

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



23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year B
6th September 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 10.30 am Swan Hill

Mass This Week

Tuesday: 5.30 pm
Wednesday 10.00 am
2.00 pm Alcheringa Anointing of the Sick & Elderly
Thursday: 1.00 pm Funeral Frank McKinley
Friday: 11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12.00 noon

Intentions

Tuesday: Marianne Murray
Friday: John Walsh

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Chase Power, Cathy Charleson, Frank McKinley, John Walsh, Salvatore Castelli

Anniversaries: We remember: Rita Clarke, Andrew Coburn, Giuseppe Colombo, Margaret Dillon, Rocco Pati, Domenica & Antonietta DiNicola, Catarina & Pasqualino Milazzo, Marianne Murray, Alan & George Wilkinson, P J Meehan.

Prayers for the Sick: Moira Higgins, Loma Kennedy, 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 *Is 35:4-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.
The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1*

Praise the Lord, my soul! Alleluia!
It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.
It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bound down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger.
The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.
Praise the Lord, my soul! Alleluia!

SECOND READING *Jas 2:1-5*

A reading from the letter of St James
My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt

judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.
The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *cf. Mt 4:23*

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

READINGS NEXT WEEK 13th September
Is 50:5-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35



BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for eighteen retired priests. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into retirement, and will also need to be supported by the fund. This collection has raised nearly 1.7 million dollars since it began in 1991, including nearly \$67,000 last year. Along with the priests' own contribution of approximately \$40,000 per year, this annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy. Please give as generously as you can, and help us continue 'caring for those who cared for us'. Special envelopes are available for this collection, which will be taken up today. You may also return your envelope next week.

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

**CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US –
THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY**

GOSPEL REFLECTION: , Today's gospel reading leads us into a section of Mark's gospel that explores challenges confronting all disciples on their journey of faith. The first challenge is to clarify the nature of our commitment as disciples of Jesus. If we fail to understand who Jesus is, then we have little chance of understanding the nature of our own call to follow him. Two questions ("Who do people say that I am?" and "Who do you say that I am?") are addressed to our forbears in faith communities of the latter part of the first century and to Christians across the millennia. We are invited to hear these questions anew. Do we simply share what "the people" say about Jesus? Are we like Peter who has the right language but only partial insight? Or do we have the wisdom to seek a deeper understanding of the identity of Jesus?

In response to Jesus' second question ("Who do you say that I am?"), Peter gets the words right: Jesus is the messiah, the Christ, God's anointed messenger. It becomes clear, however, that Peter has a very different notion from Jesus of what it means to be the messiah or the Christ. This is understandable since there were diverse messianic expectations within first-century Judaism. Many expected a royal militaristic figure who would drive out the Roman occupiers and restore Israel's status as an independent nation. Jesus, as God's messiah, refuses the way of violent action. His way is to be true to his mission of bringing God's empire, even if it brings the most intense personal suffering. Peter refuses to accept a suffering Messiah. He is severely reprimanded for his refusal and instructed to get out of the way, to get back to where a disciple should be, namely behind Jesus, following him, and not in front obstructing the path.

The bitter experience in recent years of global conflicts should make us wary of accepting militaristic messiahs. In our times, to know and follow Jesus as the Christos or Messiah is to seek and support more moderate and lasting responses to perceived injustice. It is to listen to the wisdom of those with insight and experience, to calculate with the utmost care the consequences of violent reactions to the problems in our world, in contemporary society, and in our homes. That may well involve hard work, personal misunderstanding, physical and emotional trauma or, in other words, it may mean "losing one's life" for the sake of the gospel. It certainly calls for profound trust in the saving power of God. Over the next few weeks, the Sunday gospels will call us into the ways of respect, of commitment, and of peaceful negotiation, to ever deeper insight into the ways of the anointed agent of God's empire.

Sister Veronica M. Lawson rsm.

CWL Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd September.

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)		\$ 1,216.55
<i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>		
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	Envelopes	\$ 1,471.00
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>		
	Credit Card	\$ 0.00
	Direct Debit	\$ 50.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 112.30
		\$ 1,633.30

THANK YOU!

ST MARY'S MINISTRIES 13th September 2015

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil. Teresa McRae, Helen Hogan

10.30am. Kate Quin, Ginny Gook

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil. Claire Billing, Chris Hoare, Gladys Bryent, Lyn Stutley.

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

Music: Vigil. Joe Taverna

10.30am. Bernice Murray & Brenda Grace

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil. Catherine Howison & Family

10.30am Bernice Murray & Bill Croft.

Counters: Bernadette Cleeland & Sarah Cleeland

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of

Baptism: Harriet Notting, daughter of Dustin and Kristy. May she grow in faith in her loving family and our Catholic Community

LOOKING FURTHER These gatherings 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 Sept 7.00pm-9.00pm** Attendance 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.

LAUNCH OF THE NEW DIOCESAN WEBSITE Tuesday 15th Sept from **5.30 pm** to precede the Looking Further Forward Gathering. Hospitality will be supplied.

Afternoon Tea for Motor Neurone Disease, Friday 25th September, 2.00pm-4.00pm. Trading table and raffle, guest speaker will be Eric Kelly, Regional Advisor for Motor Neurone Disease. Enquiries may be directed to Margaret Scala or Aileen Meehan

Stewardship News: Weekly and Monthly envelope sets for the following year are available for collection as you enter the church. Annual contribution statements for the previous year ie: **07 Sep 2014 to 31 Aug 2015** will be generated in September and will also include envelopes for contributions that made on a quarterly, half yearly or yearly basis. *If you would like to participate in contributing to the "State of the Nation" via the Stewardship Program and are not currently doing so kindly contact the Parish Office.*

CWL Cake and Produce Stall TODAY after the 10.00 am Mass.

CUPPA AFTER MASS TODAY

Divine Mercy Devotions this Monday at 1.45pm

Rosary in the Park this Saturday 12th September. 10.00am, BYO chair, All Welcome.

Baptism Preparation evening next Monday **September 14th, 7.00pm.** Parish Function Centre.