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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 God who takes the initiative while Samuel hears God’s call. Initially Samuel hears the word of God, but needs an interpreter in order to understand the import of God’s word to him. Eli acts as inter-preter 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 re-sources 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 al-so the work of disciples. It is the way of those who hear God’s call and choose to walk the way of Jesus of Nazareth, in openness and love for God’s people. The call to discipleship is a call to pour out one’s lifeblood for the sake of the gospel, “to give without counting the cost”. ***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

-------------------------------------------------------- **‘WEEKEND MASS TIMES’**

**Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm**

**Sunday: 10am (children’s liturgy)**

**Talbingo Sunday: 8.00am**

**‘THIS WEEKS MASS TIMES’**

**Tuesday: 6pm in Chapel**

**Wednesday: 10am School Mass**

**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)**

**Wednesday: 2.00pm in Chapel**

**‘CONTACTS’**

**Care Group: Anne Huebner 69473406**

**2nd Sunday of Lent Year B**

**February 25th 2018**

***Gospel Acclamation***

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father’s voice is heard; this is my beloved son, hear him. Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

***Responsorial Psalm***

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**

***Entrance Antiphon***

**Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.**

***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 24th & 25th February | | | |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm | Sunday 10am | |
| Acolyte | Peter Malone | Sue Bulger | |
| Reader | School Mass | Mark Hogan | |
| Commentator | School Mass | Pat Spannagle | |
| Children’s Liturgy | ---------- | Fran Butler | |
| Musicians | Anna Quinn | Patricia & Monica | |
| Altar Servers | Jessica & Emily Kelly | Gabbi & Maggi Dallisay | |
| Church Care  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  LINEN Maria Cobden | ---------------------------------- | | |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 3rd & 4th March | | | |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | | 10am |
| Acolyte | Anita Mason | | Mark Hogan |
| Reader | Evelyn Heffernan | | Kath Rosetta |
| Commentator | Shirley Kenny | | Mary Kelly |
| Children’s Liturgy | ---------- | | Caitlin Larter |
| Musicians | Patricia & Monica | | Maureen Norman |
| Altar Servers | Annabelle Sturgess & Genevieve Mason-Elliott | | Xavier Henderson & Riley Hotham |
| Church Care | Group 3: Yvonne, Lee, Mary Colleen & Kath | | |

Feast Day**Wishing all our wonderful dads a Happy In marriage, The Family is the greatest trerasure of any country. Let us all work The family is the greatest treasure of any country. Let us all work to protect and strengthen this, the cornerstone of society. (Pope Francis)**

R O S T E R S

**World Day of Prayer – Our catholic parish will be hosting this event next Friday 2nd March at 7pm in the church followed by supper, could ladies please bring a plate to share.**

**~PARISH NEWS~**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be held in the Chapel during Lent starting Friday 23rd February at 6pm. **PROJECT COMPASSION** **BOXES** are available for parishioners to take home.  **ARCHDIOCESAN LENTEN RESOURCE Good News in Tough times DVD** is availabe to order from the bookshop on 0262399888 or online: www.faithresources.org.au **CHILDREN’S LITURGY** has resumed during the 10am Mass, could the volunteer rostered please be present and let Fr. Sijo or Fr. George know they are available. **ST. PATRICK’S DAY LUNCHEON** will be held in St’ Mary’s Hall on Saturday 17th March 2018 at 12 for 12.30pm. All parishioners are invited to attend, entertainment will also be provided. If anyone can help before or on the day, please write your name and contact on the sheet in church foyer this week. **SAVE THE DATE** visiting Choir from the Catholic Parish of Hall, Canberra will be singing at our weekend Mass on Sunday 29th April. **MANY THANKS** this weekend to our new Acolyte **~ Sue Bulger ~**

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

**MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Winifred Whitacker, Edward,Mary & Clem Malone, Pat Malone, Hickson & O’Sullivan families, Colleen Anderson, Reg & Mary Madigan, Matt Downing, Wilkinson & Downing families, Frank Stanfield, 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, 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, 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, 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, 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, Chris Ballard, Maude Kelly, Lois Shallow, Frank, Eileen & Marie Malone, John Callister, Joan Stockwell, Pauline Shedden, John Hourigan, Tom & Dorothy French.

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