

# 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



**4th Sunday of Advent**  
**Year C**  
**20th 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: 7.30 pm** Swan Hill  
 Sunday: **8.30 am** Lake Boga  
**10.30 am** Swan Hill

### Mass This Week

Tuesday: 5.30 pm  
 Wednesday 10.00 am



**Anniversaries: We remember** Shirley Vains, Arthur O'Bree, Charlie Taverna, Columbina Cutri, George Livingston.

**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 Micah

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

### SECOND READING from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in

the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.' *The Gospel of the Lord*

### 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

## 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. The sum of \$46,050 was distributed to a number of communities including the following:

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.**

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**READINGS NEXT WEEK 27th Dec**  
Sir 3:2-6. 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52

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### STATE OF THE NATION

<b>Presbytery Account:</b> (1st Basket) (Support of Priests & Bishop)	<b>\$ 783.80</b>
<b>Parish Account:</b> (2nd Basket) (Support of the Parish)	
<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$ 1,179.00</b>
<b>Credit Card</b>	<b>\$ 595.00</b>
<b>Direct Debit</b>	<b>\$ 531.00</b>
<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>\$ 71.65</b>
	<b>\$ 2,376.65</b>

Thank-You!

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**We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:** Florence Tuohy, daughter of Wayne and Lucy and Eve Clohesy, daughter of Michael and Natalie May they grow in faith in their loving family and our Catholic Community.

## WE NEED READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR 10.00pm MASS CHRISTMAS EVE AND 9.00am CHRISTMAS DAY, IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE FILL IN THE ROSTER AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

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**MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 27th December 2015**

### Ministers of the Word:

**Vigil: Readers Required Please**  
**10.30am. Readers Required Please**

### Ministers of Communion:

**Vigil:** Claire Billing, Chris Hoare, Gladys Bryent, Lyn Stutley  
**10.30am.** Sam Colombo. Robert Jager. Frank Fogarty, Connie Alderuccio, Jim Meehan.

**Music: Vigil;** John Farrell & Brenda Grace  
**10.30am** Ken Smith & Joy Parsons

### Presentation of Gifts:

**Vigil:** Jim and Elaine Elliott  
**10.30am** Mary & Frank Fogarty

**Counters** Jocelyn Ingram, Yvonne Richardson.

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

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**GOSPEL REFLECTION:** Luke turned tradition on its head. Instead of the elderly woman receiving honour from the younger, the tables were turned; Mary was honoured (along with her Son).

Because of her age, Elizabeth should have been the one who received the attention of maternity. But Mary received praise because she believed in the new revelation. Now, Elizabeth (and her son), too, believed because the Spirit acted.

Notice the themes of exaltation and humility. Through the figure of Elizabeth, Luke humbled the old tradition in a time that honoured ancient revelation. Through the figure of Mary, he exalted the new revelation. Through the meeting, he bridged the old to the new. From this moment on, Luke would exalt Jesus and diminish John's role. For Luke, the time of Judaism had past; the time of Christianity had dawned.

This passing matched the historical events of the first century. With the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple in 70 AD, and with the dispersion of the Jews from their homeland, Luke saw Judaism and its movements (ie, those who tried to keep John's ministry alive) on the wane. At the same time, Christianity was gaining strength in numbers. A time that honoured the unchanging was undergoing massive change.

From a reflection on the Gospel by Larry Broding, on the Word-Sunday website

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Mend a quarrel

Encourage some one

Help clean the House

Consider other peoples good points

Name gifts your family members share