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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 ~ |

Many of those who once looked through the barbed-wire fences of Australia’s detention centres carry personal stories of fear of persecution. One such story, the story of Najaf Mazari, is beautifully narrated by Najaf and Robert Hillman in their joint work, *The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif.* Najaf is an Afghani Hazara who suffered persecution and torture at the hands of the Taliban. He escaped to Australia via Indonesia in 2002. After some time in detention, he established a rug making business in suburban Melbourne. He was reunited with his wife Hakeema and daughter Maria in 2008 and became an Australian citizen in June 2014.

Some of the first century Christian groups, including Matthew’s community, were a bit like the Afghani Hazaras and Syrian or Iraqi Christians in that they are persecuted simply on account of who they are vis à vis those who seek exclusive political and cultural power. They have every reason to fear bodily harm and even death, as did Jesus and his followers. The scene at Gethsemane suggests that Jesus himself experienced deep fear in the face of his impending suffering and political execution. Yet Jesus tells his disciples not to fear those who kill the body.

How are these words to be understood? To return to the story of Najif: the Taliban had power to destroy his body, but no power over his spirit. A man of deep faith, supported by a family who sacrificed their own comfort and placed their trust in God (Allah), he survived against the most incredible odds. Even if he had died in the effort to find freedom, his faith in the fullness of life with God and the witness of his courage would remain, in stark contrast with the bullying power of the Taliban who could kill the body but not an indomitable spirit.

Trust in God is at the heart of Jesus’ response to suffering. The disciples are sent out on mission. They are to proclaim in the marketplace or from the “housetops” the gospel they have received in the security of the household. They can expect rejection and humiliation. They are not to be deterred from their mission. Above all, they are not to give up the struggle or capitulate in the face of persecution. Like all God’s creatures, they are precious in God’s eyes and will not be abandoned. On the contrary, Jesus will “acknowledge” them before God “in heaven”. Trust in the author and sustainer of life is the appropriate response to suffering endured for the sake of God’s empire.

*An excerpt by Veronica Lawson RSM*



**‘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**

**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: 2pm in Chapel**

**‘PRAYER GROUP’ Wednesday: 2pm in Chapel**

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**‘CONTACTS’**

**Care Group: Anne Huebner 0269473406**

**12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**June 25th 2017**

***Responsorial Psalm***

***Lord, in your great love, answer me.***

***Entrance Antiphon***

***The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.***

***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!

***Gospel Acclamation***

***Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia!***

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| T THIS WEEK Saturday & Sunday 24th & 25th June | | | |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm | Sunday 10am | |
| Acolyte | Anne Huebner | Peter Malone | |
| Reader | School Mass | Sue Bulger | |
| Commentator | School Mass | Howard Young | |
| Children’s Liturgy | ---------- | Fran Butler | |
| Musicians | Anna Quinn | Patricia & Monica | |
| Altar Servers | New Servers | Jessica & Emily Kelly | |
| Church Care  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  LINEN Maria Cobden | Group 1. Claire, Anne Hickson, Maureen & Bev | | |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 1st & 2nd July | | | |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | | 10am |
| Acolyte | Cath Purcell | | Mark Hogan |
| Reader | Trish Matthews | | Cathy Shanahan |
| Commentator | Liz Boxall | | Patricia Wilks |
| Children’s Liturgy | ----------- | | -------------- |
| Musicians | Patricia & Monica | | Maureen Norman |
| Altar Servers | Jack Stewart & TBC | | Dana Perry & Jessie Raftery |
| Church Care | Group 2: Cathy, Anna, Pat, Cheryl & Rhonda | | |

R O S T E R S

FEAST DAYS 28th June: Saint Irenaeus 29th June: Saints Peter & Paul

PRAYER FOR THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Dear Jesus, I offer you my thoughts, words and actions of this day, for all the intentions of your most sacred heart. MAY THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS BE EVERYWHERE, KNOWN AND LOVED.

**~PARISH NEWS~**

**PLAN GIVING ENVELOPES** for the new financial year are ready for pick up. These can be collected from table in church foyer. Please note that envelope numbers have changed for most parishioners, therefore it would be much appreciated not to use your existing envelopes after 30th June. If there are any parishioners who would like to contribute to this plan and do not have envelopes, please contact the Presbytery. **STREET STALL CO-ORDINATOR** Tiffany Casey was delighted to accepted our offer to become our new Street Stall Co-ordinator. We sincerely thank Tiffany for her anticipation and much appreciated help. **SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL – WINTER APPEAL** envelopes are available in the church if you wish to contribute to this appeal. **CATHOLIC VOICE** please take your June edition. **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS** please take your copy of the Winter 2017 Parish Edition.  **MANY THANKS** to our faithful volunteer this weekend ~ SUE BULGER ~

**FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT** A Requiem Mass will be celebrated forTeresa Butler on Wednesday 28th June at 10am.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

**Teresa Butler**

**MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Pat Malone, Jim Whitaker, Matt & Edith Downing, Con & Ennis Twomey, Pauline Shedden, Bob & Sheila Wortes, Robert & Gertrude Tuncks, Ron & Pauline Hamilton, Noel Cook, Hassel McGrath, John Hourigan, Brian Gee, Filomena & Rudi Comai, Alan & Angela Guthrie, Artie & Dulcie Piper ,Tom Kevin Ruben & Harriett Arentz, Kevin Hawthorn, Kevin Marie & Ray Cowan, Russell & Peter Ritchie, Alfred & Bridget Claffey, John Marzol, Ken Gee, Frederick & Mabel McInerney, Ken Elliott, Jock Roberts, Ralph Klaus, Tom & Sam Sturt, Harvey Evans, Chris Ballard, Anna Do, Col Fuller, Emily Fuller, Linda Mulvihill, Stan Kenny, Gus & Kath Clout, Ina Clout, Ab & Mildred Shanahan, Leo Elvie Holt, Terease Lionel Holt, Hugh Oliver, Andrew Jansen, Imelda, Frank & Harriet McInerney, Mick Bristow, Keith Higgins, Kitch Shedden, Arch French, Tom & Dorothy French and James Kelly.

and James Kelly.

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