

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



**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
15th January 2017**

Presbytery: 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585
Phone: 50324144
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: 10.00 am
Friday: 12.00 noon

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Jenny Leonardi, Max Fletcher

Anniversaries: We remember May Croft, Alf Wilson, Pauline Martin, Eddie Dalton, Catherine Willson, David "Tige" Bonney, Vince Mobilio, Tom & Jo Murphy, Carmel Gregor, Dominico Bartalotta, Nyree Templeton.

Prayers for the Sick: Erin Coburn, Jude Lewis, Ronald Duryea, Brian Mulcahy, Brooke Kennedy, Patricia Mikes, Sr Cheryl Bourke (PBVM), Jarrod Crimmins, 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

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'
The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.
I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God.
You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I.
In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart.
Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.
Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

SECOND READING from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.
The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 1:14. 12

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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READINGS NEXT WEEK 22nd January
Is 8:23 – 9:3 ; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 ; Mt 4:12-23



PARISH APPOINTMENT

January 6, 2017

Fr Marcello Colasante PP
Catholic Presbytery
PO Box 71
Swan Hill Vic 3585

Dear Fr Marcello,

Following our recent conversation regarding the care of parishes in the Ballarat region, I write to confirm your new appointment as parish priest of St Columba's parish, Ballarat North, and Our Lady Help of Christians parish, Wendouree, to take effect from February 25, 2017.

I am grateful for your readiness to take up this ministry following Fr Peter Sherman's move to Ballarat East. I am confident that you will bring many gifts to this role and that you will develop in your own way the care of the parish communities that has been fostered over the years.

I realise that this appointment will bring a sense of loss to the people of the Swan Hill parish whom you are serving at present. I pray that we will be able to make suitable provision for the care of the Swan Hill parish as soon as possible.

I offer my best wishes to you and all your parishioners as we move into a new year.

God bless you, Fr Marcello.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bird CSsR
Bishop of Ballarat

MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 22nd January 2017

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil: Michelle Haeusler, Glenda Klabbers
10.30 am Kate Quinn, Ginny Gook

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil: Claire Billing, Chris Hoare, Gladys Bryant,
Lyn Stutley
10.30 am Sam Colombo, Robert Jager, Margaret Foott,
Elizabeth Milazzo, Yvonne Richardson, Josie Renda

Music Ministry:

Vigil: Joe Taverna
10.30 am Bernice Murray and Alison Wright

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil: Shane & Julie Noonan
10.30 am Bernice Murray & Bill Croft

Counters: Claire Billing & Joe Taverna

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of

Baptism: Tavi Lonergan daughter of Jayden and Sarah.
May she grow in faith in her loving family and our Catholic Community

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)	\$ 779.75
Christmas Offerings:	\$ 1,847.00
<i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>	
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	Envelopes \$ 1,122.00
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>	
	Credit Card \$ 505.00
	Direct Debit \$ 826.00
	Loose Plate \$ 85.30
	\$ 2,538.30
Diocesan Christmas Appeal: to date	\$ 1,646.65

Thank-You!

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

What does it mean to be 'holy'? It does not mean 100% morally correct, or separate from the great mass of people: 'Holier than thou'! It means being so close to God that God's holiness rubs off.

We are adopted members of the Holy Family, and something rubs off.

Each one of us has heard at our baptism 'You are my beloved son/daughter'. We have been adopted into God's family and that brings us into close proximity to God.

So, if St Paul were writing to us today, as he did to the Corinthians, this is how it would run: '...to the church of God that is in [your town], made up of those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.'

But, we are not alone. In a multitude of places there are people who have also been baptised and therefore share a certain family resemblance. How is the 'togetherness' held together? By being in communion with the Bishop of Rome, currently Pope Francis.

We might pause for a moment to thank God that we are amongst the baptised who can receive St Paul's greeting: 'Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

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CWL Members and friends are gathering at spoons for a social luncheon on 17th January. Come at noon for lunch at 12.30pm.

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

gospel focus

Ranking

There is an odd line in today's passage. John reminds the crowd that he had said 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' In Jewish tradition, the prophets and patriarchs who came earlier in their history ranked higher than those who came later. They believed that the history of salvation was at its pinnacle with God's self-revelation to Abraham. Successive episodes and characters were regarded as lesser. But John affirms that Jesus ranks before himself because Jesus existed before John. He is saying that Jesus is more than simply the latest in a long line of prophets.