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

 Today’s gospel reading falls into two sections. The first section comprises a statement from the prologue of John’s gospel and the second revolves around a question that has already been answered in the prologue. In other words, the reader knows the answer to the question posed by the characters in the second section. The prologue presents John the baptizer as “a man sent from God”. He is not “the light”; he is rather a “witness” whose role is to testify to “the light”. The true light [Jesus] was “coming into the world”. As we proclaim Jesus as “the light”, we might take time to appreciate the wonder and the properties of the material reality that informs this metaphor.

In the face of less than friendly questioning, John the baptizer responds simply and honestly to questions about his identity. The questions are relentless and John’s responses are unambiguous. He is not the Messiah, the Anointed of God. He is not the prophet Elijah that some identified with God’s messenger of Malachi 3:1-3 who would return and restore the “descendants of Levi” He is not the prophet-like-Moses of Deuteronomy 15. He states his identity with reference to the words of the prophet Isaiah: he is the voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting God’s people to prepare the way for God’s advent, God’s coming.

John knows who he is. He understands the parameters of his mission and he points his questioners in the direction of the truth. His role is a pivotal one in the story of God’s saving action. His story is also pivotal in the unfolding of the drama of the fourth gospel. It is worth asking how we might answer the question that the priests and Levites put to John on behalf of the Jerusalem “Jews”: “Who are you?” If we can honestly answer that question, if we can admit who we are with all our strengths and weaknesses, if we can know our place in the scheme of things and own it in all humility, then we are probably in a good position to recognise and, like John, witness to the “one who is coming”, the light of the world, the revelation of God.

A caution is in order regarding this gospel reading: we must remember that not only the opponents of Jesus but most of the actors in the gospel drama, including Jesus, are Jewish. The group of characters specifically named in the narrative as “the Jews” includes some influential members of the Jewish religious leadership, but cannot be identified with them because it comprises a more extensive group who are consistently in conflict with Jesus. ***An excerpt by Sr. Veronica Lawson***

***Sr.Veronica Lawson***

***Immaculate Conception Parish***

P O BOX 600 Tumut

Catholic Community

***An excerpt by Sr. Veronica Lawson***

**‘CLERGY’**

* **Fr. Sijo Jose (Parish Priest)**
* **Fr. Luke Verrell (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**

**Wednesday: 10am**

**Thursday & Friday: 8am**

**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)**

 **In remission until 31st January 2018**

  **‘CONTACTS’**

 **Care Group: Anne Huebner 69473406**

**3rd Sunday of Advent Year B**

 **December 17th 2017**

 ***Entrance Antiphon***

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.**

***Responsorial Psalm***

**My soul rejoices in my God.**

***Gospel Acclamation***

**Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to being Good News to the poor. Alleluia!**

 ***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 16th & 17th December   |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm |  Sunday 10am |
| Acolyte |  Tony Butler |  Barry Madigan |
| Reader |  Evelyn Heffernan |  Monica Webb |
| Commentator |  Shirley Kenny  |  John Power |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Fran Butler |
| Musicians |  Maureen Norman  |  Anna Quinn |
| Altar Servers | Darcy Halloran & Charlotte Kelly | Xavier Henderson & Riley Hotham |
| Church Care\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_LINEN Bev Piper |  --------------------------------------- |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 23rd & 24th December  |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | 10am |
| Acolyte |  Peter Malone  |  Anne Huebner |
| Reader |  Trish Matthews |  Kathy Shanahan |
| Commentator |  Maureen Cook |  Cathy Purcell |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  ----------- |
| Musicians |  Anna Quinn |  Patricia & Monica  |
| Altar Servers |  Chloe Turnbull & Lily Webb | Jude Moreno & Hunter Styles |
| Church Care |  Group 3: Yvonne, Lee, Mary, Colleen & Kath |

 Feast Day**Wishing all our wonderful dads a Happy Father’s**

 R O S T E R S

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU to our McAuley Year 10 students who this week gave our church a ‘spring clean’. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated by our parish and we wish you well in your future endeavours.**

There is hunger for ordinary bread, and there is hunger for love, for kindness, for thoughtfulness; and this is the great poverty that makes people suffer so much. **Mother Teresa**

 **~PARISH NEWS~**

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES Tumut** - Christmas Eve (outdoor) 7pm, Christmas Day 10am, **Talbingo** - Christmas Day 8am. **FR. LUKE’S FARWELL** to show our appreciation and wish Fr. Luke wellwe will be taking a collection at both Masses this weekend. A farwell cup of tea will be organised after the Vigil Mass on Saturday 23rd December and the morning Mass on Sunday 24th December. Could ladies please bring a plate to share.  **PARISH TOILETS** due to vandalism and other issues our toilets will be locked and only opened when parish Masses are scheduled. We apologise for anyinconvenience this may cause.Acolytes will open andclose these facilities, the key will be kept in the Vestry. **SINGING PRACTICE** Mondays at 5pm in preparation for Christmas Eve Mass. All welcome to make this a happy and prayerful event. **ENTRANCE CHURCH WORKS** have or will be completed:- removal of tree, old path garden edging and soil. New path, edging and grass. New church sign. Church fundraising and Ball Committee to cover these costs. **CATHOLIC VOICE** December edition now available.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED: BRUCE GRAHAM**

 **MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Tom & Merle Arentz, Harriet & Ruben Arentz, Kevin & Nola Arentz, Dulcie & Arthur Piper, Marie & Ray Cowan, Kevin Cowan, Kevin Hawthorne, Brian Muir, Jack Sunners, Joseph & Maureen Hetherington, 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, Margaret Peel, 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, Robert Longford, 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, Margaret McMahon, Veronica Tiernan, Mollie Fuller, Joan Malone, Ken & Brian Gee & family members, Rudi & Filomena Comai, Marallo & Comai families, Celia Mullaly, Jim McInerney, Kath Stuckey, Gus & Kath Clout, Ab & Mildred Shanahan, Ina Clout, Timothy Blakeney, Madelin Fenn, John Bush, Jan Salan, Chris Ballard, Maude Kelly, Norma Leyden, Reg Millgate, Lois Shallow, Helen Corbett, Frank, Eileen & Marie Malone, Edward, Marcy & Clem Malone, Frank Stanfield, John Callister, Joan Stockwell, Pauline Shedden, John Hourigan, Tom & Dorothy French.

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