

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

Parish Office: Tuesday 10.00 am — 2.00 pm

Friday 10.00 am — 2.00 pm



3rd Sunday of Advent

11th December 2016

Presbytery: 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585

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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:

Tuesday: 5.30 pm

Wednesday: 5.30 pm

Thursday: 10.00 am

2.00 pm Graveside Liturgy Helen Watson @ Swan Hill Memorial Park.

Friday: 9.30 am St Mary's End of Year School Mass

11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Intentions:

Tuesday: Stephen Walsh Anniversary

Thursday: Helen Watson RIP

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Helen Watson, Donna Gammond, Sharon Florentine

Anniversaries: We remember Sam Bucheri, Eileen White, Maree Taylor, Ian Angus, Catherine Scalora, George Dawes.

Prayers for the Sick: Moira Higgins, Erin Coburn, Jude Lewis, Ronald Duryea, Brian Mulcahy, Brooke Kennedy, Patricia Mikes, Jarrod Crimmins, Sr Cheryl Bourke PBVM, Mandy Pearce Lovell, Eileen Watson, Rebbecka Sandemen.

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

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

Lord, come and save us. Alleluia!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

Lord, come and save us. Alleluia!

SECOND READING from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of

the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)		\$ 847.25
<i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>		
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	Envelopes	\$ 1,950.00
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>		
	Credit Card	\$ 0.00
	Direct Debit	\$ 20.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 100.45
		\$ 2,070.45

Thank-You!

MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 18th December 2016

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil John & Kaye Farrell

10.30 am Deanne Dacey

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil : Ursula Phyland, Josh Klabbbers, Marilyn Foley
Michelle Haeusler,

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

Music Ministry:

Vigil Felicity & Greg Lane

10.30am Bernice Murray & Brenda Grace

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil: Kennedy Family

10.30am: Ken & Glenys Smith

Counters: Ralph Hoare, Felicity Power

A Letter from the Bishop Re Christmas Appeal 2016

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. Often these requests come from priests and religious who have bonds with the diocese of Ballarat. Our response is an indication of our solidarity with people in need, such as those affected by natural disasters.

I commend the Christmas Appeal to you and to your people. I am aware that there are many times throughout the year when you are invited to respond to appeals for very worthy causes, but I hope the Ballarat diocese can continue to support this particular appeal.

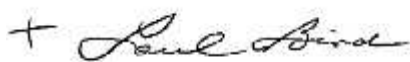
I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last year's appeal, which benefited a number of communities including :

- Loreto-Vietnam Australia Programme (Sr. Trish Franklin IBVM)
- Columban Mission Society work in Peru
- Sisters of Nazareth in Fiji
- Diocese of Tonga – Marist Missions
- Sr. Lourdes - East Timor
- Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans
- Bishops' Appeal for Refugees in the Middle East
- Edmund Rice Centre

In anticipation I thank you for your co-operation in recommending the 2016 Christmas Appeal to the generosity of your parishioners and giving them the opportunity to make their contribution on or about Christmas Day.

With every good wish, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,



+ Paul Bird CSsR
Bishop of Ballarat

An opportunity to contribute to this appeal will be given at all Christmas Masses after communion

DAILY RANDOM ACTS OF CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

- * Call a faraway friend or relative to say hello.
- * Take supplies to the animal shelter.
- * Do a chore for someone in your family.
- * Give a compliment to a friend.
- * Buy, wrap and take a gift to a charity tree.



MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE: Saturday 24th Dec
 Swan Hill 6.00 pm
 Nyah West 8.00 pm
 Swan Hill 10.00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY: Sunday 25th Dec Swan Hill 9.00 am

Communal Celebration of Reconciliation this Thursday
15th December 7.00 pm

More than a Cuppa meet this Monday at 1.30 pm.

Rosters for Special Ministers and Proclaimers of the word are now available at the back of the church.

Columban Calendars 2017 for \$10.00, available from the Parish Office Tuesdays or Fridays, 10.30am to 1.30pm.

In the spirit of the recent Moving Forward Conversations held around the Diocese throughout 2016, the faith community St Joseph's Church Nyah West have discerned with strength and courage, that it is no longer appropriate to gather for worship on the first Sunday of each month due to the small number of attenders. Naturally this decision brings with it all kinds of feelings hence it is important that we say goodbye in a way that honours the life of the Nyah West faith community where the first Mass was celebrated some 120 years ago. Therefore a final Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday 15th January at 11.00 am with a shared lunch to follow. To accommodate this, the Mass time in Swan Hill will change to 9.00 am for that Sunday only. In due course arrangements will be made for the property to be sold together with any items not returned to their original donors.

READINGS NEXT WEEK 18th Dec 2016

Is 7:10-14 ; Rom 1:1-7 ; Mt 1:18-24

Parish Appointments 2017

Fr Adrian McInerney will be retiring as Parish Priest of Ballarat East in January.

Fr Peter Sherman has been appointed parish priest of Ballarat East as of 25th January 2017.

