

# 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



## 4th Sunday of Advent

**18th December 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:** The Nativity of the Lord (**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

**Mass this Week:**

Tuesday: 5.30 pm  
Wednesday: 10.00 am  
Thursday: 10.00 am  
Friday: 12.00 noon



**Anniversaries:** We remember Arthur O'Bree, Charlie Taverna, Columbina Cutri.

**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, Rebbecca 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

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The Word of the Lord

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

**SECOND READING** from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David:

it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

**STATE OF THE NATION**

<b>Presbytery Account:</b> (1st Basket)	\$ 677.25
(Support of Priests & Bishop)	
<b>Parish Account:</b> (2nd Basket)	
(Support of the Parish)	
<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$ 2,292.50</b>
<b>Credit Card</b>	<b>\$ 505.00</b>
<b>Direct Debit</b>	<b>\$ 721.00</b>
<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>\$ 88.15</b>
	<b>\$ 3,606.65</b>

Thank-You!

**MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 25th December 2016****Ministers of the Word:****Vigil****10.00pm****9.00 am****Ministers of Communion:****Vigil :****10.00 pm****9.00 am****Music Ministry:****Vigil Children's Mass****10.00 pm** Bernice Murray and Brenda Grace**9.00 am** John Farrell**Presentation of Gifts:****Vigil:****10.00 pm****9.00 am :****Counters:**

As you can see, there are plenty of opportunities to assist with the various ministries for Christmas Masses next weekend. If you intend celebrating Christmas with us next weekend and can assist, kindly add your name to the rosters in the foyer. Much Appreciated.

**DAILY RANDOM ACTS OF CHRISTMAS KINDNESS**

- ◆ Pay for a strangers coffee
- ◆ Leave a happy note for someone to find
- ◆ Smile at everyone you see today
- ◆ Do a secret act of kindness for someone
- ◆ Take treats to the police station or emergency services offices

**READINGS NEXT WEEK 25th Dec 2016**

Is9:1-7; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

**We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:**

Lenny Harrison, son of Wes and Tennille and Jarvis Condely, son of Justin and Ingrid.

May they grow in faith in their loving family and our Catholic Community.

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

**Parish Appointment 2017:** Fr Damian Styles has been serving as the assistant priest in Mildura. He will be concluding his service in the Mildura parish in January and returning to full-time chaplaincy with the Australian Army. The new assistant priest in Mildura from January onwards will be Fr James Kerr. Fr James has served in the Cathedral Parish for the past three years.

**Catholic Mission Pocket Diaries 2017** are available in the foyer of the Church.

**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 through people who have bonds with the diocese of Ballarat.

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)	5,000
Columban Mission Society work in Peru	5,000
Refugees in the Middle East	5,000
Nazareth House Ballarat	5,000
Catholic Education in Myanmar	5,000
Caritas Australia	5,000
Catholic Mission	5,000
Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference Aboriginal Ministry	5,000
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans	2,000
Exodus Community, Wendouree West	2,000
Edmund Rice Centre	2,000
3BA Christmas in July Appeal	2,000

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

All loose money placed in the **second basket** passed around at **Christmas Masses next weekend** will go towards this Appeal

**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. 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.

**Who is coming for Christmas Dinner?**

In September the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement was titled 'A Place at the Table' Social Justice in an Aging Society. In responding to this statement the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is asking the families in our Ballarat Diocesan community to consider whether there might be an extra place at their Christmas dinner table for an elderly relative, friend or neighbour who may otherwise be spending Christmas Day alone.