



# 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

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## 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022

### KEEPING FAITH BOTH IN TIMES OF LIGHT AS WELL AS DARKNESS

Today we hear the story of the Transfiguration, when for a fleeting moment Jesus' closest friends could see him for who he truly was. Up there on the mountain, the divine light shone brightly upon them. They caught a glimpse of Jesus in all his glory, with Moses and Elijah by his side. But before they could even begin to understand what was going on, a cloud covered them with its shadow and hid Jesus from their sight. Full of fear, they entered the shadow, called forward by the voice, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him.'

And then the vision departed, and they found Jesus alone.



A man hugs a cross in Lviv, Ukraine, on Feb. 24, the first day of Russia's invasion. Courtesy of Dennis Melnichuk

There is a lot going on in this story. We can't grasp all of its meaning at once. Each time we read it God will help us to see another aspect of the mystery hidden in it. But for today maybe we can take this; faith calls on us to persevere both in times of light as well as in times of shadowy darkness. Consider this. Have you wondered why Moses and Elijah are caught up in this vision? Perhaps part of the answer comes from their own stories; both were granted a vision of God's glory on a mountain, but both also had their times of terrible darkness and doubt. And yet through it all, God remained by their side. The same could be said for Peter, James and John. Their experience on the mountain pretty well sums up their own journey too; moments of light as well as darkness. But surely that passing glimpse of Jesus' glory gave them some strength and hope whenever the clouds overshadowed them?

Our life has its ups and downs as well. There are moments of light and peace as well as moments of shadow and darkness. And yet Jesus is present to us through them all, even if for a time he may be hidden from our sight.

### PRAYER FOR PEACE

*Heavenly Father, Your will for your people is peace, not war. Pour out on our world, especially in Eastern Europe, your Spirit of compassion and solidarity. Grant all those who believe in you the strength to be close to those who suffer and the courage to resolve their differences and conflicts in truth and without resort to arms. Be with the widow, the orphan, the refugee and the peacemaker. Bind us all into the peace of your Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord, AMEN.*

#### **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 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**

Kathleen Clohesy  
Linton Ryan  
(Lindsay's Twin Brother)  
Rosaria Fedele

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Nella Bellofiore, Robert Bradley, Frank Fazzalori,  
Kevin Mikes, Daniel Wright, Frank Howley,  
Rhodesia McNamara, Mary Ellen Irwin, Ian Giddings,  
Helen Harris, Antonio Fazzalori, Margaret Mudge,  
Nina Taverna, Dorothy Burgess, Libby Dunstone,  
Francis Ledwich,

**SICK LIST**

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

**THIS WEEKEND (12<sup>TH</sup>/13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH)**

***Friday 5pm Culgoa- Cancelled***

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- Normal 10am Mass Cancelled***

***Funeral Mass Linton Ryan Culgoa 11am***

Thurs: Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

***Friday: Normal Adoration and Mass Cancelled***

***Funeral Mass Rosaria Fedele 10:30am***

***Special Mass- 5:30pm- Vigil Feast of St Joseph***

Saturday: Confessions 9-10am

**NEXT WEEKEND (19<sup>TH</sup>/20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH)**

Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Lalbert

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Sea Lake

**NOTICES**

**EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES** As Lent is marked as a special time for prayer and repentance, it is also a great time to bring in a slight change to our weekly routine. From next weekend onwards I will offer confessions on Saturdays from 9am-10am. I will still continue to offer confessions on Thursday evenings and know that you are always welcome and encouraged to approach me for confession at any time. This sacrament is one of the greatest treasures of our faith.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Do you have a few hours to spare on a Tuesday evening between 4.30pm and 7.30pm. **A GOOD KITCHEN** is looking for volunteers to assist them. Contact by email [agoodkitchen@gmail.com](mailto:agoodkitchen@gmail.com) or call in to the Parish Function Centre on a Tuesday after 4.30pm and sign up.

**PROJECT COMPASSION** resources are available from the Church.

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP** Some local Christians are starting up an inter-Church fellowship group for young adults here in Swan Hill. This should be a great way to support each other. They are planning to meet on Tuesday evenings. If you would like to learn more, let us know and we will put you in contact with organiser Simone Holley.

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND**

1<sup>st</sup> (Presbytery) \$ 745

2<sup>nd</sup> (Parish) \$ 754.50

**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

[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

[principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au)

**St Mary MacKillop College**

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

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



Biru 30, lives in a rural village in Jharkand State in India's east. He lost mobility in one of his legs, after contracting polio as a child, which makes it difficult for him to walk. With your generous support, Biru was able to access an entrepreneurship and livelihoods development program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India. He gained the skills, support and encouragement he needed to establish his own bicycle repair business.

Now, Biru is able to provide a good life for his family – and an essential service to his community. He has discovered a sense of pride, confidence and hope which has inspired others living with a disability and paved the way For All Future Generations. Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help people living with disabilities in India gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to build a better future for all

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What is the significance of Moses and Elijah appearing with Jesus?

Why do you think the disciples are portrayed as being sleepy at this important event?

Can you recall other biblical events in which mountaintops feature at special moments?

Why might Peter have suggested constructing tents?

What does the command, 'Listen to him' mean for you in your life?

What message did the Transfiguration hold for the three disciples who witnessed it?

What message does the event hold for us today?

Why does it seem important for the gospel writer to specify that Peter did not know what he was saying?

Why might this passage be selected for use during the Lenten season?

### REFLECTION BY FR MICHAEL TATE TRANSFIGURED BODYSOULS

One often hears the conventional wisdom: 'All religions are the same, with somewhat different packaging.' But, do they believe the same thing about the human person?

What if one believed that the most vital part of a person was 'the soul' which alone was destined for Heaven? This is not the Christian belief.

Today's Gospel recounts that Jesus' body was transfigured. This was no out-of-the-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' body was

totally translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Every molecule of his materiality was reverberating in the halo of divine glory.

That is the destiny which God desires for us also. When we are really in harmony with God, when we really participate in the life of God, then that Divine Life envelops and permeates our whole person, bodysoul. That is our ultimate destiny, but can it be anticipated in the lives of those close to God?

You might care to read the story of St Seraphim of Sarov from the Russian Orthodox tradition. A follower recounts the dazzling bodily transformation of the saint with the blaze of light spilling over onto the snow-covered meadow.

We might pause for a moment to affirm our Christian hope that, with God's grace, we will be radiant with Divine Light, our bodies immersed in translucent glory, filled with infinite joy in our hearts.

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In this week's Gospel perhaps we can see our own struggle and sense of cost of discipleship. Only through taking time in prayerful solitude can we hear the Father's voice speaking words of assurance. Lent offers such a time to us, to deliberately look at how we are living as disciples.

### Readings Next Week: 2nd Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Ex 3:1-8. 13-15

Second Reading: 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel: Lk 13:1-9

**ROSTERS FOR SWAN HILL READERS, EUCHARIST  
AND OFFERTORY ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE BACK  
OF THE CHURCH**

**First Reading** Gen 15:5-12. 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

*God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.*

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

**(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life before whom shall I shrink?

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord!

**(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

**Second Reading** Phil 3:17 – 4:1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.*

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ.

They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation** Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel** Lk 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.*

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*