

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**  
**19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**First Reading** *1 Kgs 19:9.11-13*

A reading from the first book of the Kings  
 When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

**Responsorial Psalm** *Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8*

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

**Second Reading** *Rom 9:1-5*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
 What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

**Gospel Acclamation** *Lk 19:38*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
 I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. Alleluia!

**Gospel** *Mt 14:22-33*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
 Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

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**Gospel Focus – 'Lord! Save me!'**

The cry of Peter is one that each of us feels the need to cry out at some stage in our life. Jesus trusted Peter's ability to walk to him on the water; otherwise he would not have called Peter to do so. It is Peter who doubts himself. In this moment of realising that he can't do it alone, he calls out to Jesus. One of the enduring images of Jesus is as the one who saves – the Saviour. When the realisation eventually comes to each of us that we can't do it all alone, we need only call on the one who saves.

**Historical Context – Separation**

The image of Jesus still ashore while the disciples battled against strong winds and rising seas must have been an evocative one for the Matthean community. Like the disciples, they were acutely aware of their separation from Jesus. Unlike the disciples, they were separated by time and the raging storm that beset them was a tide of suspicion and persecution. At times they felt the strength and courage of Peter to step out of the boat and be Jesus in their world, but at other times they doubted their own abilities. It is a message for the Church of the day and the Church of today.

**ST MARY'S PARISH SWAN HILL BULLETIN**

**Priest:** Fr. Matthew Thomas PP

**Parish Secretary:** Glenda Klabbers

**Parish Council Chair:** Michelle Haeusler

**Parish Safeguarding Officers:**  
 Karen & Damien Kelly

**St Mary's School Principal:** Greg Lane

**St Mary MacKillop Principal:** Michelle Haeusler

**Parish Office:** Tuesday 10.00am - 2.00pm  
 Friday 10.00am -2.00pm



**19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Year A**

**13th August 2017**

**Presbytery:** 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585

**Phone:** 50324144

**Email:** swanhill@ballarat.catholic.org.au

The Parish of Swan Hill comprises of the faith Communities of:  
 St Marys Swan Hill,  
 St Joseph's Lake Boga

**Mass Next Weekend:**

Saturday	6.30 pm Vigil	Swan Hill
Sunday	10.30 am	Swan Hill

**Mass this Week:**

Monday:	1.30pm Funeral Geoff Henson
Tuesday:	9am St Mary's Primary School 5.30pm Swan Hill
Wed:	10.00 am
Thursday:	No Mass— Meeting in Ballarat
Friday:	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 12.00 noon

**Mass Intentions:**



**Recently Deceased: We commend to God** Geoff Henson

**Anniversaries:** We remember:

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

*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.*

**Parish Feast Day**

Tuesday 15th August is the Parish feast day a great way for all to celebrate the role the Blessed Virgin Mary plays in our lives. Mass is at 9am at St Mary's School or at 5.30pm.

**DATES TO REMEMBER IN AUGUST**

- 14th August: Over 60's meet. 1.30pm
- 21st August: Baptism Preparation. 7.00pm
- 22nd August: Distribution Meeting; Stewardship Program 10.00am
- 27th August: Lake Boga Mass 8.30am

**Parish Stewardship Program** This year we are renewing our Stewardship Program given that it has been 3 years since the Parish renewed it's Planned Giving Program.

The Program will be pre-empted by two weekends dedicated to the updating of our Parish Census.

The weekends dedicated to the Stewardship Program will be: **July 29th /30th** and **August 5th/6th and August 12th/13th.**

A Note of thanks for all those who attended the meeting on Wednesday night.

**Welcome to Fr Justin Driscoll**

We thanks Fr Justin for being with us this weekend, celebrating our masses and talking to us about our commitment to the parish for the next part of the Stewardship Program. We hope he enjoys his stay and is able to catch up with many friends from when he was PP here.

**Sea Lake Community**

Last weekend I met with the people of the Sea Lake community and spoke to them about the partnering of the parishes. I asked them to consider and respond to later on the following:

- J What was their expectations of Me (Fr Matt)
- J What are their concerns?
- J What are some positives?
- J What are some negatives?

This could be something that we too could think about.

**Letter from Bishop Paul**

Bishop Paul has written a letter to all the within the Diocese about the current situation with the Child Sexual Abuse, a copy of the letter is in the foyer if you wish to take a copy home.

**ST MARY'S MINISTRIES for 20th August 2017**

**Ministers of the Word:**

**Vigil:** John and Kaye Farrell

**10.30am:** St Mary's Primary

**Ministers of Communion:**

**Vigil:** M Hoare, B McCarthy, H Lewis, C Page

10.30 am: S Colombo, R Jager, M Foott, E Milazzo,

Y Richardson, J Renda

**Presentation of Gifts:**

**Vigil:** Valma Barry, Nola Grant

**10.30am :** St Mary's Primary

**Music Ministry:**

**Vigil:** Joe Taverna

**10.30am:** St Marys Grade 5

**Counters:** Teresa and Gavin O'Brien

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**STATE OF THE NATION**

<b>Presbytery Account:</b> (1st Basket)		<b>\$ 780.15</b>
<i>(Support of Priests &amp; Bishop)</i>		
<b>Parish Account:</b> (2nd Basket)	<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$ 985.00</b>
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>		
	<b>Credit Card</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
	<b>Direct Debit</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
	<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>\$ 95.15</b>
		<b>\$</b>

Thank-You!

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**READINGS NEXT WEEK 20th August Year A**

1st Reading : Is 56:1,6-7

2nd Reading: Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

Gospel: Mt 15: 21-28

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**Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants**

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. A wide range of subject areas are offered: Scripture, Sacraments, Social Justice, Leadership skills, Youth Ministry, many more. Registration for the September study cycle closes on 28 August - or you can start later in October. There are 6 study cycles each year, you can start at any one. Study one subject or do more – it's flexible! Details on the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) (link is on home page), or contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email [amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au).



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT.**

In what way would the command to walk on water have been a confirmation of Jesus' identity for Peter?

How do you imagine the other disciples reacted to Peter stepping out of the boat?

In what ways would describing the message of this story as 'have faith' be inadequate?

When have you ever felt separated from Jesus as the disciples were when the storm engulfed them?

**Youth Synod Questionnaire:**

The second part of the Youth Synod 2018 preparatory consultation with our Diocese is a Questionnaire. Groups and individuals of all ages are invited to respond. Pope Francis wants to hear from Dioceses around the world and responses to the Questionnaire will form part of the preparations for the worldwide **Ordinary Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment** in Rome in October 2018. The Questionnaire is available on the Diocesan website (*Latest News* on home page). Please email responses by 15 August 2017. For more info contact [youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or 5337 7125.

**ACYF 2017**

Registrations for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival are already over 80% capacity and Early Bird Registrations close on 18 August. The Festival is 7-9 December 2017, for Year 9-30 yo. Ballarat Diocese Youth and Young Adult Ministry has secured accommodation in Sydney and bus transport there and back. Please contact Amanda soon to 'book in' your group. If you are not yet part of a group, we can help – contact [Amandayouth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Amandayouth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or 0427 748 867. More information on [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) / Youth and Young Adult pages.

**Family Matters - Strengthening Respectful Relationships Forum**

All are welcome to attend this Forum with Fr Frank Brennan SJ as the guest speaker which will be held in Ballarat on June 24, Warrnambool July 22, and Mildura August 26. These free events are being hosted by the Social Justice Commission of the Diocese of Ballarat together with many workshops provided by Centacare. Please register your attendance at one of the venues listed: <http://2017familymatters.weebly.com/> Details about workshops will be released soon. Alternatively, contact Danielle Peters or Tony Haintz - [social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

Lord, show us your mercy and love