

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



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

1st 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: 10.30 am** Swan Hill

Mass this Week:

Tuesday: 5.30 pm

Wednesday: 10.00 am

Thursday: 10.00 am

Friday: 10.30 am Funeral Maria Mirabito

Intentions:

Tuesday: Jane Hinton Anniversary

Friday: Maria Mirabito R.I.P

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Eileen Watson, Mark Dacey, Maria Mirabito, Giuseppina Abate (Glenroy), Maria Columbro

Anniversaries: We remember Jane Hinton, Joe Mammone, Margaret Mason, David Neild, Margaret Lonergan, Bill Smith, Glad Howley, Ernest & Alice Gleeson, Paul Dutto, Tom Turner, Ray Leschke.

Prayers for the Sick: Moira Higgins, Erin Coburn, Jude Lewis, Ronald Duryea, Brian Mulcahy, Brooke Kennedy, Patricia Mikes, Jarrod Crimmins, Sr Cheryl Bourke PBVM, Mandy Lovell, 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 book of Numbers

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66:2-3. 5. 6. 8. R. v.2

May God bless us in his mercy.

God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him.

May God bless us in his mercy.

SECOND READING from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir. *The Word of the Lord*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

The Gospel of the Lord



STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)		\$ 1,882.50
Christmas Offerings to date:		\$ 1,147.00
<i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>		
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	Envelopes	\$ 682.00
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>	Credit Card	\$ 0.00
	Direct Debit	\$ 140.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 0.00
		\$ 822.00
Diocesan Christmas Appeal: to date		\$ 1,419.45

Thank-You!

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MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 8th January 2017

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil Margaret Hoare, Mary Nolan.

10.30am Dorothy Bishop, Damien Kelly.

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil : Margaret Derham, Teresa McRae, Dick & Rene Devereux

10.30 am Frank Fogarty, Connie Alderuccio, Rona Bookham, Elma Balsarini, Jocelyn Ingram.

Music Ministry:

Vigil Joe Taverna

10.30 am Ken Smith & Alison Wright

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil: Jim & Elaine Elliott.

10.30 am: Joseph Chand

Counters: Dorothy Bishop, Helen Dean.

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READINGS NEXT WEEK 8th January

Is 60:1-6 ; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 ; Mt 2:1-12

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism: Ilaisaane Topenisa Misiloi. May she grow in faith in her loving family and our Catholic Community.

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

Catholic Mission Pocket Diaries 2017 are available in the foyer of the Church.

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

It is fitting that on New Year's Day we celebrate the calendar-shattering event in human history: the extraordinary role that a young woman in Galilee played in God's plan for the human race. In the Western Church, the young woman is titled 'Mother of God'. This signifies a relationship, a loving, nurturing relationship. We know that it encompassed a mother's horror of seeing her son tortured and done to death on the Cross.

Yes, she was a mother, but Mother of God.

How can this be portrayed for our minds to grasp? In the Book of Genesis, the creative act which began all reckoning of the passage of time and seasons was signalled by the Divine Wind hovering over the formless void.

When that Holy Gust hovered over Mary, and she responded: 'Be it done unto me according to thy Word', the human existence of Our Lord Jesus Christ began, the fulcrum of history from which our calendar begins.

We could pause for a moment to pray that at the end of all history, at the end of all calendars, we may share in Divine life with Mary of Galilee, Mother of God.

Christmas Appeal 2016 Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities around the world who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have bonds with the diocese of Ballarat.

I commend the Christmas Appeal to you and to your people. I am aware that there are many times throughout the year when you are invited to respond to appeals for very worthy causes, but I hope the Ballarat diocese can continue to support this particular appeal.

I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last year's appeal, which benefited a number of communities including :

Loreto-Vietnam Australia Programme (Sr. Trish Franklin IBVM)	5,000
Columban Mission Society work in Peru	5,000
Refugees in the Middle East	5,000
Nazareth House Ballarat	5,000
Catholic Education in Myanmar	5,000
Caritas Australia	5,000
Catholic Mission	5,000
Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference Aboriginal Ministry	5,000
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans	2,000
Exodus Community, Wendouree West	2,000
Edmund Rice Centre	2,000
3BA Christmas in July Appeal	2,000
	<u>48,000</u>

With every good wish, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,



+ Paul Bird CSsR
Bishop of Ballarat

If you would like to contribute to this Appeal, and have not had the opportunity to do so, you may simply by placing your contribution in an envelope marked 'Christmas Appeal' and placing it in either basket

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In the spirit of the recent **Moving Forward Conversations** held around the Diocese throughout 2016, the faith community of **St Joseph's Church Nyah West** have discerned with strength and courage, that it is no longer appropriate to gather for worship on the first Sunday of each month due to the small number of attenders.

Naturally this decision brings with it all kinds of feelings both sad and positive. Hence it is important that we say goodbye in a way that both honours and pays tribute to the life of the Nyah West faith community where the first Mass was celebrated some 120 years ago. A **final Mass of Thanksgiving** will be celebrated on Sunday **15th January at 11.00 am** with a shared lunch to follow. To accommodate this, the Mass time in Swan Hill will change to **9.00 am** for that Sunday **only**. In due course arrangements will be made for the property to be sold together with any items not returned to their original donors.