

Over the next 12 months St Joseph's Church Lake Boga requires some external maintenance given it appears that it has received minimal attention since the property was acquired in early 1983. In summary an excellent result in which all parishioners can be proud of. Well done and your continued financial support is appreciated.

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)	\$ 626.95
<i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>	
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	\$ 724.00
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>	
Envelopes	\$ 724.00
Credit Card	\$ 0.00
Direct Debit	\$ 60.00
Loose Plate	\$ 69.75
	\$ 853.75

Thank-You!



CUPPA AFTER MASS TODAY

More than a Cuppa this Monday 8th August 1.30 pm



We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism: Maddison Sparks daughter of Kane and Ursula, baptized Saturday night and Cooper Smith, son of Glenn and Rachael, baptized Sunday. May they grow in faith in their loving family and our Catholic Community

BAPTISM PREPARATION THIS Monday 8th August at 7.00pm in the Parish Function Centre, for parents of children being baptised in August, September, October.



Rosary in the park, this Saturday 13th August. At the Rotunda, 10.00 am. BYO chair, all welcome.



Sunday 21st August and Sunday 28th August the children of the Parish will be receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist at the 10.30 am Mass

Looking Forward 2016 - Swan Hill Parish meeting at 7.00pm this Thursday 11 August at St Mary's Parish Function Centre. As part of the continuing Looking Forward pastoral planning process, Fr Justin Driscoll, Vicar-General, and Amanda Smith, Pastoral Services Consultant, will facilitate a meeting with the parishioners of Swan Hill Parish. Many parishioners participated actively in the previous Looking Forward Gatherings in 2014 and 2015, to which multiple parishes were invited. This next meeting will have a more specific and local focus. All parishioners from Swan Hill and its church communities are welcome.

St Mary's Church Hamilton 150th Anniversary All are invited to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Mary's Church Hamilton on the weekend on August 13 & 14, 2016. A celebration dinner will be held on Saturday, August 13 and Mass will be held on Sunday, August 14 at 10.30am. A complimentary lunch will follow the blessing of a commemorative stone. History tours and displays will also be a feature on the weekend. Dinner bookings can be made at the Parish Office, ph. 5571 1161. For enquiries contact Anne Slattery, ph. 5570 8210 or 0418 370 539.

Exclusion and Embrace: Disability, Justice and Spirituality Conference This multi-faith Australasian Conference will be of interest to people with disabilities, parents, carers, academics, staff and volunteers. We will draw on personal stories and the wisdom and knowledge of all faiths, and will deepen our understanding of the many aspects of disability and spirituality. August 21-23, 2016 in Melbourne. See brochure at back of church.

Have you thought? Stewardship

Jesus responds to Peter's questioning the gospel in a roundabout way by speaking about a steward acting either faithfully and with wisdom or alternatively irresponsibly and recklessly. A steward is one who stands in the place of the master during the master's absence - taking on the duties, responsibilities and authority of the master. That's exactly what Christian people are called to do: become stewards who act in the place of Jesus as we await his return. As the prayer of St Teresa of Avila says, Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

ST MARY'S PARISH SWAN HILL BULLETIN

Priest: Fr. Marcello Colasante PP
Parish Secretary: Glenda Klabbers
Parish Council Chair: Michelle Haeusler
St Mary's School Principal: Greg Lane
St Mary MacKillop Principal: Michelle Haeusler



19th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A
7th August 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 Church Communities of: St Marys Swan Hill, St Joseph's Nyah West, St Joseph's Lake Boga

Mass Next Weekend:
 Vigil: 6.30 pm Swan Hill Sunday 10.30 am Swan Hill

Mass this Week:
 Thursday: 10.00 am
 Friday: 9.15 am
 11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Intentions:
 Thursday: Vincenzo Iannucci
 Friday: St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Recent Deaths: We commend to God: Kathleen Wongram

Anniversaries: We remember: Jack McMahan, Tom Nolan, Anna Mancinelli, Jim Shepherd, Fr Roger Shepherd, Bryan Grumley, Luigi Dutto, John Bell.

Prayers for the Sick: Donna Murchie, Rita Tuohey, Margaret Sinclair, Monica Nolen, Erin Coburn, Jude Lewis, Ronald Duryea, Brian Mulcahy, Brooke Kennedy, Jarrod Crimmins, Lourdes Stanislaus {Fr. Neville's mother}

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 Wisdom

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage. This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you. The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers. The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 32:1. 12. 18-20. 22. R. v.12

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. They are happy, whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his own.

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

SECOND READING from the letter to the Hebrews

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not

ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead, and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 24:42. 44

Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful and ready: You know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

READINGS NEXT WEEK 14th August 2016

Jer 38:4-6. 8-10; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53

MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 14th August 2016

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil: Michelle Haeusler, Barb Patterson.

10.30am. Yvonne Richardson, Josie Caccavello

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil: Margaret Hoare, Bev McCartney, Helen Lewis, Cathy Page

10.30am. Sam Colombo, Robert Jager, Margaret Foott, Elizabeth Milazzo, Yvonne Richardson, Josie Renda.

Music: Vigil: Joe Taverna

10.30am Brian Wood.

Presentation of Gifts:

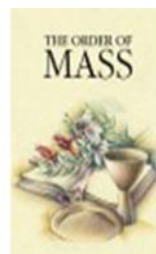
Vigil: Jim & Elaine Elliott

10.30am Peter Robertson & Family

Counters Claire Billing & Joe Taverna

YEAR OF MERCY PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, You have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Send your spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to the captives and the oppressed, and re-store sight to the blind. We ask this through the Intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever



New Order of Mass booklets available from Parish Office. \$5.00 This booklet contains the new Order of Mass with all Eucharistic Prayers as well as the solemn blessings.

Gospel Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus lived in a remote part of the Roman Empire where the majority eked out an existence. One of the few ways in which redistribution of wealth could occur was by voluntarily giving to the poor. So Jesus instructs his followers: 'Sell your possessions and give generously to those in need.'

We live in a very different society: 'The Commonwealth of Australia.' 'Common-wealth' indicates that the wealth of this nation, its people and resources, are meant to be directed to the common good.

So, we respond to Our Lord's command in ways very different to what was possible in his day.

We have a compulsory taxation system which forces us to give up some of our possessions, some of our wealth to the common-wealth. Taxation and social justice policies help fulfil Our Lord's command to create a society more humane than anything remotely possible under the Roman Empire. And that would please Our Lord. Why?

In part because those in need are helped. But, perhaps in greater part, because it makes us larger hearted people. We have to arrive at the moment of death with a heart so capacious that it can include the billions of people we hope inhabit heavenly existence.

We might pause for a moment to pray for our hearts to be expanded by our contribution to the common-wealth of all peoples throughout the world.

gospel focus

Answer the Question!

Peter asks Jesus very specifically, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' Frustratingly for Peter (and for the audience), Jesus doesn't give the direct question a direct answer, he answers the question with another story. Throughout the gospels, this is a constant tactic used by Jesus. He almost never gives a question a straightforward answer. By doing this, he invites the questioner to reflect on their own question and their purpose in asking it in the first place. He also cleverly avoids being tied down to a yes/no answer when a matter is not that simple.

St Mary's Parish Swan Hill

Annual Financial Statement

Financial Performance from 1st July to 30th June

	2016	2015
RECEIPTS:		
Stewardship Receipts – Credit Cards	11,420.00	9,685.00
- Direct Debits	11,292.00	10,507.00
- Envelopes	76,760.05	80,946.35
- Loose Money	5,969.65	7,828.95
Church Usage	4,660.00	5,490.00
Festa Del Madonna Del Monte Carmelo	1,131.25	1,175.00
Function Centre Hire	890.91	1,036.37
Donations	1,120.45	20.00
Interest	2,462.16	2,103.27
Sale of Items surplus to requirements	5,107.60	10,042.27
Sale of Water	4,563.40	2,600.00
Other / Sundry	305.45	390.85
	125,682.92	131,825.35
EXPENSES:		
Administrative	5,134.15	5,522.79
Capital Expenses	2,278.18	81.77
Cleaning / Other Property Costs	3,741.14	4,029.46
Diocesan Levies	20,758.64	20,859.83
Heating / Cooling / Light / Power	3,836.87	3,999.87
Fire Services Levy	1,177.27	1,286.49
Insurance	6,540.09	6,754.91
Liturgical	2,333.30	2,769.61
Pastoral Groups (Godstart)	435.18	0.00
Pest Control	0.00	3,710.00
Photocopying	3,709.74	3,776.98
Rates - Council	4,956.30	4,840.92
- Water & Sewage	5,318.52	5,519.47
Repairs & Maintenance	22,710.22	23,349.20
Salaries & Associated Costs	10,248.12	9,578.95
Stewardship Program Expenses	0.00	16,940.06
Loan Interest (Refurbishment)	1,327.41	2,014.68
Loan Repayments (Refurbishment)	12,000.00	12,000.00
	106,505.13	127,034.99
SURPLUS	19,177.79	4,790.36
Financial Position as at 30th June	2016	2015
ASSETS:		
CBA Working Account	1,292.44	2,346.87
CDF At Call	2,622.96	12,569.68
CDF Term Deposit	70,000.00	40,000.00
CDF Term Deposit Young Bequest	21,482.60	20,750.00
	95,398.00	75,666.55
LIABILITIES:		
CDF Loan (Church Refurbishment)	15,307.19	25,979.78

It is pleasing to report that the "state of the nation" has improved over the previous 12 months. The surplus was \$19,177 with contributions to the Stewardship Program averaging \$2,028 per week. This equates to 92.32% of the weekly amount promised. During the year lighting in St Mary's church was replaced with LED equivalents, the automatic watering system was repaired, rose garden beds established as well as a crushed rock entrance to the garages. The debt for the 2007 refurbishment has continued to reduce on schedule and should be fully liquidated by this time next year.