



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

Website: northeastmallee.org.au



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 12TH DECEMBER 2021

LOOKING AHEAD: CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

We still have a couple of weeks of Advent, but it is probably time to announce our Christmas Mass times. We won't be getting any extra help in this year so you'll be stuck with me for all the Masses. I've had to arrange the Masses to allow for travel time. I have also had to allow for the ongoing restrictions. As I've said previously, I would much rather celebrate with no distinctions at all, but unfortunately we have to work within the restrictions as they stand to make the Mass as available as possible. This will mean asking for people to show proof of vaccination at what we anticipate will be the larger Masses so that there will be no limit on numbers. I am very conscious though that this won't suit all families, and so I am also putting on a Midnight Mass here in Swan Hill that anyone can attend without needing to declare their status. Given the numbers anticipated for Sea Lake and Quambatook, we also won't need to ask at those Masses either. That way everyone has the opportunity to participate in a Christmas Mass.

CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY 24TH

Sea Lake 4.30pm

Swan Hill 6.30pm *DV

Swan Hill 8.30pm *DV

Swan Hill Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY SATURDAY 25TH

Quambatook 8.30am

Swan Hill 10.30am *DV

FEAST HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY 26TH

Swan Hill 9am

Swan Hill 10.30am *DV



*We will only be asking for proof of vaccination at the Masses marked *DV. At other Masses there is no need to declare.*

END OF THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception last Wednesday marked the end of the Year of St Joseph. This has been a special time to deepen our appreciation of the humble guardian and protector of Mary and Jesus as well as an opportunity to call on his intercession as guardian and protector of the Church. Of course, he doesn't cease to be our patron just because the year is coming to a close. Let's continue to hold him as a special friend and help in the days ahead.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Parish Contact Details:

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 03 5032 4144

Website: northeastmallee.org.au

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

Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

Parish Admin:

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

Josie Caccaviello

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Tom Murphy, Caterina Bonanno, Norma Ryan, Anthony Hooper, Faye Nolan, Mary Elliot, Jack Cook, Vince Pellegrino, Vera Schiltz, Fr Gerald Payne, Lucy Johnston, Eileen White, Michael Farrell, River Purtill, Gordon Moar, Abby & Bronte Foott, Glenys Power,

SICK LIST

Jayden Williams, 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 (11TH/12TH DECEMBER)

*We will only be asking for proof of vaccination at the Masses marked *DV. At other Masses there is no need to declare.*

Saturday 5pm Swan Hill*DV

Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill*DV

Sunday 5pm Nandaly

(Please note Culgoa Mass will be on Friday 17th December in lieu of this coming week)

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 5.30pm

Wednesday 10am

Thurs Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

Fri Adoration 11am, Mass 12pm

NEXT WEEKEND (18TH/19TH DECEMBER)

Friday 5pm Culgoa

Saturday 5pm Swan Hill*DV

Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Lalbert

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill*DV

NO MASS SEA LAKE 5PM

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 830

2nd Collection (Parish): \$ 1505

NOTICES

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Thank you to all who have collected a box to fill. You can now return your boxes to the Parish Office this week for distribution next week. Gifts for children are also being collected at the office.

ROSARY IN THE PARK

Saturday 11th December 10am at 109 Werrill St, (home of Joe & Teresa Taverna). Please note change of venue. No chairs required.

WITH GRATITUDE

A lot of our parishioners were very busy last week with cleaning, decorating, building and repairing. A big thank you to all who so generously support our parish with their time and talents. A special mention though to our Vietnamese community for the fantastic job they have done on the Nativity Scene here in Swan Hill, and to the Indian community for the very impressive star of Bethlehem out the front. I've also been lucky to see the beautifully set out decorations in Sea Lake in anticipation of Christmas. I know there will also be a lot of work being done in our other church communities too. I am very thankful to be serving such a generous parish community.

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR MATT AND BILL

By the time you read this it's likely the Bishop would have already ordained Matthew Restall and Bill Lowry as Deacons. We give thanks to God for calling them to this sacred ministry here in our Diocese and continue to pray that they may be blessed by God's peace, love and joy, now and in the days to come.

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 DIANNE BERGANT CSA

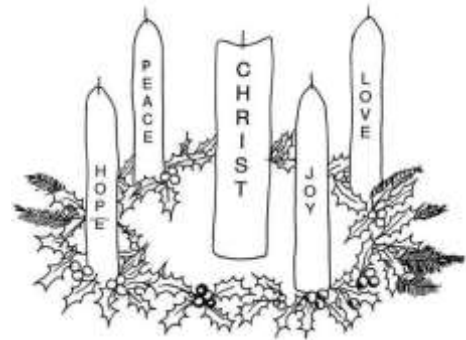
We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philippians announces that the Lord is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet. © Dianne Bergant CSA

THE ADVENT WREATH (CONTINUED...)

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our wait is almost over. Since rose is the liturgical color used to signify joy, we light the rose candle on the third Sunday of Advent as we rejoice in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.

The Church gives us this liturgical season so that we can prepare our hearts to receive Christ once again, in His coming at Christmas. We are also encouraged to reflect upon our lives in anticipation of His second coming, at the end of time.



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOR ADVENT

Give someone a flower.

Tell someone you love them.

Send encouraging emails or text messages to family and friends.

Be kind to yourself.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What experience has prompted the people to ask John, 'What must we do?'

How would you summarise John's response to their question?

Why might people have thought that John the Baptist was the Messiah that they were awaiting?

How can you respond to John's call for generosity and justice?

How do you think the crowd, tax collectors and soldiers reacted to John's words to them?

Have you ever experienced a real 'change of heart'?

Apart from charitable giving, how can generosity be expressed?

What does it mean to you to be 'baptised in the Holy Spirit'?

First Reading Zep 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah:
With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.
The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

Second Reading Phil 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

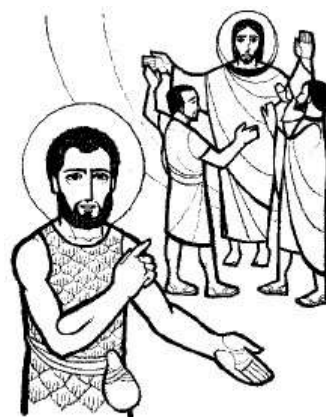
Gospel Lk 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Readings Next Week

First Reading: Mi 5:1-4

Second Reading: Heb 10:5-10

Gospel: Lk 1:39-45