

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



3rd Sunday of Advent

Year B

13th December 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: 11.00 am St Mary's School
end of year Mass

Wednesday 10.00 am

Thursday: 10.00 am

Friday: 9.00 am

Intentions:

Tuesday: Staff, children and families f St Mary's School



Anniversaries: We remember Sam Buccheri, Eileen White, Maree Taylor, Ian Angus, Catherine Scalora, George Dawes .

Prayers for the Sick: Monica Nolen, Moira Higgins, Erin Coburn, Brooke Kennedy, Brian Mulcahy, Ronald Duryea, Dorothy Burgess, Jarrod Crimmins, 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 from the prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Is 12:2-6 R. v.6*

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING from St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts

and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them. *The Gospel of the Lord*



A Letter from the Bishop Re Christmas Appeal 2015

Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities around the world who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come from priests and religious who have bonds with the diocese of Ballarat. Our response is an indication of our solidarity with people in need, such as those affected by natural disasters.

I commend the Christmas Appeal to you and to your people. I am aware that there are many times throughout the year when you are invited to respond to appeals for very worthy causes, but I hope the Ballarat diocese can continue to support this particular appeal.

I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last year's appeal, which benefited a number of communities including :

Loreto-Vietnam Australia Programme (Sr. Trish Franklin IBVM)
Columban Mission Society work in Peru
Sisters of Nazareth in Fiji
Diocese of Tonga – Marist Missions
Sr. Lourdes - East Timor
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans
Bishops' Appeal for Refugees in the Middle East
Edmund Rice Centre

In anticipation I thank you for your co-operation in recommending the 2015 Christmas Appeal to the generosity of your parishioners and giving them the opportunity to make their contribution on or about Christmas Day.

With every good wish, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,



+ Paul Bird CSsR
Bishop of Ballarat

An opportunity to contribute to this appeal will be given at all Christmas Masses after communion.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Love one another but do it in practical ways This mid-point of Advent alerts us to issues of justice and equality. The prophet John has been asked as a sort of trick by people who exploited others with tax bills, and soldiers who often used their brute force on others, how they should repent. His words were tough but quite ordinary – don't overcharge, share your surplus with the needy and don't exploit people. It's another, but more figurative way, of stating the basic demands of 'Love one another'.

Christmas can bring out the best in us to care for the needy. We are surrounded by charities looking for aid. We know that Jesus hears the cries of the poor, and he joins every carol singing group trying to help.

Christmas also asks us to consider our honesty and integrity, for we know that many are poor, at home and abroad, because of the greed of others. Christmas is a reminder and a challenge that all can live with the human dignity we have come to regard as human rights – education, safety, shelter, food, water, employment, freedom. The Christ child who was born poor

represents all the poor of the world especially children. As he was born ordinary, he represents that God meets, greets and helps us in the ordinary of life.

The one who is to come is the one who will live and love according to these truths of human dignity and equality. *From a reflection of the Gospel by Donal Neary SJ, at the Sacred Heart Messenger website*

READINGS NEXT WEEK 20th Dec

Micah 5:1-4 ; Heb 10:5-10 ; Lk 1:39-45

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket) <i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>	\$ 811.05
Parish Account: (2nd Basket) <i>(Support of the Parish)</i>	Envelopes \$ 1,260.10
	Credit Card \$ 0.00
	Direct Debit \$ 20.00
	Loose Plate \$ 119.65
	\$ 1,399.75

Thank-You!

MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 20th December 2015

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil. Kerry Hoare, John Hoare
10.30am. Frank Fogarty, Raelene O'Halloran

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil. Margaret Hoare, Bev McCartney, Helen Lewis, Cathy Page.
10.30am. Judy Safe, Maria Aiello, Kath Hogan, Josie Renda, Elizabeth Milazzo, Yvonne Richardson.

Music: Vigil. Ken Smith & Brenda Grace
10.30am Bernice Murray & Alison Wright.

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil. Helen Lewis, Margaret Magee
10.30am Jim & Rona Bookham.

Counters Elva Carty, Geraldine Murdoch

Rite of Reconciliation in readiness for the Feast of Christmas **Thursday 17th December 7.00 pm.**

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE: Thursday 24th Dec Swan Hill 6.00 pm
Nyah West 8.00 pm
Swan Hill 10.00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY: Friday 25th Dec Swan Hill 9.00 am

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL end of year Mass, Tuesday at 11.00 am

ULTIMA Church clearing sale this Friday 18th December at 11.00 am.

Catholic Mission Pocket Diaries 2016 available at the back of the Church



Write a card to your grandparents
Turn off the TV, computer, game consoles etc and talk together



Pray around your Advent wreath
Shine (smile) even if the sun doesn't.