Church Care | Group 4: The Dobbie Family  |

Feast Day**Wishing all our wonderful dads a Happy In m**

 R O S T E R S

**We love because He first loved us ( 1 John 4: 19 )**

**FEAST DAY *17th March: Saint Patrick***

***How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world Anne Frank***

**~PARISH NEWS~**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be held in the Chapel during Lent on Friday evenings at 6pm. **ST. PATRICKS DAY LUNCHEON** will be held in St. Mary’s Hall next Saturday at 12 for 12.30pm. All parishioners are invited to attend, entertainment will also be provided. If anyone can help before or on the day, please write your name and contact on the sheet in church foyer this week. **BAPTISMS** This weekend we welcome into our community Junior Benjamin Emosi son of Tomasi and Angela and Ava Mae Wendt daughter of Darren and Kayla.We pray for all Baptism families.  **CHILDREN’S LITURGY Reminder** could the volunteer rostered please be present and let Fr. Sijo or Fr. George know they are available. **SAVE THE DATE** Anointing Mass Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 10am. **SPECIAL THANKS** to representatives of our parish who organised, attended and welcomed our visitors at the World Day of Prayer last Friday evening. **CATHOLIC VOICE** March edition is now available for you to collect.

**We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith:**

 **MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Winifred Whitacker, Edward,Mary & Clem Malone, Pat Malone, Hickson & O’Sullivan families, Colleen Anderson, Reg & Mary Madigan, Matt Downing, Wilkinson & Downing families, Frank Stanfield, Peter Heffernan, Tim & Amy Twomey, Barbara Fuller, Tom & Merle Arentz, Harriet & Ruben Arentz, Kevin & Nola Arentz, Dulcie & Arthur Piper, Marie & Ray Cowan, Kevin Cowan, Kevin Hawthorne, Natalie Baker, Ian Barbour, Yvonne Harrison, Fr. Peter Quirk, Con & Ennis Twomey, Mons. John Twomey, Sr. M. Brenda Twomey, Sr. M. Canice O’Sullivan, Sr. M. Celine McCormack, Bert & Teresa Butler, Anne Lawrance, Joan & Bob Liddell, Mary & William Claffey, Ruby Harmer, Alan & Angela Guthrie, Hassel & Joy McGrath, Noel Cook, Hargreaves family, Family members & relatives of Tran family, Frederick & Mabel McInerney, Ken Elliott, Jock Roberts, Ralph Klaus, James Kelly, Harry & Muriel Nancarrow, Harry & Pat Nancarrow, Christine Welsh, Allison Brady, Scott Payne, Ben Roddy, Paul & Nick Young, Julie, Jack & Thelma Cobden, Jamie Nixon, Stan Kenny, Marzol family members, members of Young, Egan, Breward & Van de Brug families, Russell & Peter Ritchie, Hector, Annie & Kevin Turner, Jean Kelly, Mollie Fuller, Joan Malone, Ken & Brian Gee, Rudi & Filomena Comai, Celia Mullaly, Gus & Kath Clout, Ab & Mildred Shanahan, Ina Clout, Madelin Fenn, Chris Ballard, Maude Kelly, Frank, Eileen & Marie Malone, John Callister, Joan Stockwell, Pauline Shedden, John Hourigan, Tom & Dorothy French.

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