

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



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY Year C 27th 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: **8.30 am** Nyah West **10.30 am** Swan Hill

Mass This Week

Tuesday: 5.30 pm
Wednesday: 10.00 am
Thursday: 10.00 am
Friday: 9.00 am Jan 1st Mary, Mother of God

Intentions:

Wednesday: Jane Hinton Anniversary
Friday: New Years Day, New Beginnings

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Maggie Williams

Anniversaries: We remember Jane Hinton, Joe Mammone, Margaret Mason, David Neild, Margaret Lonergan, Bill Smith, Bill Gleeson, Glad Howley, Maria Cataldo, Vincent Kelly, Ethel Kelly, Mary McGuinness, Domenica Bartalotta, Ernest & Gladys Gleeson, Paul Dutto, Tom Turner.

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

FIRST READING from the first book of Samuel

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God.

They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. They are happy, whose strength is in you; they walk with ever growing strength.

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear, O God of Jacob. Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, look on the face of your anointed.

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

SECOND READING from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.
The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. 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

If you would like to make a contribution to this Annual Appeal, and have not had the opportunity to do so, you may contribute using a plain envelope marked "Christmas Appeal"

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket) 19th/20th Dec	\$ 947.60
Christmas Offerings: to date (Support of Priests & Bishop)	\$ 1,343.25
Parish Account: (2nd Basket) (Support of the Parish)	Envelopes \$ 1,398.00
	Credit Card \$ 20.00
	Direct Debit \$ 0.00
	Loose Plate \$ 99.65
	\$ 1,517.65
Diocesan Christmas Appeal: to date	\$ 1,765.60

Thank-You!

MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 3rd January 2016

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil: Margaret Hoare & Mary Nolan
10.30am. Barb Patterson & Helen Dean

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil: Josh Klabbbers, Mary Kennedy, Kerry Hoare, Kath Hogan
10.30am. Yvonne Richardson, Rona Bookham, Dorothy Bishop, Raelene O'Halloran, Margaret Foott.

Music: Vigil; Joe Taverna
10.30am Ken Smith & Brenda Grace

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil: Valma Barry & Nola Grant
10.30am Margaret Learmonth & Helen Tuntar

Counters Ken Smith & Peter Coady

READINGS NEXT WEEK 3rd January 2016

Is 60:1-6 ; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 ; Mt 2:1-12

"Australia must take stock of its human rights performance..." - **Bishop Vincent Long**, Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Once again the Church reminds us of the importance of the family by celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family on the very first Sunday after Christmas.

If Jesus is to be born today he must be born in the hearts of people. He must be born especially in the hearts of the members of families if family life, and society in general, are to be better. The presence of Christ is the presence of love. Fear drives out love, just as love drives out fear. Unfortunately, all too often there is violence in families. Husbands are cruel to wives, wives sometimes are cruel to husbands. Parents are cruel to children, children sometimes are cruel to parents. Insecurity, another word for fear, is often at the root of this cruelty. The father may feel his authority is being challenged or threatened, so he asserts it by being authoritarian, the only way he knows. Other members react cruelly in defence. One violence leads to another kind of violence.

Very often we do not have listening in a family because there is fear. There may be fear of appearing weak, of losing face or authority, or of being refused or punished. This fear leads one to want to control by threat or violence so that the other person then becomes afraid. If, on the other hand, there is honest listening there will be a realisation that there is a fearful human being at the other side. It is very hard, but necessary, for parents to admit their own fears and weakness to themselves and sometimes to their children. When the other's fearfulness and human condition is heard sympathetically fear is driven out and love can come in.

- from a reflection on the Gospel by Fr Gerry Pierse, CSsR

Through Baptism we welcome into our faith Community Parker Noble son of Ben and Megan and Mia Geaney daughter of Justin and Emma.

Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*: *On the Care for Our Common Home*, "Create neighbourhood networks and improvement programs. Create welcoming spaces that help people connect and trust each other. Do something nice for your community." (Pars 148-150, 152, 219, 232)

