

# 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:** Tuesday 10.00 am — 2.00 pm  
Friday 10.00 am — 2.00 pm



**Second Sunday in Lent**

**Year C**

**21st February 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: **8.30 am** Lake Boga **10.30 am** Swan Hill

## Mass This Week:

Tuesday 5.30 pm

Wednesday: 10.00 am

Thursday: 12.15 pm St Mary MacKillop College

Friday: 12.00 noon

11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

## Mass Intentions:

Wednesday: Jack & Kath Curran

**Anniversaries:** We remember: Jaron Bennett, Betty Heslop, Eileen Donovan, Peppe Defazio, Barry Power, Mary McKinley, Flavia Dutto, Pat Maher, Irene Hoare, Rose Boyd, Patricia McMahon, Ron Noble, Mitchell Donohue, Ellen Wright, Julie Charleson, Guiseppe Bellafiore, Vin Conway, Francis Foott. Jack & Kath Curran

**Prayers for the Sick:** Monica Nolen, Erin Coburn, Brooke Kennedy, Brian Mulcahy, Ronald Duryea, Dorothy Burgess, Jarrod Crimmins, Theresa Sydes, Jude Lewis.

**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 book of Genesis

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The Word of the Lord

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life before whom shall I

shrink? O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face. Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord!

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

## SECOND READING from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## READINGS NEXT WEEK 28th February 2016

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

### STATE OF THE NATION

<b>Presbytery Account:</b> (1st Basket) (Support of Priests & Bishop)		<b>\$ 846.45</b>
<b>Parish Account:</b> (2nd Basket) (Support of the Parish)	<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$ 1,476.00</b>
	<b>Credit Card</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
	<b>Direct Debit</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
	<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>\$ 130.40</b>
		<b>\$ 1,606.40</b>

Thank-You!

### MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 28th February 2016

#### Ministers of the Word:

**Vigil:** Jo Taverna, Jaidyn Taverna

**10.30am.** Yvonne Richardson, Josie Caccavello

#### Ministers of Communion:

**Vigil:** Josh Klabbbers, Mary Kennedy, Kath Hogan, Kerrie Hoare

**10.30am.** Jim Meehan, Sam Colombo, Connie Alderuccio, Robert Jager, Frank Fogarty, Graeme Learmonth.

**Music: Vigil:** John Farrell & Brenda Grace

**10.30am** Brian Wood

#### Presentation of Gifts:

**Vigil:** Helen Lewis, Margaret Magee

**10.30am** Frank & Mary Fogarty

**Counters** Jocelyn Ingram & Yvonne Richardson

**Wedding Bells:** Congratulations to Julia Pino and Brenton Gurnett married this weekend.

**Through Baptism** we welcome into our faith family Matilda Maher, daughter of Phillip and Amanda.

**Stations of the Cross** during Lent: Friday nights at 7.00pm

**Mass of the Oils** will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday, March 21, 2016.

#### **Misericordiae Vultus – The Face of Mercy**

In section 6 of the Bull of Indiction, Pope Francis quotes several extracts from the Psalms, which focus on the quality of mercy.

"...the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the sojourners, he upholds the widow and the fatherless; but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin." (Psalm 146:7-9)

#### **GOSPEL REFLECTION – We each are called to transform, just as Jesus did on the mountain top**

The transformation or transfiguration of Jesus that the disciples experienced was not simply something they were to see and experience as happening to him alone. It was also an invitation for them to undergo a transformation and transfiguration of their own.

Paul says in today's reading, "For us, our homeland is in heaven," that is, the goal and destination of our life is to be one with God. There is no other goal. "And from heaven [i.e. from God] comes the Saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe."

How is that transformation or transfiguration to take place? By listening to Jesus, listening to all that he invites

us to be and to do, however much it may seem to go against the conventions we were brought up on. It means especially listening to those words which caused such difficulty for Peter and his companions and integrating them into my own vision of life. It means having a total trust in walking his Way, a total trust that only his Way brings me into full union with God, the source of all truth, love, happiness and peace.

*From a reflection on the Gospel on the Sacred Space website*

**NB OFFICE HOURS** for February and March will be **Tuesday 10.00am – 2.00pm** and **Friday 10.00am – 2.00pm**



Duangmala wished for a bright future for her eight-year-old son, Hum Noy, who has Down Syndrome. However, she feared he would remain isolated and never reach his full potential due to a lack of support services for children living with intellectual disabilities in Laos.

Thankfully, everything changed when Duangmala and Hum Noy were introduced to the Intellectual Disabilities Unit, which was set up by the Lao Disabled People's Association with the support of Caritas Australia. This specialised school provides learning support and nurturing care to 50 children with intellectual disabilities in the Laos capital, Vientiane.

Since starting school, Hum Noy's behaviour and abilities have changed remarkably. He is no longer isolated, lonely or frustrated, and his communication skills have advanced quickly. "Hum Noy is learning how to follow instructions and say the names of his teachers and friends," says Duangmala proudly. "He likes to draw, play instruments, and when they do aerobics he joins in!" The program has also opened new opportunities for Duangmala, who received training to become a teacher at Hum Noy's school. Now, she is hopeful that her son and his classmates can lead more prosperous, fulfilling lives. "It's important to use our knowledge to help our children grow and develop," she says. "We are lucky to have this program."

With limited support services for children living with intellectual disabilities in Laos, Duangmala feared that her eight-year-old son, Hum Noy, would never reach his full potential because he has Down Syndrome. However, Hum Noy now has the chance to learn and thrive at a school for children with intellectual disabilities, supported by Caritas Australia.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help children living with intellectual disabilities in Laos learn, grow and reach their full potential.**

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season as we celebrate 50 years of Project Compassion.

In Pope Francis' words, "Lent is a time for drawing near to Christ." You will be helping to empower the world's poorest children, women and men with vital learning and renewed hope.