

# 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 the Epiphany of the Lord

**8th January 2017**

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

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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: **9.00 am** Swan Hill      **11.00 am** Nyah West

### Mass this Week:

Wednesday: 10.00 am

Thursday: 10.00 am

Friday: 12.00 noon

### Intentions:

Thursday: Dominico Bartalotta Anniversary

**Anniversaries: We remember** Len Day, Ellen Bell, Lillianna Rovere, Gennaro Mase, Concetta Isgro, Joe Maggio, Tom Conheady, Joe Clarke, John & Margaret Bookham, Patricia Davies, Betty Borchard, Annie & Ken Dwyer, Theresa & Frank Shiels .

**Prayers for the Sick:** Moira Higgins, Erin Coburn, Jude Lewis, Ronald Duryea, Brian Mulcahy, Brooke Kennedy, Patricia Mikes, Jarrod Crimmins, Sr Cheryl Bourke(PBVM), 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

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

### SECOND READING from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it

was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

**Non-Violence: A Style of Politics for Peace** Pope Francis announced the theme for the **50th World Day of Peace** (1st January 2017) as **Non-Violence: A Style of Politics for Peace**. Violence and Peace are at the origin of two opposite ways to building society. The proliferation of hotbeds of violence produces most serious negative social consequences. The Holy Father sums up this situation in the expression: "A Third World War in Pieces". Peace, by contrast, promotes social positive consequences and it allows the achievement of real progress.

Therefore, we should act within what is possible, and negotiate ways of peace even where they seem tortuous and impractical. Thus, non-violence can acquire a more comprehensive and new meaning. It will not only consist of desire, of moral rejection of violence, barriers, destructive impulses, but also of a realistic political method that gives rise to hope.

Such a political method is based on the primacy of law. If the rights and the equal dignity of every person are safeguarded without any discrimination and distinction, then non-violence, understood as a political method, can constitute a realistic way to overcome arm conflicts.

In this perspective, it becomes important to increasingly recognize not the right of force but the force of right.

With this Message, Pope Francis wants to show a further step, a path of hope, appropriate to today's historical circumstances. In this way, the settlement of disputes may be reached through negotiation without then degenerating into armed conflict. Within such a perspective the culture and identity of Peoples are respected and the opinion that some are morally superior to others is overcome.

At the same time, however, it does not mean that one Nation can remain indifferent to the tragedies of another. Rather it means a recognition of the primacy of diplomacy over the noise of arms. Arms trade is so widespread that it is generally underestimated. Illegal arms trafficking supports not a few world's conflicts. Non-violence as a political style can and must do much to stem this scourge.

**MINISTRIES for Next Weekend 15th January 2017**

**Ministers of the Word:**

**Vigil:** Marilyn Foley, Rene Deveurex

**9.00 am** Ken Smith

**Ministers of Communion:**

**Vigil:** Margaret Hoare, Bev McCartney, Helen Lewis, Cathy Page.

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

**Music Ministry:**

**Vigil:** Joe Taverna

**9.00 am** John Farrell

**Presentation of Gifts:**

**Vigil:** Valma Barry, Nola Grant.

**9.00 am** Scott & Caroline Zambelli

**Counters:** Gavin & Teresa O'Brien.

**READINGS NEXT WEEK 15th January**

Is 49:3. 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

**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.

After considerable reflection **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.

In recognition of the faith and fidelity of the Nyah West Community, the **final** Mass will be celebrated **next** Sunday **15th January at 11.00 am** with a shared lunch to follow. Please note that the Mass time in Swan Hill will change to **9.00 am** for **next** Sunday **only**.

**CWL Members and friends** are gathering at spoons for a social luncheon on 17th January. Come at noon for lunch at 12.30pm.

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:** by Fr Michael Tate

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

**STATE OF THE NATION**

<b>Presbytery Account:</b> (1st Basket)	<b>\$ 964.90</b>
<b>Christmas Offerings:</b>	<b>\$ 1,747.00</b>
<i>(Support of Priests &amp; Bishop)</i>	
<b>Parish Account:</b> (2nd Basket)	<b>Envelopes \$ 1,163.00</b>
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>	
	<b>Credit Card \$ 0.00</b>
	<b>Direct Debit \$ 260.00</b>
	<b>Loose Plate \$ 125.80</b>
	<b>\$ 1,548.80</b>
<b>Diocesan Christmas Appeal:</b> to date	<b>\$ 1,646.65</b>

Thank-You!

**Diocesan Christmas Appeal: If you would like to contribute to the Annual Diocesan Christmas Appeal, and have not had the opportunity to do so, you still can by placing your contribution in an envelope marked 'Christmas Appeal' and placing it in either basket**

