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

 The first verse of Mark’s gospel evokes the opening words of Genesis and thus situates the saving presence of Jesus in relation to the creation of earth and of all earth beings. The whole of Mark’s story of Jesus is presented as a beginning. It is the beginning of a faith journey into which the listener/reader is invited. In some manuscripts of the Greek text, there are only five words in this verse, seven in other manuscripts, and twelve in our English translation. The term gospel (*euangelion*) means good news. It referred originally to the news of victory delivered by a messenger, usually in time of war. The good news in this context is about Jesus, a name meaning “Yahweh saves”. The reader learns that this Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, Israel’s longed for Messiah. The actors within the story have to discover this truth as the drama unfolds. The two additional words present Jesus as “son of God”, or as one having the characteristics of God.

John the Baptizer is identified as the messenger who proclaims the need to prepare the way for the arrival of a new Presence in our world. Mark creates the impression that something big is happening here. John draws massive crowds from city and country alike. They come to him in the wilderness, the home of the other-than-human, of diverse forms of life. At a metaphorical level, wilderness recalls Israel’s experience in the Sinai desert. It is the place of testing and of new beginnings for God’s people, the place of God’s coming or God’s “advent” to Israel. Jesus will be impelled by the Spirit into the wilderness where he will pass the tests that Israel failed. This reading invites us to prepare for God’s advent by ritualising *metanoia* (usually translated as “repentance”), and thus being ready for the one who comes. The translation “repentance” does not convey the nuances of the Greek term *metanoia* which literally means a “change of mind” and suggests an “expansion of horizons”. God’s advent demands a new mindset that will predispose us to receive the gift of God’s forgiveness and be open to feel the pain of earth as well as the pain of those rendered poor. Mark’s depiction of John evokes the image of the prophet Elijah in 2 Kings 8 and the “hairy mantle” of the prophet in Zechariah 13:4. John is a prophet who, like the prophets of old, calls God’s people to reconsider where they stand in relation to God. He is also the one who heralds the advent of the “stronger” one who will baptize “with the Holy Spirit”. And yet there is nothing in the subsequent narrative about Jesus baptizing.

***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’**

 **Anna Quinn**

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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**

**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 69473406**

**2nd Sunday of Advent Year B**

 **December 10th 2017**

***Responsorial Psalm***

**Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

***Gospel Acclamation***

**Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths; all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!**

 ***Entrance Antiphon***

**O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.**

 ***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 9th & 10th December   |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm |  Sunday 10am |
| Acolyte |  Anita Mason |  Trish Matthews |
| Reader |  Dobbie Family |  Sue Bulger |
| Commentator |  Dobbie Family  |  Pat Spannagle |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Kerrin Henderson |
| Musicians |  Maureen Norman  |  Patricia & Monica |
| Altar Servers | Annabelle Sturgess & Genevieve Mason-Elliott |  New servers |
| Church Care\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_LINEN Marie Ambrose | Group 2: Anna Pat & Sophie Erzay |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 16th & 17th December  |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | 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 |  -------------------------------------- |

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

 R O S T E R S

 **Feast Days:**

 **13th December: Saint Lucy 14th December: Saint John of the Cross**

 **COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR NOVEMBER 2017**

 **1st $2956.70 2nd $2200.90D/D $1620.00**

 **~PARISH NEWS~**

**2nd RITE OF RECONCILIATION** in preparation for Christmas will be held in the church this Wednesday 13th December 2017 at 6pm. **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 on the weekend of the 16th and 17th December. 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.  **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. **FINANCE REPORT** a financial parish report to the end of September 2017 is available for parishioners to take and rea d. **SPECIAL THANKS** to our Linen Lady this weekend **MARIE** **AMBROSE**

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

 **MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

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, Jan Salan, Chris Ballard, Maude Kelly, Norma Leyden, Reg Millgate, Lois Shallow, Helen Corbett, Frank, Eileen & Marie Malone, Edward, Marcy & Clem Malone, Hugh Oliver, Pat Malone, Matt & Edith Downing, Frank Stanfield, John Callister, Joan Stockwell, Pauline Shedden, John Hourigan, Tom & Dorothy French.

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