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

A personal call to a particular a way of life is not always easy to explain, even to oneself. At my religious profession, I chose the challenging motto “To give without counting the cost”. I have taken that motto seriously, even if I have often wanted to change it. Today’s liturgy calls me back to what that commitment entails: I have come to realise that, in a very real sense, it encapsulates the gospel call to all the baptised.

The first reading describes a prophetic call, the “call” of the young Samuel who is to become a prophet of great stature within Israel. The story insists that it is God who takes the initiative, while Samuel hears God’s call. Initially Samuel hears the word of God, but needs an interpreter to understand the import of God’s word to him. Eli acts as interpreter and guide, so that Samuel can respond with confidence and faith and grow up to speak God’s word to the people.

The gospel focuses on the “call” to discipleship, a call that is addresses to every baptised Christian. The opening scene depicts John the Baptist with two of his disciples. John actually points the two disciples away from himself and towards Jesus whom he identifies as “the lamb of God”.

What does it mean to call Jesus “God’s lamb”? Does the expression refer to the *Passover lamb* whose blood signifies deliverance? Is it a reference to the *Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53* who takes on the sins of the many? Is it an image of *the lamb that God provides for Abraham’s sacrifice* (Genesis 22)? Is it *the apocalyptic lamb* of Jewish literature of the time, the powerful conquering lamb that destroys evil in the world? Is it intended to suggest vulnerability as in the prophecy of Jeremiah 11:19 (“I was like *a gentle lamb led to the slaughter”)*.

There is never a simple explanation for the symbolism in John’s gospel. There can be many levels of meaning at the one time. The symbol of strength in vulnerability certainly has potential for understanding who Jesus is in this gospel. John 1:29 tells us that the Lamb of God “takes away” the sinful condition of the world. Twenty-one centuries down the track there is still violence and hunger and exploitation of planetary resources on a massive scale. The work of the one strong enough to risk vulnerability so that others may have life, the work of God’s Lamb, is also the work of disciples. It is the way of those who hear God’s call and choose to walk the way of God’s Lamb, in openness and love for God’s people. ***An excerpt by Sr. Veronica Lawson***



***Immaculate Conception Parish***

P O BOX 600 Tumut

Catholic Community

**‘CLERGY’**

* **Fr. Sijo Jose (Parish Priest)**
* **Fr. George Ogah (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**

**Talbingo Sunday: 8.00am**

**‘THIS WEEKS MASS TIMES’**

**Tuesday: 6pm in Chapel**

**Wednesday: 10am**

**Thursday & Friday: 8am in Chapel**

**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**

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**January 14th 2018**

***Responsorial Psalm***

**Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

***Entrance Antiphon***

**All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!**

***Gospel Acclamation***

**Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace. 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 13th & 14th January | | | |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm | Sunday 10am | |
| Acolyte | Barry Madigan | Dave Shedden | |
| Reader | Carmel Butler | Pat Spannagle | |
| Commentator | Shirley Kenny | Cath Purcell | |
| Children’s Liturgy | ----------- | ----------- | |
| Musicians | Maureen Norman | Patricia & Monica | |
| Altar Servers | Xavier Henderson & Riley Hotham | Chloe Turnbull & Lily Webb | |
| Church Care  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  LINEN Bev Piper | ------------------------------------- | | |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 20th & 21st January | | | |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | | 10am |
| Acolyte | Tony Butler | | Anita Mason |
| Reader | Monica Webb | | Barry Madigan |
| Commentator | Patricia Wilks | | Howard Young |
| Children’s Liturgy | ----------- | | ----------- |
| Musicians | Maureen Norman | | Anna Quinn |
| Altar Servers | Jessie Raftery & Dana Parry | | Jude Moreno & Hunter Styles |
| Church Care | Group 5: Sandra, Maria & Margaret Dean | | |

Feast Day**Wishing all our wonderful dads a Happy \**

R O S T E R S

**FEAST DAY**

**17th January: Saint Anthony**

**Our teaching on marriage and the family cannot fail to be inspired by the message of love and tenderness. (Pope Francis)**

**SPECIAL THANKS** this weekend to our faithful volunteer **~ Carmel Butler ~**

**~PARISH NEWS~**

**BAPTISM TIMES FOR 2018** will be conducted on the 1st and 2nd Saturdays of each month at 11am. if a Sunday ceremony is requested on on these weekends mentioned during the 10am Mass, families need to be at the church at 9.45am. Please book your Baptisms early to avoid dissapointment.  **LOST** Mother of Pearl rosary beads in a small black leather pouch, left in the church prior to Christmas. The word ‘Judith’ is engraved on the back of the crucifix. If found please leave at the parish house or phone 69471503. **BAPTISM** we welcome into our community this weekend Gracie Louise Grayland daughter of Adam and Lisa. We pray for all baptism families. **SAVE THE DATE** Catholic Debutante Ball will be held on Saturday 5th May 2018, young ladies interested in making their debut at this years ball are asked to attend a meeting in Saint Mary’s Hall on Friday 2nd February 2018 at 7pm with their partners , parents/guardian. Debutantes and partners MUST be 16 years of age or over and completed Year 10 before day of the ball.

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

**MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Peter Heffernan, Tim & Amy Twomey, Barbara Fuller, Tom & Merle Arentz, Harriet & Ruben Arentz, Kevin & Nola Arentz, Dulcie & Arthur Piper, Marie & Ray Cowan, Kevin Cowan, Kevin Hawthorne, Marie Quinn, 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, 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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