



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 03 50324144



29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: 17TH OCTOBER 2021

'CAN YOU DRINK THE CUP THAT I MUST DRINK?'



There is something that always surprises me about today's Gospel. Given all that Jesus has been saying about true discipleship and embracing the Cross, you would think he would be justified in giving James and John a good clip over the ears. The other disciples seem to think so too. And yet, Jesus' response strikes me as patient, even gentle. He corrects them of course, but you can almost picture him putting his arms around their shoulders as he does so.

This gentleness got me thinking; even if their request was stupid, did something about their sincerity touch Jesus' heart? Just think about it. He has been talking about the suffering and death he is going to face. He can see the Cross ahead of him. He has come to be completely immersed, 'baptised', into our lives, and this means sharing our struggles and pains as well as our joys. He is ready to share our cup, to drink fully of our fate, down to the last dregs. How lonely must this have felt for him? How much must he have yearned to have someone offer to share in his cup too?

If we think of our own experience, how often have we found strength and consolation in the simple act of someone sharing 'a cup' with us. It is not like it makes our troubles disappear, but it is a great comfort to know they are shared. Did Jesus feel something like this in the exchange with James and John? For sure, they didn't really know what they were letting themselves in for and they massively overestimated their courage, but they seemed to be earnest in their promise nonetheless. For a fleeting moment, Jesus had someone willing to share in his cup. Would it be strange for him to find some comfort in this?

Jesus' instructions for us are clear. We all know that we are called to service. But let's never forget that spirit of service flows out of the communion we share with Christ. It's our friendship with Jesus that moves us to put others first, it's the cup that we share with him that fills our hearts with a love that is ready to sacrifice. As always, we are invited to hear Jesus addressing the words of the Gospel to us, here and now. And so, we hear him once again inviting us to share in his cup, to look to serve rather than be served. But let's hear these words spoken as by a friend, with gentleness, patience and encouragement. And let's not be embarrassed in imagining that our 'yes' really pleases Jesus and warms his heart. He knows better than us how often we will stumble, but surely our earnestness much touch him too.

Parish Contact Details

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St
Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585
Phone: 03 5032 4144

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Edith Jordan, Josephine Mary Bull, Michael Conidi,
Kathleen Hooper, Lila Proctor, Joy Noble, Catherine
Patching, Ellen Real, Lee Power, Christina Donnelly,
Frank Capone, Mary Morton, Henry Kiley,
Luke Brennan, Nance power, Fr Frank Monaghan.

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 (16TH/17TH OCTOBER)

Please book for all Swan Hill Weekend Masses.

Saturday 4.30pm, 6pm and 7pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8:30am Lalbert

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 (23RD/24TH OCTOBER)

Saturday 4:30pm Swan Hill

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Saturday 7pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 9:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 433

2nd Collection (Parish): \$ 1194

NOTICES

MASS UNDER CURRENT RESTRICTIONS

To put things briefly, we will still be limited to 20 people at Mass until around mid-November.

Even if the Roadmap steps are brought forward a week, Bishop Paul has suggested we stick with things as they are for the time being, without making any distinctions, until the next round of changes in November. The next stage only allows for slightly more numbers (30) if everyone is vaccinated in any case, which is hardly much of an improvement, and well, I have my second dose booked in for mid-November. I can't bring it forward. So we will have to operate under the alternative limitations (still 20) for the time being. And just to put my personal vaccine status in context, I am only 34 and have not been classified as an essential worker under COVID restrictions. The rollout prioritised according to age and work. I waited for my turn in good faith. I say this not necessarily to justify my personal status, but simply to suggest that we all have our own stories. I just encourage everyone to be understanding of each other as we navigate these new restrictions over the next few months.

In the meantime, we will continue as we have done. Please book in for weekend Masses in Swan Hill by calling the office or going 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.

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

Principal: Kate Nunn

47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake

Ph: 03 5070 1272

Principal@smsealake.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin

2 Murlong St Swan Hill

Ph. 03 5033 2541

principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.a

St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

REFLECTION BY RICHARD LEONARD

One Sunday morning during Mass, the congregation was surprised to see two men enter, both covered from head to toe in black and carrying submachine guns. One of the men proclaimed, 'Anyone willing to take a bullet for Christ remain where you are!'

Immediately, the choir fled, altar servers fled, and most of the congregation fled. Within a few minutes, out of the two hundred strong congregation only ten people remained where they were. The man who had spoken took off his hood, looked at the priest and said, 'OK Father, I got rid of all the fence sitters, how about we make a start'.

It's nice to see the priest in the story remained in the Church! I would like to think that faced with such an extreme moment like this I would have the courage of my convictions, but I must admit I have my doubts.

Each Sunday by coming and celebrating the Eucharist we implicitly, and explicitly, state that we want to become like Christ. As the Gospels repeatedly tell us if we follow him in his saving love for the world then, like him, we must confront injustice, defend the rights of the poor and the oppressed to dignity, give and forgive, heal and reconcile. By saying this, we are clearly not looking for a smooth ride through life.

In concert with the whole Church what most of us have done is domesticate the hard edges of Jesus' teachings to suit our comfortable existences. And then we get a Gospel like today's. The sons of Zebedee want the best seats in the house without knowing what the admission price is going to cost. They want the glory without the gore.

Jesus teaches them, and later all the other apostles, that for his Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, requires of us to drink a cup of suffering and be baptised in a river of sacrificial love. We can't dress this teaching up, or put a good spin on it. There is no resurrection without the cross. No gain without the pain.

For most of us this challenge means doing whatever we can politically and socially to bring the values of the Gospel to bear on our different spheres of influence. But Jesus also links this challenge to the act of service. And in this regard some leaders in the Church give us mixed messages and let us off the hook.

Whatever of the patrimony of the past, today's Gospel reminds us that bishops, priests and deacons should be excellent models of the humility of service. The leadership Jesus advocates is not monarchical or tyrannical, it is being the least, and being a servant. The Second Vatican Council taught that leaders in the Church should be outstanding in humility, charity and simplicity of lifestyle. Some leaders are just this. Others have domesticated the hard edge of the Gospel.

Let's pray in this Eucharist that we recover a love for the hard teachings of Jesus, even though they demand so much of us, and that we have the courage to call our leaders to do likewise. These teachings are, after all, what makes us different from the Gentiles, and sort out who is actually sitting on the fence.

© Richard Leonard SJ



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why does Jesus ask James and John if they can 'drink the cup' that he must drink?

Why were the other disciples upset with James and John?

Have you ever experienced a leader who would 'lord it over' others?

What qualities make a good leader?

In what areas of your life can you exercise servant leadership?

Why do you think the disciples struggled to understand Jesus' mission when they watched it unfold?

What aspects of your life are challenged by Jesus' demand to be a servant, or 'slave', to all?

Where do you see the needs of others being put first?

How is it possible to challenge poor leadership with a model of servant leadership?

First Reading Is 53:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

*If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs,
and have long life.*

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering. If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the Lord wishes will be done. His soul's anguish over he shall see the light and be content. By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love. to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

Second Reading Heb 4:14-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews:

Let us be confident in approaching the throne of grace.

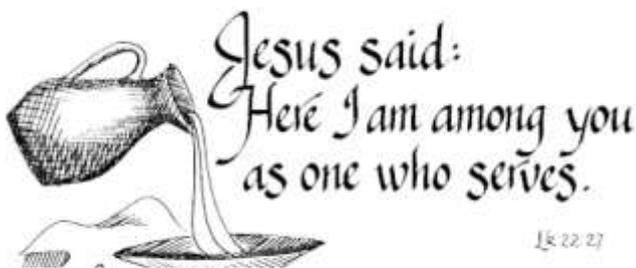
Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mk 10:45

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Son of Man came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all. Alleluia!



Gospel Mk 10:35-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for all.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him, 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them: 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Readings Next Week

First Reading: Jer 31:7-9

Second Reading: Heb 5:1-6

Gospel: Mk 10:46-52

