

**ST MARY'S PARISH SWAN HILL
BULLETIN**

Parish 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

MacKillop Principal: Michelle Haeusler

Parish Office: **Wednesday** 10.00am—2.00pm
Friday 10.00am—2.00pm



CHRISTMAS 2015

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Presbytery: 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585

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The Parish of Swan Hill comprises the Church Communities of: St Marys Swan Hill, St Joseph's Nyah West, St Joseph's Lake Boga

Mass Next Weekend: 26/27th December Holy Family

Vigil: 7.00 pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30 am Lake Boga **10.30 am** Swan Hill

Mass during the Week:

Tuesday: 5.30 pm

Wednesday: 10.00 am

Thursday: 10.00 am

Friday: 9.00 am 1st Jan Mary, Mother of God

Intentions:

Friday: New Year, New Beginnings



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

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 *Is 9:1-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 95:1-3, 11-13 R. Lk 2:11*

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes,

he comes to rule the earth. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth.

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord

SECOND READING *Ti 2:11-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Lk 2:10-11*

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!



Diocesan 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. Our response is an indication of our solidarity with people in need, such as those affected by natural disasters.

In commending the Christmas Appeal to you, I am aware that there are many times throughout the year when you are invited to respond to appeals for very worthy causes.

Last year's appeal which raised \$46,050 was distributed to a number of communities including the following:

Loreto-Vietnam Australia Programme	2,000
Columban Mission Society work in Peru	8,000
Sisters of Nazareth in Fiji	8,000
Diocese of Tonga – Marist Missions	2,000
Archdiocese of Honiara—Solomon Islands	2,000
Diocese of Auki—Solomon Islands	2,000
Sr. Lourdes - East Timor	1,000
Good Samaritan Centre, Kiribati	2,000
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking In Humans	2,000
Bishops' Appeal for Refugees in the Middle East	7,500
Edmund Rice Centre	2,000
Exodus Community, Wendouree	2,000

Yours sincerely in Christ,



+ Paul Bird CSsR
Bishop of Ballarat

An opportunity to contribute to this annual appeal will be given after Communion on Christmas Eve / Day

May the joy of the Angels be yours.

May you be men and women of goodwill.

May you be open hearted like the shepherds.

May the courage and fidelity of Jesus be yours.

May you bring Christ into our world as Mary did.

May the Christ Child bring peace into your families, homes and your world.

May the blessings, holiness and wonder of Christmas surround you all as you spend time in the company of family, friends, neighbors and visitors to Swan Hill.

To all who exercised ministry in any way throughout 2015 many thanks for your generosity and commitment. For your kindness, care and love expressed either by word, card or gift at this time,

Sincere thanks. Fr. Marcello

Readings for 27th December

Sir 3:2-6. 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52

ST MARY'S MINISTRIES 27th December 2015

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil Trish Wait, Rene Devereux

10.30 Doreen Greenham, Brian Safe

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil Claire Billing, Chris Hoare, Gladys Bryant, 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.

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket) 19/20th Dec \$ 947.60

Christmas Offerings: to date \$ 10.00

(Support of Priests & Bishop)

Parish Account: (2nd Basket) **Envelopes** \$ 1,398.00

(Support of Parish)

Direct Debit \$ 20.00

Credit Cards \$ 0.00

Loose Money \$ 99.65

\$ 1,517.65

THANK YOU!

FEAST DAYS OF THE WEEK

Sat Dec 26 St Stephen, the First Martyr

Stephen was one of the first group of seven deacons to be ordained in the early Church. Their role was to take care of the daily distribution of food to those in need. Falsely accused, Stephen was stoned to death but died praying for his executioners. See Acts of the Apostles Ch.7 for an account of Stephen's speech before the Sanhedrin and for an account of his death.



Dear God,

Thank you for all my gifts....

Even the ones I don't appreciate

Amen

Dear God, remind me
that the greatest
gifts are wrapped in
people not paper.

This Christmas remember
to thank God for sending
Jesus and to laugh with
your family.