

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: Wednesday 10.00 am — 2.00 pm
Friday 10.00 am — 2.00 pm



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B
8th November 2015

Presbytery: 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585
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The Parish of Swan Hill comprises the faith Communities of: St Marys Swan Hill, St Joseph's Nyah West, St Joseph's Lake Boga

Mass Next Weekend:

Vigil: **7.00 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: 10.00 am
Friday: 12.00 Noon

Recently Deceased: We commend to God

Brian Howley
Anniversaries: We remember Dick Livingston, John Hayes, Cliff Hinton, Joe Wilkins, Bernie Conway, Bernie Maher, Robert Isgro, Phillip Clarke, Elsie Wright, Norah Hogan, Thomas Meehan, Francis Walsh, Cecil Learmonth

Prayers for the Sick: Moira Higgins, Loma Kennedy, Erin Coburn, Brooke Kennedy, Brian Mulcahy, Ronald Duryea, Margaret Sinclair., Dorothy Burgess, Jarrod Crimmins

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 *from the first book of Kings*

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives', she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:7-10. R.v.2

Praise the Lord, my soul! Alleluia!

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever 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 bowed down. It is 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 *from the letter to the Hebrews*

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Alleluia!

READINGS NEXT WEEK 15th November

Daniel 12:1-3 ; Hebrews 10:11-14, 18 ; Mark 13:24-32

Baptism Preparation Program, last date for 2015, this Monday 9th November at 7.00pm in Parish Function Centre. This program is for all couples having children baptised in November, December or January. For more information, contact the Parish Office on 50324144

Rosary in the Park this Saturday 14th November at 10.00am, Riverside Park Rotunda, BYO chair.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Jesus is teaching the crowds in the Jerusalem Temple. He knows the vulnerability of many of the people around him and issues a warning about the grandiose behaviour of the Jerusalem scribes. The scribes were generally learned men on whom the people relied for rulings in matters of sacred law as well as for drawing up contracts and other important documents. They commanded the respect of many of the people. Jesus is not impressed by the behaviour of some of the scribes. He sees their pomposity as a mask for dishonesty and exploitation: they will receive the "greater condemnation". They "devour the houses of widows" and hide behind the pretext of long prayers. Widows included women who had lost their husbands through death or divorce as well as single unmarried women. They were women alone without male protection in a patriarchal society and without the benefit of a social security system. They were dependent for survival upon the care of family and community. Jesus' words of condemnation are strong words that will understandably provoke a reaction. It is no surprise that the Jerusalem scribes are among those who later conspire to kill him (Mark 14:1).

It is easy enough to be taken in by the posturing of those who present as superior and who look for status recognition. It is also easy to miss the goodness of those on the edge even if it is happening before our very eyes. The context presents Jesus as attuned to the plight of the widows. He now notices and draws the attention of his disciples to the action of one particular "destitute" widow. Her tiny contribution to the treasury of two copper coins for the upkeep of the Temple is far more significant than the big sums contributed by the wealthy out of their excess. Is this woman being presented as the victim of an unjust system that extracts from her what she cannot afford, as some commentators insist? Or is the Markan Jesus presenting her as a free agent, a model of discipleship, who offers everything she has to live on? It may not be necessary to choose between these two interpretations.

It is clear that this woman's action provides a striking contrast to that of the scribes, like the action of another woman who, a little later in the story, breaks a precious jar and pours an abundance of healing ointment over the head of Jesus as he faces the prospect of death. As the gospel draws to a close, then, we find two stories of extravagantly generous unnamed women, stories told in memory of their gospel foolishness. *Sr Veronica Lawson.*

Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis has announced an **Extraordinary Jubilee - Holy Year of Mercy** to commence on **December 8, 2015**, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will conclude on Sunday, **November 20, 2016**, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. All are invited to attend the **Opening of the Door of Mercy** at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on **December 13, 2015, 10.30am**. Refreshments will follow the Mass.

Majellan Christmas Cards, \$6.50 a set of 10, available from the Parish Office Wednesday or Fridays, 10.30am to 1.30pm

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket) (Support of Priests & Bishop)		\$ 952.65
Parish Account: (2nd Basket) (Support of the Parish)	Envelopes	\$ 2,289.00
	Credit Card	\$ 0.00
	Direct Debit	\$ 120.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 128.55
		\$ 2,537.55
Seminary Building Fund Appeal: (to date)		\$ 230.00

MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 15th November 2015

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil. Michelle Haeusler, Glenda Klabbers

10.30am. Jordan Wong, Elizabeth Milazzo

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil. Margaret Hoare, Bev McCartney, Helen Lewis, Cathy Page.

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

Music: Vigil. Joe Taverna

10.30am John Farrell

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil. Bev McCartney, Claire Billing

10.30am Jim & Helen Meehan

Counters Gavin & Teresa O'Brien

MEETING WITH JULIAN OF NORWICH

Reflecting on God's Love for Us Led by Sheila Upjohn

Venue: St Mary's Parish Function Centre

This afternoon from 1.00 - 4.30 PM

Cost: \$10.00

JULIAN OF NORWICH wrote her book THE REVELATIONS OF DIVINE LOVE in one small room in a back street in Norwich more than 600 years ago. Sheila Upjohn, like Julian a Norwich woman, grew up in the city where Julian lived and wrote her book. She is the author of In Search of Julian of Norwich and All Shall Be Well - a fresh and lively translation of Julian's Revelations of Divine Love, abridged and arranged for daily reading. Her translation of Julian is used in the best selling Enfolded in Love and In Love Enclosed.

More than a Cuppa meet this Monday 9th November at 1.30pm in the Parish Function Centre.

Josephite Calendars \$7 available from Helen Dean or Barbara Patterson

OSL (Order of St Luke) Healing Ministries, Katrina & Theo Bruinsma from Melbourne will be at the Anglican Church on Saturday 14th November at 11.00am to talk about this ministry. Flyer at back of Church. All invited

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.

"Even if it doesn't fix the world, beautification and goodwill gestures inspire and remind people that 'we were made for love'." (Par58, 113, 212)