

ST MARY'S PARISH SWAN HILL BULLETIN

Parish Priest: Fr. Matthew Thomas PP
Parish Secretary: Glenda Klabbers
Parish Council Chair: Michelle Haeusler
Parish Safeguarding Officers: Karen & Damian Kelly
St Mary's School Principal: Gregory Lane
St Mary MacKillop Principal: Michelle Haeusler
Parish Office: Tuesday 10.00 am — 2.00 pm
Friday 10.00 am — 2.00 pm



8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26th 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: **10.30 am** Swan Hill

Mass this Week:

Tues: 5.30 pm
Wednesday: 12.00 noon and 5.45pm
Thursday: 10.00 am

Mass Intentions:

Thursday : Michele Sobora

Anniversaries: We remember Ted Corrie, Jack O'Connor, Helen Fleming, Maureen O'Toole, Daniel Wright, Dot Francis, Frank Salvo, Mitchell Donohue, Vincent and Danny Lavey, Antonio & Vincenza Fazzalori, Irene Hoare.

Prayers for the Sick: Erin Coburn, Jude Lewis, Ronald Duryea, Brian Mulcahy, Brooke Kennedy, 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

Zion was saying, 'The Lord has abandoned me, the Lord has forgotten me.' Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you.
The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Rest in God alone, my soul.

In God alone is my soul at rest; my help comes from him. He alone is my rock, my stronghold, my fortress: I stand firm.

In God alone be at rest, my soul; for my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock, my stronghold, my fortress: I stand firm.

In God is my safety and glory, the rock of my strength. Take refuge in God all you people. Trust him at all times. Pour out your hearts before him.

Rest in God alone, my soul.

SECOND READING from St Paul to the Corinthians

People must think of us as Christ's servants, stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God. What is expected of stewards is that each one should be found worthy of his trust. Not that it makes the slightest difference to me whether you, or indeed any human tribunal, find me worthy or not. I will not even pass judgement on myself. True, my conscience does not reproach me at all, but that does not prove that I am acquitted: the Lord alone is my judge. There must be no passing of premature judgement. Leave that until the Lord comes: he will light up all that is hidden in the dark and reveal the secret intentions of men's hearts. Then will be the time for each one to have whatever praise he deserves, from God.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.

'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry, do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

The Gospel of the Lord

MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 5th March 2017

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil: Margaret Hoare, Mary Nolan

10.30 am Dorothy Bishop, Damien Kelly

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil: Josh Klabbers, Mary Kennedy, Kerry Hoare, Kath Hogan.

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

Music Ministry:

Vigil: Joe Taverna

10.30 am St Mary's School

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil: Kennedy Family

10.30 am Joseph Chand

Counters: Patsy McDonald, Kerry McCosh

READINGS NEXT WEEK 5th March Yr A

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19 ; Mt 4:1-11

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket) **\$ 917.40**

(Support of Priests & Bishop)

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

(Support of the Parish)

Credit Card \$ 0.00

Direct Debit \$ 50.00

Loose Plate \$ 94.30

\$ 1,439.00

Thank-You!

This weekend we welcome Fr Matthew Thomas to our community.

This Wednesday is ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES are
12.00 noon and 5.45pm

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be held in the Grain Shed this Friday 3rd March at 10.00am. The Service has been prepared on the Philippines. All welcome. Please note there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or midday Mass on Friday.

Stations of the Cross will be held on Friday evenings at 7.00 pm during Lent. All welcome.

CWL meeting is on Tuesday 7th March in the Parish Meeting Room at 1.30pm. New members welcome. Check our website for more information www.cwlvicww.org

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION: by Dianne Bergant CSS: What can be nobler than building up the reign of God? What could deserve our commitment more than the proclamation of the gospel? What greater privilege could be ours than acting as agents of the blessings of God? Disciples are called to just such privileged roles. And where are these disciples to be found? They spend their lives in classrooms, factories, offices and hospitals. They serve in families, businesses, restaurants, shopping malls, banks and grocery stores. They answer telephones, protect us from harm, build our roads, and repair our plumbing. Disciples upbuild the reign of God in whichever form of life or occupation they have chosen.

Although we embark on a life of service with great enthusiasm and genuine commitment, it does not take long before the enormity of the task becomes apparent. We might then begin to doubt ourselves or doubt the call itself. At such times, Jesus exhorts us to trust in God. All is in the hands of God; for our part, we have only to trust.

Our own limitations and sinfulness often get in the way. There are forces in society that seem bent on undermining our every effort. The people to whom we commit ourselves can be ungrateful or want no part of us or our service. Sometimes the obstacles seem to come from the church, its structures and its personnel. In the midst of such darkness, we hear Jesus gently but firmly saying: Do not worry! Trust! God cares for the birds and the grass, surely God will care for you.



Our theme this year is "Love your neighbour". The six stories we share with you for the six weeks of Lent reveal some of the ways lives can be transformed when we follow Jesus' instruction to "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt. 22:39). The call of Jesus shakes us out of preoccupation with ourselves. Christ asks us to acknowledge in our lives that we are all members of the one human family. Each one of us is equally worthy of respect and compassion. In Project Compassion 2017 we will demonstrate how love for our neighbours can transform lives. When mutual respect is fostered, communities become stronger and more resilient. This can only lead to a better future for our world, the world that Pope Francis has recently called "our common home". For more than 50 years, Caritas Australia has been privileged to work together with our neighbours – our most vulnerable sisters and brothers in First Australian communities and in many other countries. Working with our partner agencies in those communities, we have developed the strength to combat poverty, promote justice and uphold the dignity of every person.

Each week during Lent we will follow the journey of some of these people.