



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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5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 6TH FEBRUARY 2022

LOVE AS PURE GIFT

Weddings are always special moments. I love standing by a groom as he waits for his bride, and seeing his reaction as she steps through the door. It is not unusual to see some tears! He is almost always overwhelmed. There he stands, wondering why on earth this woman is choosing him. With all his faults and weaknesses, she is choosing him. Of all the men in the world, she is choosing him. There are so many who would seem more deserving of her love, but here she comes to name him as her husband, to the exclusion of them all. No matter how unworthy he may be feeling, her choice is clear. The beauty of this moment is that the groom can experience love for what it truly is; a gift freely given. He tastes love, not as something that needs to be deserved or earned, but simply as pure gift. And he can experience love more fully in this way precisely because he is aware of his unworthiness.



I think we can sense something similar going in our readings today. Isaiah, Paul and Peter each in their own way grapple with their sense of unworthiness. God's awesome Holiness shines a light on their own sinfulness. They feel unclean. And yet each are still called by God, freely chosen for a special purpose. God singles them out and they know they can do nothing to deserve his choice. In their humility they are able to experience God's love for what it truly is; pure gift. Pure grace. And this gift frees them for their mission ahead.

We can see something of this sense of unworthiness in all the saints. Even Mary, without any sin, sings of God looking on her in her 'nothingness'. To our modern ear, sometimes this can all seem a bit negative. We have perhaps become a bit embarrassed about acknowledging our sinfulness. But today's readings help remind us that far from crushing us, recognising our own unworthiness can actually lead to our most powerful experiences of God's love. They are not moments of shame, but moments of freedom and grace. We begin every Mass with a confession of our own sinfulness. Just before we approach for Communion we again admit our unworthiness. These moments are far from negative. Rather, they are invitations to once again experience God's love for what it truly is; pure gift.

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

Agnes 'Sandra' O'Loughlin
Ken Jillard
Laurel Kelly
Elizabeth 'Betty' O'Brien

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Audrey Walsh, Dominic Costa, Marianne Costa, Maria Peluso, Patrick Shepherd, Robert Burns, Francesco & Concetta Marotta, Beatrice Curran, Geoff Stephenson, Kieran Brennan, Natale Pino, Patrick Casey, James King, Darren McKenzie, James Elliott.

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 (5/6TH JANUARY)

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 2pm Funeral Mass for Betty O'Brien
(No Evening Mass)
Wednesday 10am
Thurs: Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm
Fri: Adoration 11am Mass 12 noon

NEXT WEEKEND (12TH/13TH FEBRUARY)

Friday 5pm Culgoa
Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

1st (Presbytery): \$ 830 2nd (Parish): \$ 737
Special Collection (Lunar New Year): \$ 524

NOTICES

ROSARY IN THE PARK

Next Saturday 12th February, 10am Riverside Park. All welcome. BYO chair.

OVER 60'S SOCIAL GROUP

There were some good discussions following Sr Kathleen's Memorial Mass the other day. One special result was the idea of restarting the over 60's social group after Easter to play 500. More details to come in the following weeks.

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 email northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au or drop by on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday.

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.

CUP OF TEA

There will be a cup of tea after 10:30am Mass in Swan Hill today. All welcome.

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
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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
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REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

Today we consider the call to continue the mission of Jesus by engaging in some form of ministry. The first and the last readings are call narratives; the epistle contains a statement of the faith that undergirds our response to our call; the psalm response celebrates the gracious goodness of God that makes all of this possible.

Our call is more than a summons to faith; it is a call to ministry. Isaiah is called in order to be sent; the fishermen are called in order to gather others to Jesus. So it is with us. We are called to be sent out to the world. This call comes to us in the ordinariness of life. It will usually come to us as we wash our nets or our dishes, as we teach or raise children, as we prepare a brief for trial or examine a patient; as we repair cars or work at the computer. The call of God comes to us in the ordinariness of life.

We are called to proclaim the message of the resurrection by any and every means possible. Some, like Isaiah and the disciples of Jesus, will witness in open and dramatic ways. They will teach and preach; they will nurse the sick and care for the elderly. Others will witness in less conspicuous ways. They will insist on fair practices in their own workplaces; they will weed out expressions of prejudice and violence so that a new and just world can be fashioned for themselves and for their children. Called in the ordinariness of their lives, they will witness to the death and resurrection in that very ordinariness, thus transforming everything into extraordinariness. © Dianne Bergant CSA

A PRAYER FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH II ON HER PLATINUM JUBILEE

We pray for Queen Elizabeth II as she celebrates 70 years of service. May the Lord strengthen her in the Christian faith that has sustained her and may the Holy Spirit grant her wisdom in her service day by day.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why do you think Peter allowed Jesus to use his boat to preach?

What might Peter have been thinking when he agreed to go fishing again?

Why does Peter say, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man'?

Who do you know who has felt 'called' to act and has responded to that call?

Do you have a sense of what you may be called to do with your life?

In what ways did Peter trust and place his faith in Jesus?

Have you ever, like Peter, acted against your instinct and experience and been proven wrong?

How do you try to listen to the voice of God in your life?

Do you feel called to take your life in a particular direction?

Readings Next Week: 6th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Jer 17:5-8

Second Reading: 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20

Gospel: Lk 6:17, 20-26



CANDLE BLESSING

This week we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation, a special moment to recognise Jesus as our Light to all the nations.

We will bless some candles during Mass today so that you might take them home. If you get this message in time, feel free to bring some extra candles of your own for the blessing.

First Reading Is 6:1-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Here am I! Send me.

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings. And they cried out to one another in this way,

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said: 'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips, your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged.'

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?'

I answered, 'Here I am, send me.' *The Word of the Lord.*

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-5. 7-8. R. v.1

(R.) In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul.

All earth's kings shall thank you when they hear the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the Lord's ways;

'How great is the glory of the Lord!'

You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. **(R)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:1-11

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
I preach what they preach, and this is what you believe.

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you – believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed. *The Word of the Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:19

Alleluia, alleluia! Come follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of my people. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 5:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
They left everything and followed him.

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him. *The Gospel of the Lord.*