



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



CHRISTMAS DAY, Saturday 25th December



Wishing you a joyful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year!

We wish you every peace, joy and blessing as we celebrate once again the great mystery of the Incarnation. Just think of it, the God of all creation makes his home among us. Christmas teaches us that God is close to us; closer than we can ever imagine.

This last year has been another hard one. While it has affected us in different ways, a common struggle has been the separation caused by restrictions and closed borders. Many of us have been left feeling isolated and lonely. For some, this may still be true even for Christmas. Not everyone will be able to spend it with their loved ones. This is why the Nativity scene can be so powerful. From the greatest to the least, we are all called to take our place by the manger. The path is straight, all barriers removed. Nothing stands between us and God. We all have a home in that stable in Bethlehem. No matter where we find ourselves this Christmas, in company or alone, let us be conscious of sharing it with God's Holy Family.

Thank you for joining us in our celebration of this awesome festival. We wish you all the best over these days and the year ahead. We hold in our hearts especially all who have lost a loved one this year and face your first Christmas without them. We pray that the God of all life might give you comfort and strength.

Finally, I will be heading home Sunday after Mass to spend a few days with my family. I will be back on Friday (New Year's Eve) and will offer Mass in the evening at 6pm to see in the New Year. The Office will be closed from Christmas Eve until Tuesday 4th January with limited hours during January on Tuesday and Friday.

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 Klabbbers

Mary Kennedy

Child Protection Officers:

Damian and Karen Kelly

Child Safe Church

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

A Christmas Prayer

Loving God on this Christmas Day, we praise the newborn child, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We open our eyes to see the mystery of faith and we claim the promise of Emmanuel, "God with us."

We remember that Jesus was born in a manger, and walked as a humble suffering Savior. Lord, help us to share the love of God with everyone we encounter, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and stand against injustice and oppression. We pray for the ending of war and for peace in the world.

We thank you for our family and friends, and for the many blessings, we have received.

We rejoice today with the best gifts of hope, peace, joy and the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

--By Rev. Lia Icaza Willett

Bishop's Collection

Each year at Christmas we take up a special collection across the Diocese that is then distributed to those in need, both locally (including to 'Mallee Family Care Christmas Appeal') and internationally (e.g. Catholic Mission and Caritas).

Anniversaries of Death

Jim Romeo, Eileen Watson, George Livingston
Margaret Cleary, Paul Peluso, Connie Isgro,
Nicholas Bruton, John Capiello, Maria Mirabito,
Patricia Hinton, Marg Mason, Paul Dutto,
Alexander Irwin, Margaret Johnston,

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What words or phrases from the passage appear to be particularly significant? Why?

How might Mary and Joseph have felt about their situation for having their baby?

What message about Jesus is portrayed by his mother laying him in a manger – an animal feed trough?

Does a close reading of this passage change your picture of the birth of Jesus in any way?

Why do you think the different infancy stories have been commonly combined into one?



MASSES THIS COMING WEEK

THIS SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER
FEAST HOLY FAMILY
10:30am Swan Hill

I will head off for a few days after Christmas but will return in time for Mass on Friday evening

NEW YEAR'S MASSES
FEAST OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD
Friday 31st Dec 6pm Swan Hill
Saturday 1st Jan 10am Swan Hill

SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY 2022
Saturday 6 pm Swan Hill*
(Please note change of time to 6pm!)
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

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



Draw a picture of the newly born Jesus lying in the manger.



JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Joy to the world! The Saviour is Born!

LA 210 04

B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	N	M	N	F	A
A	J	Z	P	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	J	J	L
D	E	D	S	K	U	Q	D	R	G	L	O	R	Y
V	S	L	N	E	Y	L	K	E	P	N	P	V	Y
W	U	G	D	V	C	U	N	S	P	A	X	S	J
Y	S	U	F	A	S	L	F	Q	D	Z	P	Z	B
F	P	E	A	C	E	L	Q	K	I	A	F	D	Q
L	C	C	T	V	K	H	C	M	R	R	V	J	I
O	M	Q	D	P	Q	D	L	E	F	E	A	O	N
C	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	T	N	S	L
K	H	I	M	A	R	Y	Z	Y	Y	H	G	E	H
S	V	W	B	R	N	D	Q	J	M	S	E	P	I
V	J	O	C	O	N	Q	V	G	C	R	L	H	O
G	U	B	B	M	A	P	M	P	G	L	S	D	C
X	Y	D	A	U	F	J	M	A	N	G	E	R	C

Try to find these words:

- angels
- Bethlehem
- flocks
- glory
- Jesus
- Joseph
- manger
- Mary
- Nazareth
- peace
- shepherds
- saviour

FIRST READING *Is 9:1-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this. *The Word of the Lord* .

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 95:1-3, 11-13 R. Lk 2:11*

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth.

With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth.

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

SECOND READING *Ti 2:11-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. *The Word of the Lord*.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Lk 2:10-11*

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Lk 2:1-14*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.