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|  **~ GOSPEL REFLECTION ~*****Immaculate Conception Parish*** P O BOX 600 Tumut Catholic Community Collection amounts for January 2016 ~PARISH NEWS~ ~ PARISH NEWS ~ |

The emergence of a common enemy is often the catalyst for sworn enemies to unite. In first century Palestine, Pharisees who were the respected religious teachers of the law and Herodians who represented secular Jewish power and wealth despised each other on both religious and political grounds. When both were faced with a perceived threat to their authority, however, they united in opposition. Their “opponent” in that context was Jesus of Nazareth. No good was to come of their alliance. They come together and try to set a trap for him. In attempting to set him up, they ironically pay him the greatest of tributes: addressing him as “teacher”, they acknowledge his sincerity and admit that he teaches the way of God in accordance with the truth. They witness to his lack of concern with status and hierarchical division.

The question of these traditional enemies is intended to put Jesus in a “no win” position: “Is it lawful to pay tribute to the emperor or not?” Jesus turns the question back upon them. He lets them know that he is aware of their malicious intentions and asks them to produce the coin used for the tax. He thus makes the issue one of images, a sensitive issue for all Jews, rather than of tribute. The Roman denarius that they produce bears the bust of the Roman emperor and the Latin inscription, “Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus, High Priest”.

Jesus’ response, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God”, can be interpreted in several ways. Is Jesus simply exposing their hypocrisy as bearers of images? From a Jewish perspective, everything belongs to God, the earth and all its riches. The disciples of the Pharisees and the Herodians are Jews, even if the sympathies of the latter lean towards the Roman occupiers. Is he telling them to pay the tax while still recognising God’s prior claim? Is he telling them not to pay the tax precisely because the emperor has no claim on what belongs to God? Is he critiquing the Roman occupation or legitimizing it? Or is he saying something else? They are left to interpret his response as they wish. One thing is clear: Jesus’ words have nothing to do with the modern distinction between Church and secular state. There are good reasons for paying taxes in a secular state and for contributing financially to the life of the Church. It is quite anachronistic to invoke this text in support of paying state taxes or of supporting the Church financially. The story is more about sincerity and truth in our relationships with each other and with the God of all truth. That must be the main criterion for any personal or global alliance, military or otherwise. ***An excerpt by Sr. Veronica Lawson***



**‘CLERGY’**

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

**‘PARISH SECRETARY’**

 **Anna Quinn**

**Phone: 02 69474599**

**Fax: 02 69474602**

 Email: tumut@cg.org.au

 Web: www.cg.org.au/tumut

Office hours: Wednesday & Friday 9am -12noon

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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 (School Mass)**

**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)**

 **Wednesday: 2pm in Chapel**

  **‘CONTACTS’**

 **Care Group: Anne Huebner 0406490415**

 **29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

 **Year A**

 **October 22nd 2017**

 ***Entrance Antiphon***

**To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.**

***Responsorial Psalm***

**Give the Lord glory and honour.**

***Gospel Acclamation***

**Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. 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 21st & 22nd October   |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm |  Sunday 10am |
| Acolyte |  Trish Matthews |  Peter Malone |
| Reader |  Carmel Butler |  Barry Madigan |
| Commentator |  Shirley Kenny |  Cathy Purcell |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Fran Butler |
| Musicians |  Maureen Norman  |  Patricia & Monica |
| Altar Servers |  New Servers |  Jessica & Emily Kelly |
| Church Care\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_LINEN Bev Piper | Group 3: Yvonne, Lee, Mary, Colleen & Kath |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 28th & 29th October  |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | 10am |
| Acolyte |  John Hickson  |  Anne Huebner |
| Reader |  To be advised |  Liz Boxall |
| Commentator |  To be advised |  Mary Kelly |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Caitlin Larter |
| Musicians |  Anna Quinn |  Maureen Norman  |
| Altar Servers | Xavier Henderson & Riley Hotham | Abby Crampton & Olivia Dean |
| Church Care | Group 4: The Dobbie Family  |

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

 R O S T E R S

 **FEAST DAY 28th October: Saints Simon and Jude**

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

 **MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Celia Mullaly, Natalie Baker, Sr. Mary Jo Wells, Sr. Lorna Woodroff, Jim McInerney, Kath Stuckey, Gus & Kath Clout, Ab & Mildred Shanahan, Ina Clout, Timothy Blakeney, Madeling Fenn, Jan Salan, Chris Ballard, Maude Kelly, Hector, Annie & Kevin Turner, Russell & Peter Ritchie, Norma Leyden, Russell Breward, Maria & Hans Van de Brug, Reg Millgate, Joan Liddell, Lois Shallow, Helen Corbett, Frank, Eileen & Marie Malone, Edward, Marcy & Clem Malone, Frank Stanfield, John Callister, Imelda, Bede & Francis McInerney, Teresa Butler, Joan Stockwell, Emmet Donovan, Rudi & Filomena Comai, Hassel McGrath, Noel Cook, Leo & Elvie Holt, Lionel & Tereasa Holt, Hugh Oliver, Pat Malone, Jim Whitaker, Matt & Edith Downing, Con & Ennis Twomey, Pauline Shedden, Bob & Sheila Wortes, Robert & Gertrude Tuncks, Ron & Pauline Hamilton, John Hourigan, Tom & Dorothy French and James Kelly.

**SAVE THE DATE Special Mass for the deceased will be celebrated on Friday 10th November at 6pm.**

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**CAUTION: work will begin soon with the laying of pavers outside front of church.**

 **~PARISH NEWS~**

**CLERGY APPOINTMENT** Archbishop Christopher Prowse has made the following parish appointments from Monday 1st January 2018 – Fr. Luke Verrell has been assigned to Bega and Fr. George Ogah will commence duties here in Tumut. **CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL** will be conducted inour parish this weekend. Money donated to this appeal will help fund St. Luke’s Health Centre in Uganda where an ambulance is urgently needed to transport new mothers and babies to the Health Centre.Please give generously. **CATHOLIC VOICE** October edition is now available. **SONGS OF PRAISE** will be hosted by the Tumut Valley Community Church on Sunday 29th October 2017 at 7pm. We invite people interested in being part of our catholic choir group to join us for practice each Tuesday afternoon in October at 5.15pm in the Parish Chapel. **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL** is a national gathering of 15,000 Catholic young people established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The Archdiocese of Sydney is hosting the Festival fromDecember7th to 9th 2017.The festival will launch the National Year of Youth, celebrating ten years on from hosting World Youth Day 2008. The Archdiocese is encouraging schools, and parishes to participate. For more information and registrationwww.cgyouthministry.org.au/acyf **MANY THANKS** to our faithful commentator this weekend **~ Cathy Purcell ~**

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