

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



20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Year B

16th August 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:

Vigil	6.30 pm	Swan Hill
Sunday	8.30am	Lake Boga
	10.30 am	Swan Hill

Mass This Week

Monday:	11.00 am	Funeral: Anna Mancinelli
Wednesday	2.00 pm	Alcheringa: Anointing of the Sick
Thursday:	10.00 am	
Friday:	11.00 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	12.00 noon	

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Anna Mancinelli

Anniversaries: We remember: Les Clohsey, Bernard Nolen, Timothy McMahon, Concetta Mangiamelli, Albert Livingston, Grace Dean, Eileen Siepolt, Antonio Miceli, Bernie Magee, John Linehan.

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 *Prv 9:1-6*

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Wisdom has built herself a house, she has erected her seven pillars, she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her wine, she has laid her table. She has despatched her maidservants and proclaimed from the city's heights: 'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.' To the fool she says, 'Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared! Leave your folly and you will live, walk in the ways of perception.'

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 33:2-3. 10-15. 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.

Revere the Lord, you his saints. They lack nothing, those who revere him. Strong lions suffer want and go hungry but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Come children, and hear me that I may teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is he who longs for life and many days, to enjoy his prosperity?

Then keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn aside from evil and do good; seek and strive after peace.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING *Eph 5:15-20*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but your lives should redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to

God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. *The Word of the Lord*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Jn 6:56*

Alleluia, alleluia! All who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I in them, says the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Jn 6:51-58*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowd:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.' Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



GOSPEL REFLECTION: *The Bread of Life discourse reflects the interpretation of the gospel writer rather than the actual words of Jesus. This is important for making sense of statements that would seem to be out of place, writes Mercy Sister Veronica Lawson.*

In this week's gospel passage, we continue our reflection on John 6. John's gospel was written towards the end of the first century. The Bread of Life discourse probably reflects the interpretation of the gospel writer rather than the actual words of Jesus. This is important for making sense of statements in the discourse that would seem to be out of place from the lips of Jesus during his lifetime. The hearers of these words have lived and worshipped as followers of Jesus for some decades. They have gathered each week for the breaking of the bread and reflected deeply on the mystery of life in Christ, on the Word made flesh.

If the eucharistic overtones were subtly present in last week's gospel passage (John 6:41-51), they become quite overt as the Johannine Jesus responds to yet another objection from his opponents in this week's gospel. Like the Israelites of old in the desert wanderings, they are more than ready to grumble: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (6:52). Jesus does not really respond to the question "How....?" Rather, he goes on to tell his hearers that "life" for them depends on their eating his flesh and drinking his blood. The Johannine Jesus uses the present as well as the future tense. The life they experience in eating his flesh and drinking his blood is a present reality for them as well as a promise of on-going life. Life for the Israelites was in the blood: blood poured out meant life poured out. Clearly "life" is being used in John 6 for the quality of life the believers have come to experience through their incorporation into the community of the baptised, the sort of life that is not destroyed by death.

Life in the community unites the believers intimately with Jesus as well as with the God of Israel, whom the Johannine Jesus generally calls "Father". The first reading for today reminds us that other metaphors such as Wisdom were available to those of Jewish heritage for portraying the divine. Wisdom is a female way of imaging the divine. In John's discourse, Jesus becomes Wisdom extending an invitation to the banquet of life. We keep accepting that invitation. It is well to remember that one never enjoys a banquet alone. It is always shared with others who accept the same invitation. In the strength of the sustenance we receive in this banquet, we are also invited to bring a quality of life to all beings that struggle to exist. The potential for this is as boundless as the generosity of our God "enfleshed" in Jesus.

READINGS NEXT WEEK 23rd August

Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18 ; Eph 5:21-32 ; John 6:60-69

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)	\$ 922.80
<i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>	
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>	
Envelopes	\$ 1,565.50
Credit Card	\$ 995.00
Direct Debit	\$ 571.00
Loose Plate	\$ 83.90
	\$ 3,215.40

THANK YOU!

ST MARY'S MINISTRIES 23rd August 2015

Ministers of the Word:

6.30pm. Margaret Hoare, Mary Nolan

10.30am. Yvonne Richardson, Helen Dean.

Ministers of Communion:

6.30pm. Ursula Phyland, Josh Klabbbers, Michelle Haeusler, Marilyn Foley.

10.30am. Ken Smith, Jocelyn Ingram, Damien Kelly, Dorothy Bishop, Brenda Ford.

Music: 6.30 pm. Joe Taverna

10.30am. Ken Smith and Brenda Grace

Presentation of Gifts:

6.30pm Kerry Hoare and family.

10.30am Jim & Helen Meehan.

Counters: Brenda Ford, Pina Rosaia

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of

Baptism: Ingrid Collins, daughter of Reece and Hannah. May she grow in faith in her loving family and our Catholic Community

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

Parish Council Meets this WEDNESDAY August 19th at 7.30pm.

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

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.

Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'*: On the Care of Our Common Home

"Protect clean, safe drinking water and don't privatise it with market-based fees for the poor." Paras 27-29, 164

Words of Wisdom -A focus on self-control- *Romans 8:12-13* "...you have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you keep on following it, you will perish. But if through the power of the Holy Spirit you turn from it and its evil deeds, you will live."