

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



11th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year B
14th June 2015

Presbytery: 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585
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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:

Saturday **6.30 pm** Swan Hill
Sunday 10.30 am Swan Hill

Mass this Week:

Wednesday: 10.00am LWC
Thursday: 10.00 am
Friday: 12.00 noon
11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Intentions:

Thursday: Des O'Sullivan

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: William Davey, Sr Kathleen Mercovich

Anniversaries: We remember: Margaret Doran, Una Frazer, Fr Lyle Young, Margaret Jirik, Mavis O'Halloran, Leigh Ahearn, Margaret Templeton, Sarah O'Halloran, Noel Storer, Cecil Walsh, Gwynnivere Frazer,

Prayers for the Sick: Neil Newling, Brooke Kennedy, Brian Mulcahy, Erin Coburn, 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 Ez 17:22-24

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.

It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. see v.2

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night.

The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

SECOND READING 2 Cor 5:6-10 A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we

are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mk 4:26-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone. *The Gospel of the Lord*

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READINGS NEXT WEEK 21st June

Jb 38:1. 8-11 ; 2 Cor 5:14-17 ; Mk 4:35-41

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The first of the parables in today's gospel reading has no parallel in the other gospels. It compares God's kin-dom to a trusting sower who scatters the seed by day, sleeps by night, and simply observes the "earth produce of itself" until it is time to harvest the grain. The sower's actions of scattering, sleeping, rising, and going in with his sickle are paralleled by his "not-knowing how" the seed is transformed into grain. We may, in our times, have a more sophisticated understanding of the process of growth. We have no less reason to stand in awe at the wonder of it all.

In an era of urbanization, supermarket chains, and online shopping even for groceries, we can easily lose sight of the source of food and the miracle of food production. This little parable serves as a reminder of the goodness of the earth and of the God who sustains our planetary home. It inspires us to contemplate the myriad ways in which the earth speaks to us of God and God's empire or kin-dom. At another level, we might question how the sower's actions and attitudes provide an image of God's reign. Is it in the sower's trusting that all will be well while "not-knowing"? Is it in the observation that the grain is ripe for the harvest? Is it in the prompt action to bring in the harvest? Parables are meant to tease their hearers/readers. They remain open-ended and challenging.

The second parable is probably familiar to most of us as it appears in all three synoptic gospels. Matthew and Luke both parallel the mustard seed parable with a parable about a woman mixing yeast into flour. Mark, in contrast, juxtaposes his mustard seed parable with that of the trusting sower. Mustard seeds were tiny, although they were not the smallest of seeds and have never been known to become the largest of shrubs. The idea that God's reign provides shelter for the birds to make their nests is a challenging one at a time when so many species are becoming extinct precisely because their habitats are being destroyed by human activity.

Some scholars have pointed out that the mustard seed was a weed. To compare God's reign with a weed may have raised a smile or two. It would certainly have exercised the minds of Jesus' audience. Maybe Jesus' disciples were in need of encouragement even in the early stages of the Galilean ministry. Maybe the curious and hostile were in need of a reminder to take this movement seriously, for extraordinary things can come from the most inauspicious beginnings. Opposition to Jesus had surfaced at the outset. Mark's community may also have been experiencing opposition and feeling the need for the wisdom that comes from a carefully crafted and perfectly timed story.

Sr Veronica Lawson

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STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)		\$ 925.60
<i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>		
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	Envelopes	\$ 1,274.00
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>		
	Credit Card	\$ 695.00
	Direct Debit	\$ 731.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 139.50
		\$ 2,839.50

THANK YOU!

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ST MARY'S MINISTRIES 21st June 2015

Ministers of the Word:

6.30pm. Marilyn Foley, Mary Livingston

10.30am. Deanne Dacey

Ministers of Communion:

6.30pm. Margaret Derham, Teresa McRae, Dick & Rene Devereux

10.30am. Yvonne Richardson, Rona Bookham, Dorothy Bishop, Raelene O'Halloran, Margaret Foott.

Music: 6.30 pm. Joe Taverna

10.30am. John Farrell

Presentation of Gifts:

6.30pm Kerry Hoare & Family

10.30am Jim & Helen Meehan

Counters: Chris & Margaret Hoare

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"Peace in society cannot be understood as pacification or the mere absence of violence resulting from the domination of one part of society over others. Nor does true peace act as a pretext for justifying a social structure which silences or appeases the poor, so that the more affluent can placidly support their lifestyle while others have to make do as they can."

Par 218 from Evangelii Gaudium, Pope Francis, Nov 24, 2013

"Criticism of others is thus an oblique form of self-commendation. We think we make the picture hang straight on our wall by telling our neighbours that all his pictures are crooked."

Fulton J Sheen, Seven Words of Jesus and Mary. Lessons from Cana and Calvary

Josephite Associates will hold a **Knitting day** on Monday **15th June** from **10.00am** in the parish centre, raffles, luncheon provided. All welcome.

St Joseph's Parish Ouyen Youth Treat, "Made 4 Greatness". St Joseph's Ouyen is hosting its first ever Youth Retreat from July 6 -9, 2015, for young people aged 15-25. Cost is \$50; includes all meal, simple accommodation and activities. A flyer is on the notice board at the back of the church.

For more information contact Marie on 0417660893 or email madedforgreatness2015@gmail.com

