



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

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One who trusts in human beings



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 13TH FEB. 2022

'Trust in God's will.

I die happy because I am dying next to our Lord.'



In today's gospel Jesus teaches us that real happiness can come to the poor, the hungry, the sad and those who are ridiculed or insulted because of their connection with Jesus and his ways. It's not enough to hear this just once. We need reminders because the opposite message comes to us daily through advertising and the media in our modern world. Sometimes life is hard. Sometimes there is suffering. Life is often struggle. But we're reminded, through all our hardships, not despite them, peace and deep, abiding happiness is the attainable goal.

The saints, as they often do, can be our guide and inspiration in this regard. They struggle to the very end, with all their strength, and they triumph, but not by their own efforts alone: the Lord triumphs in them and with them. They remain firm in their faith with steadfast and generous hearts. One such saint is the young Mexican martyr José Sánchez del Río who joined the rebel forces with his brothers during the so called 'Cristero War', fighting the violent anti-Christian regime which had been established in the country. Throughout the persecution, priests remained in his hometown, clandestinely celebrating the Eucharist and administering the sacraments, at which young José participated with great reverence and perseverance.

During a violent battle on January 25, 1928, José was captured, brought to his hometown and imprisoned in his parish church which had already been desecrated and laid waste by federalists. It was suggested that he flee in order to avoid being sentenced to death, but he refused. While in prison, in an effort to make José renounce his faith to save himself, he was tortured and forced to watch the hanging of another boy who had been imprisoned with him. The soles of his feet flayed, José was made to walk to the cemetery where, positioned in front of the grave prepared for him, he was shot, but not mortally, and asked again to renounce the faith. But José, with every wound inflicted, cried out: *'Long live Christ the King! Long live our Lady of Guadalupe!'* In the end, he was shot and executed on February 10, 1928, not yet fifteen years old. Three days before he had written to his mother: *'Trust in God's will. I die happy because I am dying next to our Lord.'* Story source: [The inspiring stories of 4 new saints \(aleteia.org\)](http://The inspiring stories of 4 new saints (aleteia.org))

Parish Contact Details:

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Office Hrs: Tues, Wed, and Fri 10:30 -2:30

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

Pasquale Milazzo

Marj Bormann

Gavin Currie

Kevin Quinlan

John Maher

Aileen Meehan

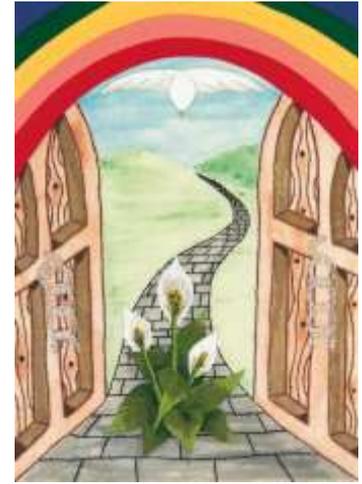
Maureen Dickson (Canberra)

NOTICES

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER-

There is an invitation to join for the annual World day of Prayer which will be hosted this year by the Anglican Church of Swan Hill at **10 am on Friday March 4th**.

This years' service has been prepared by the people of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. All welcome.



Jocelyn Ingram has coordinated our parish's representation in these days for a long time. She is looking for a couple of helpers who might take a representative role in this year's day of prayer, with a view to helping host next year's gathering. There is an established script for the gathering, it just takes a couple of rehearsals with the other representatives to tie it all together. These will take place on this Friday (18th) and the next (25th) at 10am, again at the Anglican Parish. If you are interested in getting involved please let Jocelyn know, or touch base with the us in the Office.

Notices Continued Opposite...

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Rosina Nasisi,

Salvatore Buccheri, Frank Lonergan,

Jan Bell, Carmela Mammone, Ronald Duryea,

Edward Fitzgerald, Annunziata Russo,

Patrick McInerney, John Patrick Bell,

Maude Deagan, Kath Ritchie.

SICK LIST

Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott, Jarrod

Crimmins, Jack Donohue, Jude Lewis, Yvonne

Annan, Sarah Kenny, Michael Bourke, Bridget

Phyland, Carmel Ryan

THIS WEEKEND (12TH/13TH FEBRUARY)

Friday 5pm Culgoa

Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday: 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Nandaly

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 5.30pm

Wednesday 10am

Thurs: Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

Fri: NO MASS (2 funerals)

NEXT WEEKEND (19TH/20TH FEBRUARY)

Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Lalbert

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Sea Lake

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

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St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

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Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

NOTICES CONTINUED...



LENTEN PROGRAM

Lent is now fast approaching, with Ash Wednesday this year falling on 2nd March. The theme of this year's reflection program is *Remember*. Books are now available from the parish office \$10. We will also be bringing some of these out to the country Churches over the next few weekends.

These programs can be followed as an individual or in groups. We already have a number of groups established across the Parish. If you haven't yet joined one and would like to be part of a group, we will host two sessions in Swan Hill - on Thursdays after 5:30pm Mass and on Fridays after the 12pm Mass. These will begin in the first week of March- (3rd and 4th). We will have a sign-up sheet available after Mass. If these times don't work, there are two other pre-established groups who may be able to welcome new members.

MINISTERS NEEDED FOR READING, OFFERTORY AND COMMUNION ROSTERS.

Our rosters are in need of more people to assist in helping at Mass. Saturday night Mass is especially short of assistance as our current roster has lost helpers due to no longer living here/age/health. The more people we have involved the less frequent you will be called upon. Training will be provided. If you are interested please talk with Fr James or Glenda after Mass, drop by the Office Tues, Wed or Fri or email northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

Paul teaches us that, united to Christ through faith and in baptism, we are united in his death and resurrection. With Christ we die to sin; with him we rise to a new life. We cannot wait to see proof of our transformation before we change our actions. The proof is in the lives we live in faith. To deny that we have died and been raised is to deny the resurrection of Christ. Paul insists that they cannot be separated. The challenge is to live in and out of this faith.

Both Jeremiah and Jesus introduce us to such a way of living. It is a way of paradox, a way that moves us beyond the self-centred standards of the world. The poor, the hungry, those who weep, and those who are persecuted are really the ones who are blessed. The victims of our social and economic systems, those who have been ravaged by war or have been made vulnerable by life itself are the ones who, if they place their trust in God, will be blessed in the end. They may appear to be the outcasts of this world, but, if they are filled with faith, they will inherit heaven. The wealth of this world and its pleasures are not the blessings that we might think they are. They can blind us to the real values of life and prevent us from dying to the world and living resurrected lives in Christ.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why was it significant that both Jews and Gentiles were present to hear this sermon?

What is the significance of Jesus 'fixing his eyes on his disciples' before beginning his sermon?

Why does Jesus regard the poor and rejected as being favoured by God?

Does Jesus suggest that having wealth or success is automatically negative?

What aspect of your own life does this gospel challenge?

Why does Jesus' sermon balance the blessings for the poor with the curses on the rich?

What comfort can the poor and rejected take from this sermon?

In what ways might this sermon be misinterpreted to avoid addressing the needs of the poor?

What implications does this gospel have for people with riches and success today?

First Reading Jer 17:5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 1:1-4. R. Ps 39:5

(R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked; nor lingers in the way of sinners nor sits in the company of scorners, but whose delight is the law of the Lord and who ponders his law day and night.

He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall prosper.

Not so are the wicked, not so! For they like winnowed chaff shall be driven away by the wind. For the Lord guards the way of the just but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

(R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 6:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 6:17. 20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Readings Next Week: 6th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: 1 Sm 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

Second Reading: 1 Cor 15:45-49

Gospel: Lk 6:27-38