



## 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)



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022



I'm sure you've heard the story of Cana before, but have you ever paused to consider just how huge a volume of water it is that Jesus turns into wine? The ablution jars were massive- probably some 20 to 30 gallons each. Times that by six, you end up with some 540-820 litres of wine, or 700-1100 bottles. Jesus certainly didn't stint on the catering; his first sign made for one massive party!

Those 'little' details that the Gospels include might not seem important at first hearing, but they can often teach us a lot. They carry with them a deep symbolism that points to the true meaning of what is happening. In today's Gospel, the message becomes clear; the good times have finally arrived!

Like we hear in today's first reading, Marriage was often used as a symbol of God's Covenant with his people. He was wedded to them; meaning he was committed to them through all the ups and downs, no matter how many times his people broke faith with him. That Jesus performs his first miracle at a wedding is no accident; it brings to mind the Father's patient and enduring fidelity to that Holy Covenant with his people. That the wines flows so abundantly makes it clear that Jesus has come not just to renew that Covenant, but to complete and perfect it. What has come before has been good, God has stuck by his people through thick and thin. As good as it was though, it pales in comparison to what is to come. With the coming of Jesus, the New Covenant is begun. It will never falter. It will never be broken. The Father as certainly saved the best wine until now!

### WELCOME TO FR SAIJU

Speaking of weddings, I am away this weekend for a wedding in Nagambie. Fr Saiju has kindly come across from Mildura to cover me. I am sure you will make him welcome. Many thanks to Fr Saiju for helping out.

#### **Parish Contact Details:**

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

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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

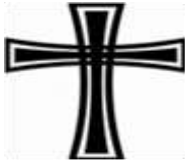
Mary Kennedy

#### **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**

Mary Stemmer

**NOTICES**

**MEMORIAL MASS SR KATHLEEN MCSWEENY**

will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, Australia Day at 10am followed by a cuppa.

**LAKE BOGA FINAL MASS- SUN 30<sup>TH</sup> JAN 12PM**

Last year we spoke about the decision to close St Joseph's Church in Lake Boga. We had a couple of dates picked out for a fitting celebration and final Mass, but had to cancel due to restrictions. We now have a new date. Bishop Paul will be joining us for the last weekend in January, so we hope to celebrate our final Mass of Thanksgiving in Lake Boga on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 12pm followed by a shared lunch. All are welcome. Please let any family or friends with connections to Lake Boga church also know.

**LAKE BOGA WORKING BEE**

To get the Church ready, there will be a working bee a 8am on Wednesday 26th January. If you can help at all, even perhaps at a different time, contact Mary on 0423234283

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Please note that during January the office might be opened during different hours, please send any bulletin notice via email and do leave voice messages on the phone answering machine as this will be checked at different times.

**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.

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Joe Clarke, Pauline Martin, Angela Shepherd, Pauline Nolan, Eddie Dalton, Brian Hogan, Cameron Looney, Laurence Byrne, Margaret Walsh, Margaret Rogers, John "Jack" Quirk, Loughlin Curran, Bill Magee, Concetta Caruso, Alf Wilson, Tom & Jo Murphy, Carmelo Carpenteri

**SICK LIST**

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

**THIS WEEKEND (15<sup>TH</sup>/16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY)**

Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Lalbert  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill  
Sunday 5pm Sea Lake

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday **No Mass**  
Wednesday **No Mass**  
Thurs Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm  
Fri Adoration 11am, Mass 12pm

**NEXT WEEKEND (22/23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY)**

Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND**

1<sup>st</sup> (Presbytery): \$648  
2<sup>nd</sup> (Parish): \$ 1112.80

**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

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**St Mary MacKillop College**

Principal: Michelle Haeusler  
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[Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au](mailto:Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au)

## REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER

Today's first reading from Isaiah is one of several references in the Old Testament that use wedding imagery – bride and groom – to describe the relationship between God and the people of Israel. The imagery is never that of an 'old married couple' but rather young lovers entering into a new life together full of hope; full of romance; and full of passion. This image of God and the people as bride and groom would not have been lost on the first audiences of today's gospel passage. Immediately, they would have recognised the significance of Jesus' first outing in public ministry being at a wedding feast – at the coming together of God and God's people, Jesus is present! It is a very neat and quite deliberate follow on from the prologue of the Gospel of John where the gospel writer uses the image of 'the Word made flesh who lives among us' to describe Jesus. The Word has come into the world and the first public appearance is at an event that symbolises the relationship between God and God's people.

The interplay between Jesus and his mother is very interesting in this gospel event. In this particular gospel it is one of only two occasions that Mary is mentioned: this event at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and then at the foot of the cross as he is crucified. Mary does not ask Jesus to do anything. She simply states, 'They have no wine', but one can almost hear the motherly tone with which it was said. I'm sure Jesus was left in no doubt that he was expected to do something about it. When he tries to avoid the issue, Mary apparently ignores his objections and instructs the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them. No fuss; no argument. How do mothers do it?

### From the perspective of ... The servants

What must the servants have been thinking? First of all, there was insufficient wine for the feast. They probably knew who was going to wear the blame for that ordering mistake! Then they're told to fill the enormous water jars with water, draw some into a serving vessel and go and present it to the steward of the household – effectively their overseer; their boss! They must have been very nervous about how the steward would respond to what they were taking to him. Yet they, along with Mary and Jesus, were the only witnesses to Jesus' first miracle! Even the steward was unaware of the miracle.



## Gospel Focus – The best wine

The steward comments that the best wine had been kept until the end of the wedding celebration – a clever use of an image for Jesus. Remembering the use of wedding imagery to describe the relationship between the people of Israel and God, the wedding feast is celebration of that relationship, and at the very heart of the celebration and the relationship is Jesus. He is the best wine that is kept until the end – the 'finishing touch' to a magnificent celebration, just as he is the 'finishing touch' to the relationship between God and God's people to that point.  
© Greg Sunter

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why do you think Mary brings the wine issue to Jesus' attention?

Why might Jesus have been reluctant to perform a miracle at this time?

Why does Mary seem to force the issue when Jesus has tried to side-step it?

What might the servants have said to one another after the wedding banquet?

What evidence is in the passage that suggests John's gospel was written for non-Jewish Christians?

How appropriate to you does the image of bride and groom for the people and God seem?

What does this event tell us about the relationship between Jesus and his mother?

What does the final sentence of the passage suggest to be the purpose of Jesus' actions?

Why might this event have been chosen by the gospel writer to appear as Jesus' first act of ministry?



## **First Reading** Is 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

*As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.*

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

*The word of the Lord.*

## **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 95:1-3. 7-10. R. v.3

**(R.) Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.**

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.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name.

Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness.

**(R.) Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.**

## **Second Reading** 1 Cor 12:4-11

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians:  
*One and the same spirit distributes different gifts as he chooses.*

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through

this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## **Gospel Acclamation** See 2 Thes 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel** Jn 2:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:  
*The first of the signs given by Jesus was at Cana in Galilee.*

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## **Readings Next Week: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

First Reading: Neh 8:2-6. 8-10

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:12-30

Gospel: Lk 1:1-4. 4:14-21