

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



1st Sunday of Advent
Year C
29th 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: **8.30 am** Nyah West **10.30 am** Swan Hill

Mass This Week

Tuesday 5.30 pm
Wednesday 10.00 am
Thursday: 5.30 pm
Friday: 12.00 Noon
11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Peter Healy (Griffith)

Anniversaries: We remember Frank Richardson, Tom Stutley, Stan Smith, John Billing, Henrietta Tat, Bruce Gook, Gerald Walsh, Veronica Power, John, Jim & Tom Turner ,

Prayers for the Sick: Monica Nolen, Moira Higgins, Erin Coburn, Brooke Kennedy, Brian Mulcahy, Ronald Duryea, Dorothy Burgess, Jarrod Crimmins, Fr. Justin Woodford

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 prophet Jeremiah*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1*

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

SECOND READING *from 1st letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians*

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave

you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Ps 84:8*

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

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READINGS NEXT WEEK 6th Dec

Baruch 5:1-9 ; Phil 1:3-6. 8-11 ; Luke 3:1-6

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CUPPA AFTER MASS NEXT SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Today's gospel passage, with its vivid description of the end-time signs, may seem a strange choice of reading for Advent and the beginning of the Church year. It is only strange if we take the descriptions literally and focus on the old rather than the new that is forever breaking into the world. The image of Jesus coming on the clouds belongs within an ancient understanding of the structure of the world in which God and God's heavenly court is located in the heavens above.

It might function in our times as a reminder that the Incarnation, "of God's becoming material" (Karl Rahner), is an ongoing cosmic event.

The Advent and Christmas periods are about the coming "in power and great glory" of the One who brings the liberation of our God. The earliest Christians believed that Jesus would return in their own times and bring everything to completion.

Some decades after the death of Jesus, the members of Luke's community had come to realize that this second coming of Christ was not just around the corner as they had expected. They then needed to be reminded that a delayed return was no excuse for lack of vigilance. Luke warns against activities and attitudes that de-sensitize the heart or the human spirit: carousing, drunkenness and undue worry.

Suffering is part of life and God's advent or coming in the lives of the suffering takes myriad forms. From Luke's perspective, the sufferings of the present may well be the prelude to a new experience of the presence of God in the world. An attentive heart and constant prayer for the strength to withstand whatever comes - this is the proper stance for the Christian believer.

This gospel passage is best read against the backdrop of today's first reading from Jeremiah that looks to the fulfillment of God's promise of the "virtuous branch for David". The organic metaphor of the branch reminds us of the interconnectedness of God's people and of all being across the ages. The virtue of the expected descendant of David finds expression in honesty and integrity, literally "justice and righteousness/right relationship".

Justice in the Hebrew tradition is about redress in the law courts for the most vulnerable. Righteousness is about right relationships as well as the equitable sharing and proper use of Earth's resources. Justice and righteousness are two sides of the one coin. Where they are absent, there is no liberation.

Our prayer and practical action this Advent might embrace the concerns of those who yearn for liberation from various forms of oppression, including those seeking asylum among us and those who have sought asylum yet still await resettlement. Our Advent could make a difference to their Christmas. *Sr Veronica Lawson.*

Catholic Mission: Thank you for your ongoing support to the Catholic Mission World Mission Month Appeal, "Love your Neighbour as Yourself". Your prayer and financial contributions offer life changing hope to those who receive support provided by Catholic Mission. Please know that your generosity is not taken for granted and is greatly appreciated.

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket) <i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>		\$ 1,022.75
Parish Account: (2nd Basket) <i>(Support of the Parish)</i>	Envelopes	\$ 1,019.00
	Credit Card	\$ 0.00
	Direct Debit	\$ 70.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 115.15
		\$ 1,204.15

Thank-You!

MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 6th December 2015

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil. Jo & Jaidyn Taverna

10.30am. Dorothy Bishop. Damien Kelly

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil. Ursula Phyland, Josh Klabbbers, Michelle Haeusler, Marilyn Foley.

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

Music: Vigil. Joe Taverna

10.30am Brian Wood

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil. Howison Family

10.30am Maureen Morris, Barbara Patterson.

Counters Chris & Margaret Hoare

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.

CWL meeting this **Tuesday 1st December** at **1.30pm** in the Parish Meeting Room.

Parish Council meeting this **Tuesday 1st December** at **7.30 pm**

Josephite Associates will meet at the Parish Centre in **Monday 7th December** at **2.00 pm.**

Divine Mercy Devotions Monday 7th December from **1.45 pm**

Mass of Anointing of the Sick and Elderly Thursday 10th December at **2.00 pm** followed by afternoon tea in the Parish Function Centre. A Plate to share will be appreciated

Praying for our young people In the Ballarat Diocese, 113 young people and their leaders are preparing to travel to Adelaide to participate in the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, **December 3-5, 2015.** We ask that you pray for them in the coming week:

Prayer for young people going to the Youth Festival

God of all, you gently call us each by name. We give thanks for the young people who are preparing to go to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Adelaide. Continue to call them, O God, in a world where complexity and busyness can cloud and distort our way. As they gather from across this land of the Holy Spirit may their hearts yearn for you, who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.