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

Among those who go up to Jerusalem to worship at the feast of Passover are some “Greeks”. The reference is probably to a group known in the early church as “God-fearers”, although that designation is found only in Luke’s second volume, the Acts of the Apostles. These people were a bit like RCIA candidates in relation to Judaism. They were certainly interested in Judaism and, because of their active interest in the Jewish faith and traditions, were possibly better informed about many of the Jewish traditions than those who had been members of the Jewish community all their lives. God-fearers seem to have been among the first Gentiles (non-Jews) to join the early Christian Jewish movement, i.e. the Jews who accepted Jesus as Messiah (or Christ).

For Jesus, the arrival of these God-fearing Greeks signals his “hour”. Earlier in John’s gospel, Jesus has insisted that his “hour” had not yet come. Now that his message receives global acknowledgement, or in the words of the Pharisees, now that “the world has gone after him” (John 20:19), he can announce that the hour of his glorification has come. Characteristically, Jesus uses a potent agricultural image to capture the transformative nature of his imminent death: like the grain of wheat, he must go into the earth and die in order to bear fruit. The same is true for his followers: to be concerned only with self-preservation is to “lose” one’s life; to give one’s life is to “keep it for eternal life”. This image echoes the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah (31:31-34). Jeremiah presents the God of Israel as One who forgives and who is even prepared to forget the sins of the past. The people will be God’s garden: the seed planted within them is God’s Law. They will be God’s own billboard: the Law of forgiveness and mercy will be written in their hearts. John uses the “eternal life” metaphor in much the same way as the other gospel writers use the “reign of God” or “kin-dom” image. To keep one’s life for “eternal life” has to do with living God’s transformative vision for creation in the present so that it might one day be fully realised.

In John’s gospel, Jesus’ death is also his being lifted up in glory. The moment of his death becomes the moment of drawing “all” to himself. The “all” includes all people, but is not restricted to the human community. It also allows for an ecological interpretation: in his death and exaltation, Jesus gathers the whole Earth community to himself and into the mystery of God’s redemptive and transforming love. ***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)**

**‘PARISH SECRETARY’**

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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**

**5th Sunday of Lent Year B**

**March 18th 2018**

***Gospel Acclamation***

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

***Responsorial Psalm***

**Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

***Entrance Antiphon***

**Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.**

***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 17 & 18th March | | | |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm | Sunday 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  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  LINEN Jo Little | Group 4: The Dobbie Family | | |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 24th & 25th March | | | |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | | 10am |
| Acolyte | Anne Huebner | | Mark Hogan |
| Reader | School Mass | | Rodney Little |
| Commentator | School Mass | | Jo Little |
| Children’s Liturgy | ---------- | | Fran Butler |
| Musicians | Anna Quinn | | Patricia & Monica |
| Altar Servers | Xavier Henderson & Riley Hotham | | Jude Moreno & Hunter Styles |
| Church Care | --------------------------------------- | | |

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

R O S T E R S

**As the family goes, so goes the nation, and so goes the whole world in which we live. (Pope Saint John Paul 11)**

**FEAST DAY**

***19th March: Saint Joseph***

**~PARISH NEWS~**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be held in the Chapel during Lent on Friday evenings at 6pm. **2nd RIGHT OF RECONCILIATION** in preparation for Easter will be held on Thursday 22nd March at 6pm in the church. **CHRISM MASS** Join the Archbishop and the clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 26th March at 7.30pm in St. Christopher’s Catherdal, Forrest for this most important Holy Week ceremony. It is this Mass that the Holy Oils used in the various Sacramental Rites of the church, are blessed and consecrated. everyone is most welcome.  **CHILDREN’S LITURGY Reminder** could the volunteer rostered please be present and let Fr. Sijo or Fr. George know they are available. **SPECIAL THANKS** to our faithful Altar Servers this weekend **~ Gabbi & Maggi ~ HOLY WEEK MASS TIMES: Holy Thursday - 7pm Good Friday** - **3pm** **Easter Vigil** - **7pm**  **Easter Sunday - 10am**

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

**MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Malcom & John Salmon, 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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