

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



17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Year B

26th July 2015

Presbytery: 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585

Phone: 50324144 **Fax:** 50324989

Email: swanhill@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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	6.30 pm	Swan Hill
Sunday	8.30 am	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 pm

Recently Deceased: We commend to God:

Anniversaries: We remember: Jack Dedini, Geoff Balsarini, Elizabeth Ellis, Leon Caccaviella, Les Bryan, Nell Frazer, May Lewis, Adrianna Klabbers, Kathleen Phyland, Grace Scalora, Jim Curran, Sheila, Dorothy & Kath O'Bryan, Michael Tuohey, Pasqualina Ficcaro,

Prayers for the Sick: Lorna Kennedy, Neil Newling, Erin Coburn, 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 *2 Kgs 4:42-44*

A reading from the second book of the Kings

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 144:10-11, 15-18. R. v.16*

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God.

The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live.

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts.

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

SECOND READING *Eph 4:1-6*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Lk 7:16*

Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Jn 6:1-15*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

The Gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The gospel readings for the next five weeks are taken from John 6, a section of the gospel that focuses on food and related themes: on hungry people; on the need for food/bread; on food/bread as metaphors for life. Bread has been the staple food for millennia in bible lands. To be without bread is to lack the very basics of existence, and that is how it is for so many in our world. Even the impoverished in the so-called "first world" know what it is like to be without the means of subsistence in a world of plenty. The present cycle of readings confronts us with questions about our own lifestyle, our exploitation of earth's precious resources, and our capacity to make a positive change in the lives of those whose access to the fruits of our earth is much more limited than ours. In John's account of the feeding of the 5000, the crowds keep following Jesus because they see the "signs" he works among the sick. The Johannine Jesus consistently tries to lead the people beyond a form of discipleship that is simply based on seeing the signs that he works. The inadequacy of the crowd's response on this occasion becomes clear towards the end of the reading.

Both place and time function powerfully in the story. The "mountain" place evokes the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt Sinai. For the crowds, Jesus is the prophet like Moses who points to a way of satisfying hunger in the wilderness of life. The time is Passover, drawing into the narrative the passing over of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the freedom of the desert and ultimately of the land where they could worship their God. This story is about the liberation that God brings through the agency of Jesus.

Jesus demonstrates that the answer to the suffering of the people, their liberation, is to be found in their care for each other. If they simply take the time to sit down together, discover the riches in their midst, give thanks, and distribute what they have, they may find they have more than they need. They must gather up the fragments, the "more-than-enough", so that nothing will be lost and others might benefit from their sharing.

Although the people partially understand Jesus' identity and teaching, their ultimate response is misdirected, even violent: they want to take him by force and make him king. He leaves them and returns to the mountain alone. We so often seek spectacular solutions to our problems. It may be that we too need to sit down together on the grass, or wherever, and discover the wealth we have at our disposal to satisfy the hunger in our world. *Sr Veronica Lawson*

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READINGS NEXT WEEK 2nd August
Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Eph 4:17, 20-24 ; John 6:24-35

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STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket) <i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>		\$ 1129.50
Parish Account: (2nd Basket) <i>(Support of the Parish)</i>	Envelopes	\$ 1,052.00
	Credit Card	\$ 00.00
	Direct Debit	\$ 000.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 177.35
		\$ 1,229.35

THANK YOU!

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ST MARY'S MINISTRIES 2nd August 2015

Ministers of the Word:

6.30pm. Margaret Hoare, Mary Nolan.

10.30am. Maria Aiello, Brian Safe

Ministers of Communion:

6.30pm. Bev McCartney, Margaret Hoare, Helen Lewis, Cathy Page

10.30am. Judy safe, Maria Aiello, Kath Hogan, josie Renda, Elizabeth Milazzo, Yvonne Richardson.

Music: 6.30 pm. Joe Taverna

10.30am. Brian Wood

Presentation of Gifts:

6.30pm Jim & Elaine Elliott.

10.30am Joseph Chand

Counters: Patsy McDonald, Kerry McCosh

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We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of

Baptism: Violet Graham daughter of Donovan and Haidee and Bridie Millington, daughter of Bryce and Jenelle. May they grow in faith in their loving family and our Catholic Community

Parent Information Evening 7.00 pm TONIGHT Sunday 26th July for parents of children receiving First Eucharist

Josephite Associates will hold a knitting day on Monday 17th August from 10.00 am in the Parish Centre. Raffles, lunch provided. All welcome

Laudato Si': On the Care of Our Common Home

Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* is a call for global action as well as an appeal for deep inner conversion.

He points to numerous ways world organisations, nations and communities must move forward and the way individuals -- believers and people of good will -- should see, think, feel and act.

"Reduce, reuse, recycle. Preserve resources, use them more efficiently, moderate consumption and limit use of non-renewable resources." *Pars 22, 192*

'We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time... He is everywhere. He is in everything, and we cannot be without Him.' *Thomas Merton*

A person without self-control is like a city with broken down walls. *Proverbs 25:28 New Living Translation*

CUPPA AFTER MASS NEXT SUNDAY

