

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



2nd Sunday of Advent
Year B
6th December 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 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

Wednesday 8.30 am
2.00 pm Alcheringa
Thursday: 2.00 pm Anointing Mass
Friday: 12.00 Noon
11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament



Intentions:

Thursday: Michael Fogarty & James Derham Anniversary

Recently Deceased: We commend to God

Fr Justin Woodford.
Anniversaries: We remember Michael Fogarty, James Derham, Joan Brennan, Craig Power, Gwenda Phelan, Vince Pellegrino, Connie Taverna, Bernie O'Bree, Alice Taylor, Michael Farrell, Abbe & Bronte Foott, Glenys Power, Mary Elliott, Tony Campanelli.

Prayers for the Sick: Monica Nolen, Moira Higgins, Erin Coburn, Brooke Kennedy, Brian Mulcahy, Ronald Duryea, 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 prophet Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort. *The Word of the Lord*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 125. R. v.3

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of

song, carrying their sheaves.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

READINGS NEXT WEEK 13th Dec

Zep 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

CUPPA AFTER MASS TODAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Tuesday of this week (8th Dec, 2015) marks the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Pope Francis has called us to look into our hearts and to let go of all that is condemnatory and harsh or cruel and to bring the mercy of God to our troubled planetary home and to its inhabitants. Our courageous pope is giving extraordinary leadership to the global community. Like Luke, the author of the third gospel and of the Acts of the Apostles, Pope Francis recognises that the message of the gospel is for the whole world and not simply for the chosen few.

For the third time within the space of three chapters, Luke situates his gospel drama on a national and international stage and in relation to global events. The gospel writer wants to insist that religion is no private affair and that the story of the movement around Jesus of Nazareth is no ordinary, everyday story. It is rather a story with momentous political and religious significance.

Luke is strong on dramatic impact and less concerned with precision of detail. He situates events in the "pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas", implying that there were two high priests at the same time. In fact, Caiaphas succeeded his father-in-law Annas as high priest, even if the influence of the latter persisted into Caiaphas' pontificate. Luke presents John the son of Zechariah as a prophet in the long line of prophets that culminates in the appearance of Jesus of Nazareth on the world stage. Jesus is the one who truly brings the salvation of our God. It is worth noting that prophecy in Luke is not reserved to the male characters. With the shift from private to public space in Luke 3, however, women prophets who featured prominently in the earlier chapters (Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna) now disappear from the narrative.

Luke 3:1-6 contains some of Luke's favourite themes: prophecy and its fulfilment; the word of God; reversal of expectations; conversion or repentance; proclaiming the good news; forgiveness of sins; salvation. As in Israel's past, the wilderness or desert is the locus of God's revelation. The prophet John calls on the people of the region around the Jordan River to turn their hearts and their lives around, to accept "a baptism of metanoia or conversion for the forgiveness of sins".

We might listen to the Isaiah citation that follows ("Prepare the way...") against the backdrop of the first reading from the prophet Baruch. God's way involves putting on the "cloak of justice" or "robe of righteousness" and allowing God to provide an escort of mercy/works of mercy and justice/right relationship. If we take seriously the call to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we shall surely search for ways to heal the broken relationships within our ailing planet. *Sr Veronica Lawson.*

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)		\$ 791.05
<i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>		
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	Envelopes	\$ 1,429.00
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>		
	Credit Card	\$ 0.00
	Direct Debit	\$ 130.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 94.55
		\$ 1,653.55

Thank-You!

MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 13th December 2015

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil. Bill Moar, Kaye Farrell
10.30am. Ken Smith, Lorraine Hogan.

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil. Margaret Derham, Teresa McRae, Dick & Rene Devereux.
10.30am. Ken Smith, Jocelyn Ingram, Damien Kelly, Dorothy Bishop, Brenda Ford.

Music: Vigil. Joe Taverna
10.30am John Farrell

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil. Daniel & Mary Kennedy
10.30am Peter Robertson And Family

Counters Claire Billing, Joe Taverna.

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.

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism: Lola Violi daughter of Glenn and Emily. May she grow in faith in her loving family and our Catholic Community

Josephite Associates will meet at the Parish Centre in Monday 7th Dec at 12.00 noon.

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

Rosary in the Park next Saturday 12th December, 10.00 am, Riverside Park Rotunda, BYO chair

Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'*: *On the Care for Our Common Home* "Believe in a happy future, a better tomorrow. Slow down, recover values and the meaning of life. Putting the brakes on 'unrestrained delusions of grandeur' is not a call to go back to the Stone Age." (Par 113-114, 225)



Make an Advent Wreath for home

Prepare for Christmas by doing something different as a family, with the grandchildren or for yourself.



Say I Love You

 Imagine Christmas without things