



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

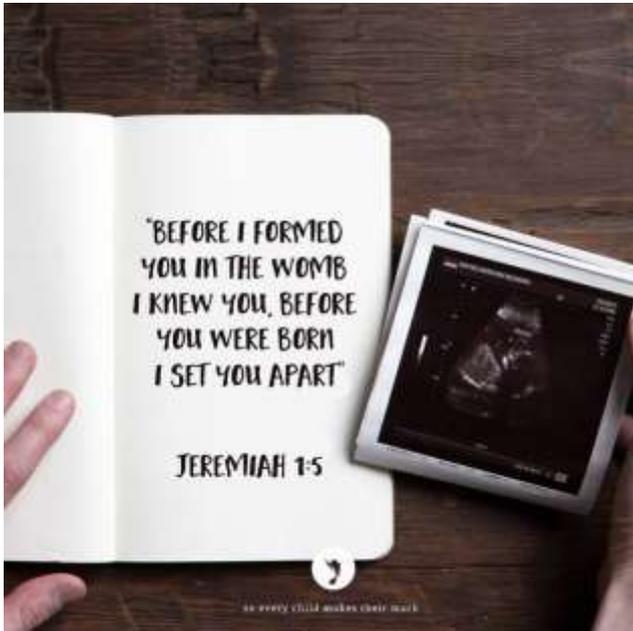
Incorporating the Communities of

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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4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 30TH JANUARY 2022



LOVED FROM ETERNITY

There is an awesome truth revealed in today's first reading. What is true for Jeremiah is true for us all: we are known and loved from eternity. We are held in that love before we are even formed in our mother's womb.

For God of course, there is no time. Every moment is as one. But for us, life is experienced as a gradual unfolding in time. How awesome it is to know that each step of that journey is already held in God's love. There is not a moment that is not already touched by it.

God loves us into existence. As we walk along the road he has prepared for us, we come to see the wonderful mystery of his plan opening up before us. His Love calls us into being. It will carry us through to our end.

SCHOOL STAFF COMMISSIONING

Today we welcome the staff of St Mary MacKillop College and St Mary's Primary Swan Hill for our annual staff commissioning. We pray for all the staff as they begin a new school year. May it be full of blessings, and may they be strengthened in their mission and find joy in living out their vocation.

WELCOME BISHOP PAUL

We welcome Bishop Paul to our Parish this weekend. He has come especially so that he might join us in celebrating the final Mass of Thanksgiving in Lake Boga. At this Mass he will also bless the new 'Lake Boga Family and Faith Group' which will be a special way for the community there to carry on the light of the Gospel walking forward. As this will be his first opportunity to visit since my arrival, I have also asked that he might officially install me as parish priest as part of the Saturday night Mass. While not essential in any way, these little ritual celebrations can express so much; the special place our Parish holds in our Diocese and the care our Bishop has for our needs, the vocation of service I am called to as your parish priest and my commitment to that, the strength and grace we can all draw on in the Scriptures and Sacraments and the Communion that flows from sharing in these tokens of God's love for us.

FINALLY- A BIG THANK YOU!

To all who helped on Wednesday, both at the Lake Boga Working Bee and at Sr Kathleen's Mass.

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

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

Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

Parish Admin Officers:

Glenda Klabbers

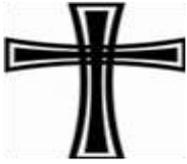
Mary Kennedy

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

Laurel Kelly
Agnes Joyce O'Loughlin
Elizabeth Rose O'Brien
Kenneth Jillard

NOTICES

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, contact the Office on a Tuesday or Friday or email

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au

LENTEN PROGRAM Ash Wednesday is 2nd March. This year's theme is *Remember*. Books have been ordered and will be available shortly. Please contact the office to place your order whether it be for a group or individually.

LAKE BOGA FINAL MASS- SUN 30TH JAN 12PM
Bishop Paul will join us to celebrate our final Mass of Thanksgiving in Lake Boga this Sunday 30th January at 12pm followed by a shared lunch (please bring a plate). We will also bless the new 'Lake Boga Family and Faith Group.' All are welcome. Please let any family or friends with connections to Lake Boga church also know. For those unable to join us, we will leave out some copies of a reflection prepared for this event, setting out the history and our hopes for the future.

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Bill Croft, Vince Mobilio, Rita Stahl, Eugenio Aiello, Neil Meyer, Des Byrne, Evaline, Bernard, William Wilkinson, Wilma Woodburn, Patrick Feeny, Bridget, Supple, Johanna Wise, Anne Patching, Kathleen McArthur, Lucio Tieri, Mary Hall, Vince Iannucci, Audrey Walsh, Fred DeLeux, Mary Shirley

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 (29TH/30TH JANUARY)

Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

LAKE BOGA 12pm FINAL MASS

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 5.30pm

Wednesday 10am

Thurs Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

Fri No Mass Laurel Kelly funeral 10.30am

NEXT WEEKEND (5TH/6TH FEBRUARY)

Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday: 8.30am Sea Lake (*With Baptism*)

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

COLLECTIONS LAST 2 WEEKENDS COMBINED

1st (Presbytery): \$ 1355

2nd (Parish): \$ 1467.50

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

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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

Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Jeremiah declares that his call from God was prophetic in nature. His vocation was his destiny even before he was born. His entire identity took shape within him even as he was formed in his mother's womb. Jeremiah is told to get ready to proclaim the word of the Lord. This was not going to be an easy task, but God will fortify him as one would fortify a city. The passage ends with words of encouragement. His adversaries will not prevail against the prophet, because the Lord will be with him. There is no promise here of deliverance from the onslaughts. The promise is that Jeremiah will not be crushed by them.

The responsorial psalm opens with a plea for deliverance from distress: protect me; save me from shame; rescue me; hear me. This is followed by a prayer of confidence in God. Different kinds of rock are used to characterise the trustworthiness of God. The psalm ends with a promise to make know the wonders that God has wrought. The psalmist trusted God even while in the womb. As the psalmist had called on the righteousness of God at the beginning of the prayer (v.2), so that same righteousness is proclaimed at the end. It is the righteousness of God that is the basis of the psalmist's confidence.

Paul's praise of love is one of the best known biblical passages. In the reading for last Sunday, Paul insisted that all the gifts that the Spirit bestowed upon individuals functioned for the upbuilding of the community. Today he concentrates on love, the 'more excellent way', the greatest of all spiritual gifts. As beneficial as all the spiritual gifts may be, without love they are nothing. They are useful now, while we are still in this world. However, at the end of this world, their usefulness will come to an end and they will cease to be. Love, on the other hand, will never cease to be.

Continued...

The Scripture to which Jesus refers announced the eschatological age of fulfilment. It provides a glimpse into the kind of messiah that Jesus will be, namely one who will refashion society for the sake of the oppressed. The response of those in the synagogue who heard Jesus is curious. At first they speak highly of him and are amazed at his words, but later in the episode they drive him out of the city to the brow of a hill to hurl him down. Jesus is not accepted by his people because he preaches that he has come not merely for this people, but for any who will open themselves to his teaching. This response gives us a second insight into the kind of messiah Jesus will be. Not only will he fulfill the role of the prophet who announces the advent of the age of fulfilment, but he will also be rejected, as were the other prophets.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why might Jesus have chosen to return to Nazareth for his first public appearance?

What might the crowd have meant when they said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?'

Why did the crowd turn against Jesus and try to throw him off a cliff?

Q. Have you ever been put down by people you know when you tried to take a new direction?

Q. What does the fact that Jesus read from scripture and preached in the synagogue tell us about him?

Q. How does the initial approval and later rejection of Jesus reflect other events in his life?

Q. What might be a modern parallel to the stories about Elijah and Elisha?

Have you ever been guilty of not accepting someone you knew who started on a new direction?

Readings Next Week: 5th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Is 6:1-8

Second Reading: 1 Cor 15:1-11

Gospel: Lk 5:1-11

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

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah:

I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations. So now brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you. Do not be dismayed at their presence, or in their presence I will make you dismayed. I, for my part, today will make you into a fortified city, a pillar of iron, and a wall of bronze to confront all this land: the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests and the country people. They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you – it is the Lord who speaks.’

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 70:1-6. 15. 17. R. v.15

(R.) I will sing of your salvation.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice rescue me, free me: pay heed to me and save me.

Be a rock where I can take refuge, a mighty stronghold to save me; for you are my rock, my stronghold. Free me from the hand of the wicked.

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope, my trust, O Lord, since my youth. On you I have leaned from my birth, from my mother’s womb you have been my help.

My lips will tell of your justice and day by day of your help. O God, you have taught me from my youth and I proclaim your wonders still.

(R.) I will sing of your salvation.

Second Reading 1 Cor 12:31 – 13:13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians:
There are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people’s sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 4:18

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

Gospel Lk 4:21-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’ And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, ‘This is Joseph’s son, surely?’ But he replied, ‘No doubt you will quote me the saying, “Physician, heal yourself” and tell me, “We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside.”’ And he went on, ‘I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

‘There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah’s day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha’s time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.’

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord.