



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

## Incorporating the Communities of

St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Michael's Lalbert, St Joseph's Lake Boga, St Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill  
[northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au) 03 50324144



## 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021

***“Go, and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor... then come follow me.”***

I think it is really important for us to say straight up that the rich man was a decent bloke. He was following all the commandments faithfully, this means he hasn't cheated people, he has been fair in his dealings and has had a concern for those in need, just like the prophets have told him to. He is not a bad man, and I dare say a lot of people would have looked up to him. And yet he himself still feels that something is lacking, that there must be something more. Otherwise he would never have asked Jesus “What must I do?” The answer shocks him, ‘let go of your riches, give to the poor and come follow me.’ It is too much for him to take; he walks away.

There are three steps in Jesus' advice to him. First, sell everything you own. Everyone has some possessions; the danger is allowing the things we own *to take possession of us*. Being able to give things away shows that we are truly free of them. There is more too; letting go frees us *for* something, and that something is the Kingdom of God. The man was invited to give everything he had to the poor so that he could lay up treasure for himself in heaven. Where your true treasure is, there your heart will be also. And so ‘investing’ in the Kingdom is a sure way to help focus your priorities. But this is still not all. Jesus's final command is for the man to ‘Come, follow me.’ The money stuff is important, but in the end the man has to step beyond that and be ready to enter into a relationship. He can't just ‘behave’ his way into eternal life by following rules, still less buy his way in with his money; he needs to put his trust in someone other than himself. But for the rich man, who is so used to having things under his control and having people depend on him, this is too much. The rich man who outwardly lacks nothing cannot accept *that he needs God*. If only he was ready to accept his neediness, he would find that God was ready to give himself freely.



It is God, *and God alone*, who can satisfy our deepest longings. Jesus gives us God. To follow him is to gain everything. *“Christianity is not a type of moralism, simply a system of ethics. It does not originate in our action, our moral capacity. Christianity is first and foremost a gift: God gives himself to us – he does not give something, but himself. And this does not only happen at the beginning, at the moment of our conversion. He constantly remains the One who gives. He continually offers us his gifts. He always precedes us. This is why the central act of being a Christian being is the Eucharist: gratitude for having been gratified, joy for the new life that he gives.”* Pope Benedict XVI

### **Parish Contact Details**

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St  
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Phone: 03 5032 4144

[northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### **Office Hours**

Tues, Thurs, and Fri 10am -2pm

### **Parish Priest**

Fr James Kerr

### **Parish Admin Officers:**

Glenda Klabbers

Mary Kennedy

### **Child Protection Officers:**

Damian and Karen Kelly

### **Child Safe Church**

Here in the Parish of Holy Family North East Mallee we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office.



*Please keep in your prayers*

**Recent Deaths**

Doreen Greenham

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Catherine Gleeson, Donald Nicholson, Maureen Irwin, Theresa Ederson, Christopher Rinaldi, Noelien Neild, Francesca Sobara, Shaun Mangiameli, Antonio Pati, John McInerney, Peter Fosdick, Antonia Giampaolo, Patrick O'Loughlin, Peter Gallo, Mary Ann Byrne, Philomena Walsh,

**SICK LIST**

Margaret Foott, Jarrod Crimmins, Jack Donohue, Jude Lewis, Yvonne Annan, Sarah Kenny, Michael Bourke, Bridget Phyland, Greta Sherlock, Carmel Ryan, Tully Williams, Bill Croft.

**SACRAMENTS THIS WEEK**

**THIS WEEKEND (9<sup>TH</sup>/10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER)**

*Please book for all Swan Hill Weekend Masses.*

Friday Culgoa 5pm

Saturday 4.30pm, 6pm and 7pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8:30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5.00pm Nandaly

Holy Communion also available 11:05am-11:55pm

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tues 5:30pm, Wed 10am, Thurs Confession 5pm and Mass 5:30pm, Fri 12pm

**NEXT WEEKEND (16<sup>TH</sup>/17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER)**

Saturday 4:30pm Swan Hill

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Saturday 7pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8:30am Lalbert

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

Sunday Sea Lake 5.00pm

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection (Presbytery): \$450

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Parish): \$880.60

Retired Priests Fund: \$455

**NOTICES**

**LOCKDOWN LIFTED (SLIGHTLY)**

Under current restrictions, our country Churches are able to return to their normal routines. The limit of 20 does impact though on what we can do in Swan Hill, where bigger numbers mean we will need you to book in.

To book for Mass in Swan Hill, go to <https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/swanhillmass>

If you miss out on a spot, please let us know and we will put you top of the list for the coming weekend. These restrictions are likely to continue until mid-November.

In the meantime, perhaps some of our Swan Hill parishioners might also consider going on a little road trip to join with our other communities? Nandaly has promised a little supper if you join them! Just let us know so we can be prepared.

**RETIRED PRIESTS (CLERGY SUPPORT FUND)**

Thank you very much for your generous support of the annual collection for retired priests.

**ROSARY IN THE PARK**

*\*Please note a correction to last week's notice. The Rosary will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>, not the 16<sup>th</sup>!*

JOIN US FOR A NATION WIDE ROSARY CHAIN.

To commemorate the 104th anniversary of Fatima's 'Miracle of the Sun', Australia will take part in a nationwide Public Rosary. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima, we will ask for God's merciful blessing upon our nation. **Join us on Saturday, October 9<sup>h</sup> at 10am in Riverside Park.** BYO chair.

**PARISH PRAYER**

God our Father, through the intercession of the Holy Family our patron, we pray that you bless this parish so that we may love you more. Help parents to be a good example to their children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care; to the sick and the weak grant health; to the aged bring serenity and to those in sorrow joy. May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily life. Amen.

**Our Parish Schools**

**St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake**

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**St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill**

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**St Mary MacKillop College**

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## **REFLECTION** by Mary Coloe PBVM

### ***The gift of the Kingdom***

*Go sell everything you own... and you will have treasure in heaven.*

The person in today's Gospel appears to have the right attitude but look closely at his question. 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' He sounds like a typical commodity broker in today's society. His attitude is: if I want to achieve something then I just have to do certain things; wear the right clothes, have the right car, go to the right university, live in the right neighbourhood. He mixes this attitude with the sense of having a right to eternal life as if it is his due inheritance. Unfortunately, God's reign, or as this Gospel terms it, eternal life, is not a commodity in a market economy. Eternal life is a freely given gift of God. It does not depend on what is possible for us to do, as if we can therefore earn it, or have a right to it, but on the loving possibility of what God can do for us. This man's attitude is similar to that of a late 4th century monk called Pelagius whose teaching was eventually judged as heretical for it proposed that we can achieve our own salvation without the need for Jesus.

We stand before God's gratuitous love as empty-handed recipients. We neither earn nor deserve such love and this is a discomfoting awareness. Jesus' response to the man offers him the opportunity to know this attitude of his own neediness and emptiness before God. Being stripped of the external trapping of wealth mirrors a more rigorous internal laying bare of oneself before God. In this situation of utter emptiness, one is then able to know what one has so bountifully received.

The Gospel reminds me of a story told by Anthony De Mello, a Jesuit priest who spent many years in India. He tells a story of a traveller who arrived in the simple home of an Indian wise man seeking shelter for the night. He noticed that the swami used for his pillow an enormous diamond, bigger than anything imaginable. When he commented on this diamond the next day, the swami simply gave it to him. The traveller went home delighted with his wealth but that night he tossed and turned and could not sleep. This went on for weeks. Finally, he returned to the swami to ask, 'What is the wealth you have that you can give away this diamond so easily?'

The Kingdom that Jesus offers is like that diamond. It offers a wealth that makes all other things pale into

insignificance. Down through history, many have valued this even more than life itself.

The short section from Hebrews comes at the end of a discussion of what God promised to Israel, a promise, dependent upon Israel's faithful response to God. It reflects on the choices made by Israel and addresses a Christian community to reflect on the choices that its members make. In making such choices, Hebrews uses the image of a sharpened sword to speak of God's deep knowing of our innermost desires and intentions. In one sense, in the Gospel passage today, Jesus read the deep desires of the young man. The Gospel says, 'Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him.' Knowing his deeper self, Jesus then offered him a way of achieving these desires – but it involved a choice that this man was not able to make.

It is worth reflecting on what are my deepest desires – are they for external things, or are my desires intangible needs for good relationships, for inner peace; for love; for family?

© Mary Coloe

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Why does Jesus appear uncomfortable about being called 'good'?

Why did Jesus name these particular six commandments and not the others?

What thoughts might the wealthy man have had as he walked away from Jesus?

What would be the most challenging thing for Jesus to ask you to give away or walk away from?

Who do you know who has made a really significant 'sacrifice' in their life?

What impact does materialism have on your community?

Jesus told the man, 'There is one thing you lack.' What did the man lack?

Why does Jesus insist that the kingdom of God is so difficult to enter?

Is giving to charitable causes an adequate response to today's gospel?

**First Reading** Wis 7:7-11

A reading from the book of Wisdom:

*In comparison to wisdom, I held riches as nothing.*

I prayed, and understanding was given me; I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones; compared with her, I held riches as nothing. I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer, for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand, and beside her silver ranks as mud. I loved her more than health or beauty, preferred her to the light, since her radiance never sleeps. In her company all good things came to me, at her hands riches not to be numbered.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 89:12-17. R. v.14

**(R.) Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!**

Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger forever? Show pity to your servants.

In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Give us joy to balance our affliction for the years when we knew misfortune.

Show forth your work to your servants; let your glory shine on their children. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Heb 4:12-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews:

*The word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

The word of God is something alive and active; it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation** Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

**Gospel** Mk 10:17-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:  
*Go and sell whatever you have and come follow me.*

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words, and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another, 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said, 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – now without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Readings Next Week**

First Reading: Is 53:10-11

Second Reading: Heb 4:14-16

Gospel: Mk 10:35-45