

ST MARY'S PARISH SWAN HILL BULLETIN

Parish Priest: Fr. Marcello Colasante PP

Parish Secretary: Glenda Klabbers

Parish Council Chair: Michelle Haeusler

Parish Safeguarding Officers: Karen & Damian Kelly

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



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th February 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 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:

Thursday: 1.30 pm Funeral Michele Sorbara

Friday: 11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Giuseppe Mase, Michele Sorbara

Anniversaries: We remember Jaron Bennett, Betty Heslop, Barry Power, Flavia Dutto, Pat Maher, Irene Hoare, Patricia McMahon, Ron Noble, Ellen Wright, Vin Conway, Francis Foott, Jack & Kath Curran.

Prayers for the Sick: Erin Coburn, Jude Lewis, Ronald Duryea, Brian Mulcahy, Brooke Kennedy, Jarrod Crimmins, Rebecka 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 book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.'

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

 Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

SECOND READING

 from 1st letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

 1 Jn 2:5

Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

 reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.'

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

The Gospel of the Lord

MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 26th February 2017

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil: John & Kaye Farrell

10.30 am Deanne Dacey

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil: Claire Billing, Chris Hoare, Gladys Bryant, Lyn Stutley

10.30 am Dorothy Bishop, Raelene O'Halloran, Damien Kelly, Brenda Ford, Graeme Learmonth, Jim Meehan.

Music Ministry:

Vigil: Joe Taverna

10.30 am Ken Smith & Alison Wright

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil: Michelle Haeusler, Glenda Klabbers

10.30 am Jim & Rona Bookham

Counters: Ralph Hoare, Felicity Power.

READINGS NEXT WEEK 26th February Yr A

Is 49:14-15; 1 Cor 4:1-5; Mt 6:24-34

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket) \$ 803.20

(Support of Priests & Bishop)

Parish Account: (2nd Basket) Envelopes \$ 1,345.00

(Support of the Parish) Credit Card \$ 905.00

Direct Debit \$ 471.00

Loose Plate \$ 94.30

\$ 2,815.30

Thank-You!



WEDDING BELLS: Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to Amanda Gardner and Francesco Talarico on their wedding on Saturday.



We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism: Miller Collins son of Jason and Cassandra and Karen Infantino daughter of Rocco and Khelly. May they grow in faith in their loving family and our Catholic Community.

Baptism Preparation : The next Baptism Preparation meeting is **this** Monday 20th February at 7.00 pm in the small meeting room, Parish Function Centre.

Date Claimers: March 1st **Ash Wednesday**
March 4th **Rite of Election**
April 10th **Mass of the Oils**
April 16th **Easter Sunday**

Fr. Marcello's new address: 3 Chesterfield Court Soldiers Hill
Vic 3350

GOSPEL REFLECTION: by Dianne Bergant CSS

At times it seems we have rewritten the 'Golden Rule' to say: Do unto others before they can do unto you! In saying this we are not encouraging each other to do good, but to be defensive. Jesus tells us to go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, outdo ourselves in generosity and rise above the fray. He is not suggesting that we allow ourselves to be abused, but that we not perpetuate the antagonism out of which the mistreatment arose. He is not advocating passivity, but he is saying that we should not retaliate. Jesus is describing what we today would call active non-resistance, the attitude taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

We are familiar with the answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? We usually interpret it to mean those we do not particularly like. It is important to love them, to be kind to them, to help them when they are in need. But these are not the people whom Jesus is talking about in today's reading. He tells us that the neighbours whom we are to love are those people who do not like us. We are to love those who deliberately exclude us from their social circles, who talk about us behind our backs. We are to love those who make us feel that we are not good enough for them, those who resent us for our accomplishments. We are to love those who exploit us or do us harm. This is indeed a radical teaching.

Historical Context

Walk two miles

Roman soldiers were allowed by their own military laws to require any person to carry the soldier's pack along the road from one milestone marker to another. That is, they could order a man to walk one mile with their pack. If they made someone carry their pack for more than one mile, the soldier himself was subject to discipline and punishment. Jesus says, 'If anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him.' Like turning the other cheek, it is turning the tables on the one who would oppress you and bring shame upon them.

