



# 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

Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://northeastmallee.org.au)



## 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

For some time now we've marked the 13th/14th as the weekend when we will shift to new arrangements for our Masses. The latest government restrictions allow for significantly larger numbers if all adults can show that they have been vaccinated. From next weekend we will begin to take advantage of this at some of our Masses. I am uncomfortable making such distinctions, and so is our Bishop too, but we also recognise that we need to make the Mass and the Sacraments as available as possible while still working within the restrictions. 30 at a time doesn't leave much room. As it stands, many in Swan Hill are missing out on Mass, and with some special celebrations coming up in Nandaly and Sea Lake, 30 won't be enough room even for them. We are also transitioning to 'living with the virus' and this is leaving some very anxious. I am certainly confident that what we do remains low-risk if you follow some simple guidelines; wear a mask, keep your distance and move any long post-Mass conversations outside into the open air. Having said that, I can also understand why some will still be left feeling particularly anxious given our circumstances. We need to make room for that. But I must stress that the same understanding and respect should also be extended to those who for whatever reason are not in a position to show that they are vaccinated. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. We must all be afforded an equal place at the table of the Eucharist. There can be no insiders and outsiders in this regard, and our response must try its best to reflect this.

I have spoken with our Bishop about how we might handle this change. There is no perfect answer, but our plan is the best we can do. As a parish we will make use of the provisions for greater numbers with vaccinations only when we need to, which will be on some weekend Masses and from time to time with special celebrations like funerals at the family's request. The plan for Swan Hill will be to continue with two Masses on the Saturday evenings. The earlier Mass at 5pm will be for those who can show they are double-vaccinated. This will allow us to have 165 in attendance. For the later Mass at 6:30pm, there will be no need to ask about statuses and anyone is welcome to attend. Our numbers for this Mass will remain 30. Our Sunday Mass at 10:30am will have to be only for those who can show they are double-vaccinated, again allowing for 165. These arrangements mean that no-one will miss out on Mass. There should no longer be any need to book in for Mass, but we will re-evaluate that over the next couple of weeks. As for weekdays, there is no need to make any changes. For our other churches, we will only ask about vaccinations when we need to. This will be noted in the bulletin the week before, but basically it will come into play with special celebrations like sacraments and graduations that will attract larger numbers. Both Nandaly and Sea Lake have such special events planned for the next few weekends.

Given our circumstances, I feel this plan is the best we can do. Bishop Paul wrote recently on such arrangements, "I recognise that this is far from ideal. I believe it would be much more appropriate to have access to common worship for everyone without distinctions. However, I propose the above arrangements as a way to provide some opportunities for common worship for everyone within the constraints of the government regulations." Our focus is making the Mass and other sacraments available to as many people as possible. Each and every parishioner is important, and so we will do our best to make room for everyone. As soon as we can stop making these distinctions, we will. In the meantime, we must be doubly-alert to the Lord's command to love and compassion.

### **Parish Contact Details:**

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St  
Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

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

Phone: 03 5032 4144

Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://northeastmallee.org.au)

**Office Hrs:** Tues, Thurs, and Fri 10am -2pm

### **Parish Priest**

Fr James Kerr

### **Parish Admin Officers:**

Glenda Klabbers

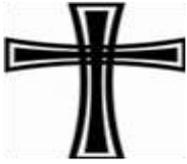
Mary Kennedy

### **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**

William O'Brien, Les Johnston, Ashley Maher,  
Kelvin Upton, Michele Costa, Jean McInerney,  
James Gleeson, Zoe Teague, Roma Mannix,  
Daisie Byrne, William Kelly, Lindsay Giddings,  
Gerrard Meehan, Dennis Cox, George Power.  
Phil Mitchell

**SICK LIST**

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

**SACRAMENTS THIS WEEK**

**THIS WEEKEND (6<sup>TH</sup>/7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER)**

*Please book for all Swan Hill Weekend Masses.*  
Saturday 4:30pm, 6pm & 7pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8:30am Sea Lake  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

*Holy Communion also available 11:05am-11:25am*

**WEEKDAYS**

Tuesday 5:30pm  
Wednesday 10am  
Thurs Confession 5pm and Mass 5:30pm  
Fri 12pm

**NEXT WEEKEND (13<sup>TH</sup>/14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER)**

*At the Masses marked with an \*DV, adults will need to  
show you are double vaccinated. Please see front page  
for a more detailed explanation.*

Saturday 5pm Swan Hill\*DV  
Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8:30am Quambatook  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill\*DV  
Sunday 5pm Nandaly\*DV

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection (Presbytery): \$ 708  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Parish): \$ 714.70

**NOTICES**

**MASS UNDER CURRENT RESTRICTIONS**

For this weekend and coming week, **we are restricted to 30 at a time.** Please see the front page for an explanation of how things will work from next weekend onwards. This should be the last weekend we will need to book in for.

<https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/swanhillmass>

**CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTS**

From next weekend we will begin to celebrate the Confirmations and First Communions that we had postponed. These will continue across most weekend Masses in Swan Hill, Nandaly and Sea Lake between now and Christmas.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

We had some great news this week for many of our Vietnamese parishioners. Quite a number of families and individuals have been granted permanent residency. This is fantastic news, as it gives them greater security going forward. The Vietnamese community is making a great contribution to our parish, our schools and our wider community. We all celebrate with the families who have received their permanent residency, and we hope that others who have applied will also be successful.

**REMEMBRANCE BOOK**

We will update our remembrance book with the names of those who have died in our parish in the last 12 months. If you have any other names of close friends and family who have died over the last year, please contact the Parish Office.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au)

## COMMENTARY ON FIRST READING: BRENDAN BYRNE SJ

The link between the First Reading and the Gospel today is that both concern widows who acted with generosity. In biblical society generally widows formed a particularly vulnerable class. They come first in the triad of vulnerable ones to whom the Torah summoned Israel to give particular protection: the widow, the orphan and the stranger in the land. The wider context of the **First Reading** (1 Kings 17:10-16) is that of universal famine in Israel during the reign of the worthless king Ahab. Elijah the prophet has been fed in the wilderness by the ravens and slaked his thirst in the wadi Cherith. Now, however, the wadi has dried up because of the lack of rain and he has been instructed by God to go the Sidonian town of Zarephath, where a widow will feed him. When Elijah approaches the widow for food, she points out the extremity of the situation for herself and her son. With the very little she has left, she is about to prepare a final meal before they die of hunger. Elijah, urging her not to be afraid, asks her to prepare a cake for himself, and then for herself and her son, and assures her that her jar of meal and jug of oil will not fail until the famine is over. When the woman does so, putting her trust in the prophet's word, she finds that provision is made just as he had foretold. The episode illustrates a more widespread biblical pattern. People who act hospitably and generously, trusting in a divine promise in the face of evidence to the contrary, find that the Lord provides with a generosity that is overwhelming (cf. Gen 18:1-15; Mark 6:35-44; 8:1-9). Faith is the channel through which the generosity and power of God flow into the world.

*© Brendan Byrne SJ. This is an abridged version of his reflection posted on [liturghelp.com.au](http://liturghelp.com.au)*



## HAVE YOU HEARD OF A REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR?

Let's do something different for Advent. I have arranged to participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar project.



What is a Reverse Advent Calendar?

Unlike a regular Advent Calendar where the focus is on receiving a treat every day, the Reverse Advent Calendar takes the focus off receiving and places the focus on giving to others.

A Reverse Advent Calendar begins as an empty box. For 20 days in the lead up to Christmas you place one item (non-perishable food, toiletries, Christmas treat) into the box. After 20 days your filled Reverse Advent Calendar is dropped off to the Parish Office where it will be distributed from the Good Kitchen to people in our immediate community who are experiencing food insecurity. Boxes and suggestions for items to go in the box will be available from the Parish office next week. For more information contact Glenda at the Parish Office.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why is the tiny contribution of the widow so much more significant than the large sums paid by the rich?

Why would widows be marked for special care and protection by Jewish Law and tradition?

How does it change the meaning of Jesus' words to read them with different emotions?

What is the message of this passage for a modern audience?

Why does Jesus promise such a severe sentence for the scribes?

What group in our society is the equivalent of the 'widows' of Jesus' time?

How do you think the disciples reacted to Jesus' comment about the widow?

## **First Reading** <sup>1 Kgs 17:10-16</sup>

A reading from the first book of the Kings

*The widow made a little scone from her flour meal and brought it to Elijah.*

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives', she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## **Responsorial Psalm** <sup>Ps 145:7-10. R.v.2</sup>

**(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!**

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

## **Second Reading** <sup>Heb 9:24-28</sup>

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews:

*Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.*

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf.

And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## **Gospel Acclamation** <sup>Mt 5:3</sup>

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

## **Gospel** <sup>Mk 12:38-44</sup>

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.*

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### **Readings Next Week**

First Reading: Dn 12:1-3

Second Reading: Heb 10:11-14, 18

Gospel: Mk 13:24-32

### **Now Available from the Parish Office**

COLUMBAN Calendars for 2022- \$12

Majellan Christmas Cards -\$8 pack of 10

God's Word \$15 for those who ordered them