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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 ~ |

‘Be yourself. Everybody else is taken,’ sings Melinda Schneider. The lyrics of this lovely song, composed for Melinda’s dying father, affirm some fairly obvious truths. Even though we know that ‘everybody else is taken’, most of us spend much of our lives trying to measure up to other peoples’ expectations and fail to be truly ourselves. In our self-absorption, we can also misread others and fail to know them as they are. Being accepted as we are is among the most precious of gifts. Jesus knew this. He was utterly true to himself and he allowed others time to discover for themselves his real identity and the nature of his mission. If the mission was to succeed, then ‘people’ needed to look beyond their preconceptions about him and accept him as God’s anointed one, as son of the living God.

Jesus’ true identity is a key issue for Matthew’s community as it is for us. In the first verse of the gospel, he is presented as the anointed one of God, the Messiah or Christ. Before his birth, the reader knows him as ‘Emmanuel’, God with us. What the narrator asserts at the outset, certain characters in the story come to understand as the narrative unfolds. Jesus’ fearless teaching and his healing ministry bring the crowd to recognise him as a prophet in the tradition of Elijah or Jeremiah or John the Baptist, and as the incarnate Wisdom of God. The power of God at work in Peter leads him to a deeper understanding of Jesus’ identity. No matter that Peter has faltered in the past and will falter again, even to the point of denying any knowledge of or association with Jesus. He finally arrives at deep insight and proclaims his faith in Jesus as both Christ or Messiah and son of the living God. Insight is a gift, and God can work wherever there is openness and goodwill. Peter has both in abundance. He is declared ‘blessed’ on account of this gift of insight, and entrusted with the ‘keys’ of God’s kin-dom.

The specific power of binding and loosing that is given to Peter is subsequently given to the community of disciples (18:18) where the saying is framed on the one hand by instructions about dealing with transgressors and on the other by the assertion that where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, he is there in their midst. ‘Binding and loosing’ belongs to Peter and to all who gather in the name of Jesus whom Matthew presents as God-with-us, as prophet and Wisdom, as the Christ or Messiah, and as the son of the living God. The exercise of this power demands the same wisdom and insight as does the capacity to recognise and affirm the true identity of Jesus. ***An excerpt by Sister Veronica Lawson***



**‘CLERGY’**

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

**‘PARISH SECRETARY’**

 **Anna Quinn**

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**‘WEEKEND MASS TIMES’**

 **Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm**

 **Sunday: 10am (Children’s Liturgy)**

 **‘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**

***Gospel Acclamation***

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

***Responsorial Psalm***

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

 ***Entrance Antiphon***

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

 ***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!

 **21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

 **Year A**

 **August 27th 2017**

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| T THIS WEEK Saturday & Sunday 26th & 27th August   |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm |  Sunday 10am |
| Acolyte |  Peter Malone |  Anne Huebner |
| Reader |  First Eucharist |  Kath Rosetta |
| Commentator |  First Eucharist |  Trish Matthews |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Pat Spannagle |
| Musicians |  Anna Quinn  |  Patricia & Monica |
| Altar Servers | Darcy Halloran & Charlotte Kelly | Ashleigh Oriel & Kayla Crane |
| Church Care\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_LINEN Marie Ambrose | Group 5: Sandra, Maria & Margaret Dean |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 2nd & 3rd September  |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | 10am |
| Acolyte |  Tony Butler |  Trish Matthews |
| Reader |  Rick Hargreaves |  Mark Hogan |
| Commentator |  Mary Kelly  |  Patricia Wilks |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Kerrin Henderson |
| Musicians |  Patricia & Monica |  Maureen Norman |
| Altar Servers | Xavier Henderson & Riley Hotham | Jessie Raftery & Dana Parry |
| Church Care | Group 1: Claire, Anne Hickson, Maureen & Bev  |

 Feast Day

 R O S T E R S

 Feast Days

 28th August: Saint Augustine 29th August: Passion of Saint John the Baptist  **~** **~** **~**

 FATHERS DAY APPEAL – next Sunday 2nd & 3rd September 2017

 **~PARISH NEWS~**  **SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST** we congratulate the candidates who are receiving this special sacrament at the Vigil Mass this weekend. **PARISH STREET STALL** results Wood - Lyn Withers and Kerry Gilchrist, Shopping voucher - Judith Kingwell, Fruit & Vege - Mick Rankin, a record amount of $3266.05 was raised. Thank you to our generous community. **PREPARATION FOR 1st RECONCILIATION** will take place Thursday 14th September, there will be a retreat day Thursday 7th September and a parent/child information evening on Saturday 9th September at 5pm in the church before the Vigil Mass. Enquiries to Anita.Mason@cg.catholic.edu.au **PASTORAL STATEMENT from Archbishop Christopher Prowse** detailing two significant public issues concerning the church. Please take a copy to read, There is also an interesting flyer on the notice board relating to one of these issues. **PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT January to June 2017** is available for parishioners to view. Please take a copy. For any further questions contact Mark Hogan on 0417020370 or Christine Kelly. **COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES** Fr. George Hogarty will be visiting and speaking at our 10am Mass next Sunday 3rd September 2017 to promote subscriptions to ‘The Far East’ Magazine. Fr. George has recently returned from Peru where he was parish priest in one of the poorest areas for 8 years. **SPECIAL THANKS** to the Falling Leaf Fruit Shop for your continuous support.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED: Sam Hardwick**

 **MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

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, 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, Brian Gee, Alan & Angela Guthrie, Artie & Dulcie Piper, Tom, Kevin, Ruben & Harriett Arentz, Kevin Hawthorn, Kevin, Marie & Ray Cowan, Russell & Peter Ritchie, Alfred & Bridget Claffey, Ken Gee, Frederick & Mabel McInerney, Tom & Sam Sturt, Anna Do, Stan Kenny, Tom & Dorothy French and James Kelly.

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