



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

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3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 23RD JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

IN THE HEART OF THE CHURCH, I WILL BE LOVE

There is a beautiful episode from the life of St Therese of Lisieux that revolves around today's second reading. For a long time, she had felt an ardent desire to be a missionary and face the danger of martyrdom. She had hoped to leave her native France to help form a new Carmel in hostile territory, with all the risk that would have entailed. Her health however was simply not up to it and so that desire came to nothing. Naturally, she felt frustrated and confused. Why did she have such a strong desire for something she couldn't achieve?



God left her wrestling with this disappointment until one day her answer came when praying with 1 Corinthians. She started with chapter 12, the one we heard today. She understood the basic point. One body, many members each with its own role to play. The role each played stemmed from the special gift or 'charism' allotted by the Holy Spirit. St Therese could understand all that, but it still did not satisfy. Why did she desire a 'charism' that was not hers to claim? Still without peace, she read on. The next section of the letter is one you all know well. St Paul immediately goes on to talk of a still higher gift to set our hearts on; the gift of love. *Love* is the more excellent way. All the other gifts come to nothing if they are without love. All the other gifts are simply noise and emptiness if they are done without love. Love, the greatest of all the gifts, gave life to them all.

Therese had finally found her answer. Her special gift was to be that love in the heart of the Church. Her little efforts to live love each day were intimately united with the work of missionaries throughout the world. Wherever they went, her love went with them too. This realisation was a source of tremendous joy for

Therese. It also helped form the heart of her 'Little Way' of love, which in turn brought light and encouragement to countless members of God's People, helping them to recognise how they might pursue true holiness in their own lives simply by choosing love. Whatever our circumstances, whatever our gifts or responsibilities, we can always 'be love'. Therese's little moment of enlightenment came to spark a great renewal in the life of the Church, and it all stemmed from her prayer with God's Holy Scriptures. In many ways then this episode helps demonstrate how God's Word can continue to speak to our hearts.

Today is the "Sunday of the Word of God." This is a special time for us to celebrate the tremendous treasure we have in Holy Scripture. It is not a dead word, but the living voice of God. Whenever we open our ears to that voice, we open our hearts once again to God's mercy and grace. It continues to both challenge and console us, shining its light on our times and bearing witness to hope.

Parish Contact Details:

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

Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

Parish Admin Officers:

Glenda Klabbers

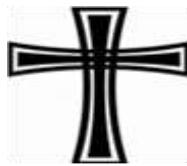
Mary Kennedy

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

Mary Fogarty, Bill McCartney, Colin Lawry,
Brian "Pud" Walsh, Norah McGown, Eva Ledwich,
Brian Byrne, Catherine Willson, Julie Wilson,
Dick Barratt, Matthew O'Neil. David "Tige" Bonney,

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 (22ND/23RD JANUARY)

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 5.30pm
Wednesday 10am *Sr Kathleen Memorial*.
Thurs Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm
Fri Adoration 11am, Mass 12pm

NEXT WEEKEND (29TH/30TH JANUARY)

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

LAKE BOGA 12pm FINAL MASS

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

1st (Presbytery): \$
2nd (Parish): \$

NOTICES

MEMORIAL MASS SR KATHLEEN McSWEENEY
will be held on Wednesday 26th January,
Australia Day at 10am followed by a cuppa.

LAKE BOGA FINAL MASS- SUN 30TH JAN 12PM
Bishop Paul will join us to celebrate our final Mass of Thanksgiving in Lake Boga on Sunday 30th January at 12pm followed by a shared lunch (please bring a plate). 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 at 8am on Wednesday 26th January. If you can help at all, even perhaps at a different time, contact Mary on 0423234283

ACCOMODATION WANTED We have a young man moving to Swan Hill from Port Macquarie to start work in the Podiatry department at the Swan Hill Hospital at the end of this month. He is seeking accommodation until he can find a place to rent. If you can assist please contact Dominic on 0490462434.

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.

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@mackilloph.vic.edu.au

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Scriptural context – Framing

On either side of the quote from Isaiah in today's gospel there are very symmetrical actions. Before reading, Jesus stands, is handed the scroll and then unrolls the scroll. On completion he rolls up the scroll, hands it back and then sits down. There is a balance to every action. This framing or bracketing technique is used throughout the gospel of Luke as a cue to the audience. Whenever this framing occurs, it means that there is a very important teaching or action that occurs within the frame. On this occasion, the frame surrounds Jesus declaring his intentions for his ministry.

Have you thought? – Different accounts

The gospel of Luke begins, 'Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us ...' It indicates that there were many different accounts of Jesus' life circulating at the time of writing. In the years following Jesus' death there developed many different oral traditions that described the life and teachings of Jesus. A large number of these traditions were written down as what are now regarded as non-canonical or apocryphal writings – not recognised as part of the 'canon' of the Bible. They include gospels of Thomas, Peter, Mary, Phillip and Barnabas.

Historical Context – Theophilus

The gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles are written by the same person, or at least the same community. They are often regarded as a single work – Luke-Acts – as one flows directly into the other. Both books begin with an inscription to Theophilus. The Greek name, Theophilus, translates as 'lover of God'. Some scholars suggest that the name is a pseudonym for any lover of God or someone in particular whose identity must be shielded. Others argue that Theophilus was an influential Roman who had taken a great interest in the early Christian movement.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What effect does the author achieve through the opening four verses of the gospel?

In what way can this gospel passage be seen as a declaration of mission by Jesus?

What might be meant by 'the Lord's year of favour'?

In what ways are you able to work toward achieving the actions Jesus named as his mission?

Who are the people in your community who are really trying to bring about this mission?

How do / can you contribute to this mission?

Why was it significant that Jesus returned to Nazareth to begin his ministry?

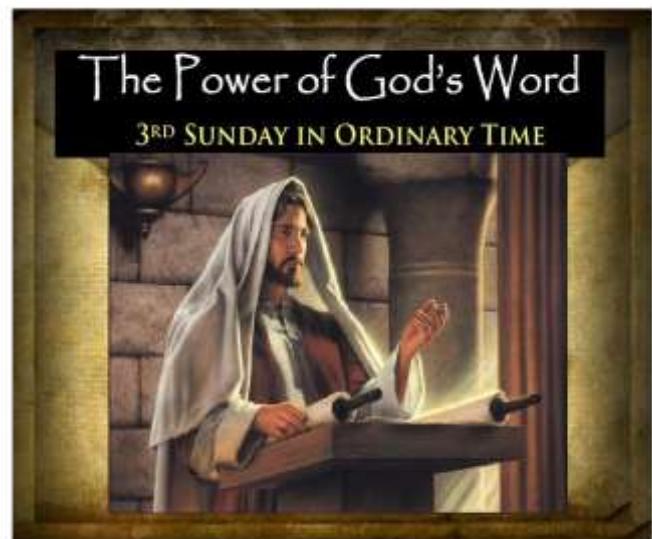
Why was the inclusion of 'set the downtrodden free' such an important addition to the Isaiah text?

Readings Next Week: 4th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Jer 1:4-5. 17-19

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:31 – 13:13

Gospel: Lk 4:21-30



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

A reading from the book of Nehemiah:

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.

May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 12:12-30

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, ‘I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body’, would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, ‘I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,’ would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I do not need you,’ nor can the head say to the feet, ‘I do not need you.’

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

Gospel Acclamation See Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

(Gospel continues inside bulletin, RHS)