

# ST MARY'S PARISH SWAN HILL BULLETIN

**Priest:** Fr. Marcello Colasante PP

**Parish Secretary:** Glenda Klabbers

**Presbytery:** Nola O'Bree

**Parish Council Chair:** Michelle Haeusler

**St Mary's School Principal:** Greg Lane

**St Mary MacKillop Principal:** Michelle Haeusler

**Parish Office: Thursday** 10.00 am — 2.00 pm

**Friday** 10.00 am — 2.00 pm



21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Year B

23rd August 2015

**Presbytery:** 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585

**Phone:** 50324144 **Fax:** 50324989

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The Parish of Swan Hill comprises the Church Communities of: St Marys Swan Hill, St Joseph's Nyah West, St Joseph's Lake Boga

## Mass Next Weekend:

Vigil	<b>6.30 pm</b>	Swan Hill
Sunday	8.30am	Nyah West
	10.30 am	Swan Hill

## Mass This Week

Tuesday:	5.30 pm
Wednesday	10.00 am
Thursday:	10.00 am
Friday:	11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	12.00 noon

## Mass Intentions

Tuesday	Rosa Degregorio
Thursday	Vince Morris
Friday	Kathleen, Reginald & Adam Wallace

## Recently Deceased: We commend to God:

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Vince Morris, John Curran, Salva Marotta, Dan Grabau, Julie Foott, Barry Kelly, George Egan, Doss Pearson, Bryan Grumley, Alice McTaggart, Rosa Degregorio, Frank Bonanno.

**Prayers for the Sick:** Moira Higgins, Loma Kennedy, Erin Coburn, Rosa Milazzo, Brooke Kennedy, Brian Mulcahy, Ronald Duryea, Margaret Sinclair.,

**If you would like a sick person prayed for, please ask for their permission. After one month names will be deleted from the list unless otherwise advised.**

## FIRST READING *Jos 24:1-2. 15-18*

A reading from the book of Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The Word of the Lord

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9*

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal.

They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

## SECOND READING *Eph 5:21-32*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church. *The Word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *See Jn 6:63. 68*

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:** Today, we come to the climax of the discourse on Jesus as the Bread of Life: the Living Bread come down from Heaven. John has taken us through the Sign of the feeding of the five thousand - Jesus' exploration of what the Sign means - and now, the crunch comes - what is the response of the disciples to be?

For many, the response is simple: how could anyone accept such intolerable language? They have heard words that they do not understand - which, in fact, repel them. It simply is impossible to believe that Jesus is inviting them to eat his flesh and drink his blood and so, many of those who had followed Jesus up to this point now walk away. They have reached an obstacle which they cannot overcome.

It is not difficult to imagine the sadness as Jesus watched them leave - and his fear that he was to be completely abandoned. So, he turns to the Twelve apostles and asks them what they are going to do...

Peter speaks up for the whole group and answers a question with a question: who else can we go to? It is unlikely that the apostles understood Jesus' words any more than those who chose to leave but they discerned that there was a deeper truth in them than they could yet perceive. They accepted that their lack of understanding did not mean that the words were wrong - rather, they accepted that they would have to grow into their meaning.

In the meantime, they were prepared to put their trust in the person of Jesus. They had seen enough to sense that he is the Holy One of God and that, in him, they would somehow find eternal life.

From a reflection on the Gospel by Catherine McElhinney and Kathryn Turner

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**READINGS NEXT WEEK** 30th August  
Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27; Jas 1:18

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**STATE OF THE NATION**

<b>Presbytery Account:</b> (1st Basket) <i>(Support of Priests &amp; Bishop)</i>		<b>\$ 715.75</b>
<b>Parish Account:</b> (2nd Basket) <i>(Support of the Parish)</i>	<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$ 1,638.00</b>
	<b>Credit Card</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
	<b>Direct Debit</b>	<b>\$ 20.00</b>
	<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>\$ 126.55</b>
		<b>\$ 1,764.55</b>

**THANK YOU!**

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**ST MARY'S MINISTRIES 30th August 2015**

**Ministers of the Word:**

**6.30pm.** St Mary's School  
**10.30am.** St Mary's School

**Ministers of Communion:**

**6.30pm.** Margaret Derham, Teresa McRae, Dick & Rene Devereux  
**10.30am.** Judy Safe, Maria Aiello, Kath Hogan, Josie Renda, Elizabeth Milazzo, Yvonne Richardson.

**Music:** **6.30 pm.** St Mary's School  
**10.30am.** St Mary's School

**Presentation of Gifts:**

**6.30pm** St Mary's School  
**10.30am** St Mary's School

**Counters:** Dorothy Bishop, Helen Dean



**Josephite Associates** will hold a knitting day this Monday 24th August from 10.00 am in the Parish Centre. Raffles, lunch provided. All welcome

**St Mary's Bereavement Catering Group** will be having a meeting on Wednesday 2nd September at 2.00pm in the Parish Function Centre. All most welcome.

**CWL Cake and Produce Stall**, Fathers Day, Sunday 6th September after the 10.00 am Mass

**LOOKING FURTHER** Following the **Looking Forward** gatherings held around the Diocese in 2014, the next series is about to commence.

Parishes have all been invited to prepare for these gatherings which provide an opportunity for Parish Councils, Leadership Groups and Coordinating Teams to review their progress in relation to the goals set in Evangelisation and Improvement following the 2014 gatherings.

**Swan Hill Tuesday 15th September 7.00pm-9.00pm**

Attendance to this gathering is not limited to leadership groups. Other parishioners including the staff of both St Mary's Primary School and St Mary MacKillop College as well as parents are welcome to come.

**DANGEROUS FAITH** What is it like to be a Christian in the Middle East? Sponsored by Open Doors Australia on Wednesday 2nd September at 7.30pm. Swan Hill Church of Christ, The Grain Shed.

To simply have faith in Jesus can bring serious danger, and today, the existence of Christianity in parts of the Middle East is at risk like never before.

In Egypt, after some difficult years, there is hope for a better future, though this doesn't necessarily mean greater freedoms for the Church.

In Syria, Open Doors estimates that at least 25% of the Christian population has left the country since the beginning of the civil war in 2011.

And in Iraq, the recent actions of the self-proclaimed Islamic State have decimated historic Christian populations. Admission is free, an offering for the persecuted Church will be taken at the meeting.

**Retreat with Fr Brendan Murphy SBD** Fr Brendan Murphy SDB will conduct a Retreat at Nazareth House all day on Thursday and Friday and on Saturday morning, September 24, 25 and 26. He will ask us to consider, "Who are we, Where are we going, and How will we get there?" More details later. To register interest please contact Maureen van der Linden, ph. 0431 273 953 or email [mojo6163@hotmail.com](mailto:mojo6163@hotmail.com) Catholic Womens' League / Anima Education.

Pope Francis' Encyclical **Laudato Si': On the Care for Our Common Home** is a call for global action as well as an appeal for deep inner conversion. This week, we offer one of the Pope's suggestions, with the paragraph numbers to indicate its place in the Encyclical.

"Keep oceans and waterways clean and safe from pollutants; use biodegradable detergents at home and business." Pars 30, 174

**STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES** FOR THE NEXT YEAR ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION TODAY AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. Annual statements will be available in September.