

# ST MARY'S PARISH SWAN HILL BULLETIN

**Priest:** Fr. Marcello Colasante PP  
**Parish Secretary:** Glenda Klabbers  
**Presbytery:** Nola O'Bree  
**Parish Council Chair:** Michelle Haeusler  
**St Mary's School Principal:** Greg Lane  
**St Mary MacKillop Principal:** Michelle Haeusler  
**Parish Office: Wednesday** 10.00 am — 2.00 pm  
**Friday** 10.00 am — 2.00 pm



**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Year B**  
**15th November 2015**

**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:

Vigil: **7.00 pm** Swan Hill  
Sunday: **8.30 am** Lake Boga **10.30 am** Swan Hill

## Mass This Week

Wednesday 10.00 am  
Thursday: 10.00 am  
Friday: 12.00 Noon  
6.00 pm VCE Graduation

## Intentions:

Wednesday: Phillip Milano Anniversary  
Thursday: John Hayes Anniversary  
Friday: Mary Loughran Anniversary

**Anniversaries: We remember** Phillip Milano, Ken Allen, Ellen Real, Kathleen Storer, Bernadette O'Brien, Leon McDougal, Con Marcus, Carmela Capone, Jack Hall, Mary O'Connor, Caterina Massara, Catherine Scalora.

**Prayers for the Sick:** Monica Nolen, Moira Higgins, Erin Coburn, Brooke Kennedy, Brian Mulcahy, Ronald Duryea, Margaret Sinclair, Dorothy Burgess. 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.**

## FIRST READING from the prophet Daniel

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

The Word of the Lord

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 15:5. 8-11. R.v.1

Keep me safe, O God: you are my hope.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness forever.

Keep me safe, O God: you are my hope.

## SECOND READING from the letter to the Hebrews

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. Christ, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place for ever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

The Word of the Lord

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 21:36

Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful, and pray constantly, that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

## Praying for our young people In the Ballarat Diocese,

113 young people and their leaders are preparing to travel to Adelaide to participate in the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, December 3-5, 2015. We ask that you pray for them in the coming weeks:

**Prayer for young people going to the Youth Festival** God of all, you gently call us each by name. We give thanks for the young people who are preparing to go to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Adelaide. Continue to call them, O God, in a world where complexity and busyness can cloud and distort our way. As they gather from across this land of the Holy Spirit may their hearts yearn for you, who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:** In the opening lines of today's gospel reading, there are clear echoes of two passages from the prophecy of Isaiah. The first passage reads, "For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light" (Isaiah 13:10). These images from Isaiah read like an unravelling of God's work in creation. The second passage likewise predicts a scenario that seems to reverse the Genesis creation account: "All the host of heaven [the constellations] shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall wither like a leaf withering on a vine, or fruit withering on a fig tree" (Isaiah 34:4). The prophet is using powerful poetic imagery to speak of God's judgment on the people of Israel who have strayed from their covenant relationship.

The parallel images in Mark 13 are referenced to the aftermath of the "time of distress" associated with the destruction of Jerusalem, a time of intense suffering for the community of believers. Jesus tells his disciples that, after all their suffering, strange cosmic phenomena will signal his return in glory and usher in a new age for God's people when the faithful will be gathered in. The message is intended to give comfort and hope to Mark's persecuted community of the late sixties or early seventies of the first century. Just as the new leaves on the fig tree signal the approach of summer, so too will the strange signs in the heavens signal Christ's coming and the onset of a new era, an end to the "time of distress". The message is thus one of encouragement for the community as they face an uncertain future rather than one of judgment.

The strange apocalyptic imagery and the ancient cosmology that has Jesus returning on the clouds need not distract the modern and scientifically sophisticated reader from hearing the call to trust in God no matter what happens. This reading may remind some of us that the unravelling of God's work is more than a poetic image in our times. The freak storms, the cyclones, and other signs of global warming we have seen might well serve as reminders to attend more carefully to the preservation of planet Earth. We may also hear a call to pay closer attention to what the "other-than-human" Earth elements can tell us about God and God's ways.

Tim Winton's memoir, *Island Home*, offers a contemporary reminder of who we are as planetary beings, of what we have done to our planet and of how attentiveness to land and landscape is integral to being who we are. The wild fig or the black-flanked rock wallabies, for instance, may be more eloquent teachers than we had ever realised. *Sr Veronica Lawson*.

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**READINGS NEXT WEEK** 22nd November  
Daniel 7:13-14 ; Rv 1:5-8 ; John 18:33-37

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**Through Baptism** we welcome into our faith community Freya McFarlane, daughter of Trent and Kylie and Luca Bennett son of Jaron and Tiffany.

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"Get back to nature – 'the caress of God' -- to re-charge. Be more attentive to its beauty and wonder and revisit places that left you with happy memories. (Pars 84, 97, 215, 233)  
Laudato Si': On the Care for Our Common Home

**STATE OF THE NATION**

<b>Presbytery Account:</b> (1st Basket) (Support of Priests & Bishop)		<b>\$ 798.40</b>
<b>Parish Account:</b> (2nd Basket) (Support of the Parish)	<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$ 1,908.00</b>
	<b>Credit Card</b>	<b>\$ 1,095.00</b>
	<b>Direct Debit</b>	<b>\$ 471.00</b>
	<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>\$ 67.30</b>
		<b>\$ 3,541.30</b>
<b>Seminary Building Fund Appeal:</b> ( to date )		<b>\$ 280.00</b>

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**MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 22nd November 2015**

**Ministers of the Word:**

**Vigil.** Marilyn Foley, Glenda Klabbers

**10.30am.** Deanne Dacey

**Ministers of Communion:**

**Vigil.** Claire Billing, Chris Hoare, Gladys Bryent, Lyn Stutley

**10.30am.** Judy Safe, Maria Aiello, Kath Hogan, Josie Renda, Elizabeth Milazzo, Yvonne Richardson

**Music: Vigil.** Joe Taverna

**10.30am** The Choir & Alison Wright

**Presentation of Gifts:**

**Vigil.** Josh & Glenda Klabbers

**10.30am** Ken & Glenys Smith

**Counters** Bernadette & Sarah Cleeland

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**Jubilee Year of Mercy** Pope Francis has announced an **Extraordinary Jubilee - Holy Year of Mercy** to commence on **December 8, 2015**, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will conclude on Sunday, **November 20, 2016**, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. All are invited to attend the **Opening of the Door of Mercy** at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on **December 13, 2015, 10.30am**. Refreshments will follow the Mass.

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**PARISH APPOINTMENTS** Bishop Paul Bird has announced a number of parish appointments that will take effect in January 2016. **Fr Ed Moloney** will conclude his appointments as parish priest of **Maryborough** and as supervising priest for the parish of Gordon in mid-January. He will then take up an appointment as a member of the staff at **Corpus Christi Seminary** in Melbourne. **Fr John Monaghan** will take up an appointment as **parish priest of Maryborough**. In addition to his current responsibilities, **Fr Eugene McKinnon** will become parish priest of **Ouyen, Quambatook, Sea Lake and Wycheproof**. Fr Peter Jose will move from Mildura to be **assistant priest for Ouyen, Quambatook, Sea Lake and Wycheproof**.

**Fr Damian Styles**, currently serving as a chaplain with the Australian Army, will be **on loan to the diocese of Ballarat** for 2016 and will be **assistant priest in Mildura**.

In addition to his current responsibilities, **Fr Gary Jones** will be **supervising priest** for the parish of **Gordon**.

The three Redemptorist priests who have been with us for the past twelve months: **Fr Peter Danh** who has been in **Wendouree**, **Fr Joseph Tuyen** who has been in **Maryborough** and **Fr Anthony Tran** who has been in Colac, will conclude their ministry with the Ballarat diocese at the end of this year as planned. In the new year **Fr Peter** will join the Redemptorist community in **St Albans South**, **Fr Joseph** in **Keysborough** and **Fr Anthony** in **Auckland**.

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