

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



**Baptism of the Lord
Year C**

10th January 2016

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:

Friday: 12.00 Noon
11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Mass Intentions:

Friday: Domenico Bartalotta

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Ana Lamaro

Anniversaries: We remember Gerard Rogers, Carmel Sheahan, Tania Foott, Domenico Bartalotta, Nyree Templeton, Mildred Howley, Tom Conheady, Joe Clarke, Paul Failla, Carmel McGregor, John & Margaret Bookham, Kevin Sullivan.

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 Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 103:1-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-30

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants.

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small.

All of these look to you to give them their food in due

season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill.

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

SECOND 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.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION See Lk 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)		\$ 891.55
Christmas Offerings: to date		\$ 2,125.35
<i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>		
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	Envelopes	\$ 1,342.00
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>		
	Credit Card	\$ 0.00
	Direct Debit	\$ 220.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 110.30
		\$ 1,672.30
Diocesan Christmas Appeal: to date		\$ 1,820.60

Thank-You!

MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 17th January 2016

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil: Marilyn Foley, Glenda Klabbers
10.30am. Yvonne Richardson, Helen Dean

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil: Margaret Derham, Teresa McRae, Dick & Rene Devereux
10.30am. Judy Safe, Maria Aiello, Kath Hogan, Josie Renda, Elizabeth Milazzo, Yvonne Richardson.

Music: Vigil: Joe Taverna
10.30am John Farrell

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil: Kerry Hoare and Family
10.30am Jim & Helen Meehan

Counters Patsy McDonald, Kerry McCosh

READINGS NEXT WEEK 17th January 2016

Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

Kimberley Catholic Volunteer Service: Volunteers Workers Wanted The Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church on Aboriginal Missions. There are various important voluntary tasks—administration, building maintenance, gardening, shop staffing, cooking, cleaning, etc. Placements are preferred for a period of 6 months plus. For further details, and an application form, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Anneliese Rohr, ph. 08 9192 1060, email: volunteers@broomedioocese.org web: <http://www.broomedioocese.org> or mail PO Box 76, Broome WA 6725

Misericordiae Vultus – The Face of Mercy

In his announcement about the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis declared that “no-one can be excluded from the mercy of God.”

“Merciful Like the Father”. In it, Pope Francis reminds that we are each called to a journey of “spiritual conversion.”

“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy...Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him.” (par 1, MV)



GOSPEL REFLECTION Shining star of Christmas is not a meteor

A great tragedy of Christmas is that for many, it is a religion of one night, however lovely and shining it may be. The Incarnation of Jesus is reduced to mere sentimentality, tradition or a cultural feast. But Jesus is not a meteor. It is not enough to come to the manger and get stuck there; we must turn from it. And then, accepting what the occupant of the manger means, we must begin to live out that meaning, choosing what may be new directions, challenging previous ways and assumptions, continuing the journey of our life with the knowledge that something has changed. One person has made a huge difference in our life and has literally changed history.

The theme of Christ's epiphany — of Jesus inaugurating his divine mission on earth — reaches its fulfilment in today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The beautiful text from Evening Prayer on the feast of the Epiphany reads: “Three mysteries mark this holy day: today the star leads the Magi to the infant Christ; today water is changed into wine for the wedding feast; today Christ wills to be baptized by John in the river Jordan to bring us salvation.” Each event is accompanied by a theophany, by startling evidence of divine intervention: the star, the water into wine, the voice from heaven and the dove. Today we witness the baptism of the Lord, the one into whom we ourselves are baptized.

From a homily by Fr Thomas Rosica, on the Salt & Light TV blog

MORE THAN A CUPPA meet this Monday at 1.30pm

LENTEN PROGRAM: Ash Wednesday falls on 10th February and Easter is 27th March. If you are interested in forming a group, joining an established group or just wish to obtain the Lenten Program book please contact the office on 50324144 by 20th January so that books can be ordered.

URGENTLY WANTED More helpers with Ministries at weekend Mass. We need more parishioners to assist with Reading, Eucharistic Ministry, Offertory Procession counters and running the over heads during Mass. Our number of volunteers has dwindled due to age, health and parishioners leaving the area. Please contact the office on Wednesday or Friday between 10.30am and 1.30pm on 50324144

Christifideles Laici Sharers in the priestly mission of Jesus

‘The lay faithful are sharers in the priestly mission, for which Jesus offered himself on the cross and continues to be offered in the celebration of the Eucharist for the glory of God and the salvation of humanity. Incorporated in Jesus Christ, the baptized are united to him and to his sacrifice in the offering they make of themselves and their daily activities (cf. Rom 12:1, 2).

DEAR God
Do you answer
prayers that
ain't done good?
Amen

