



# 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

Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://northeastmallee.org.au)



## 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 27<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 2022

### JESUS: OUR SURE TEACHER

You might recognise three sayings from today's Gospel. We know it is no good when we find 'the blind leading the blind'. We are ready to call out hypocrisy when we repeat the words 'take the plank out of your own eyes first'. And we can see the wisdom in 'by their fruits you shall know them'. All good, solid words. Each saying on its own has something to teach us. But what links them together?

To fully understand this, we must first accept that these words apply to us. Before trying to 'weaponise' them by firing them off at everyone around us, we have to recognise the truth of them in our own hearts. Are we absolutely sure that we don't suffer any blind spots? Are there no planks obscuring our own vision? Of course there are, none of us enjoys perfect sight or perspective. And can we honestly look to the fruits of our own lives and say there is nothing rotten there? But that would be a lie wouldn't it. We have all produced bad fruit. We do that everytime we sin. And that reveals that our hearts are in need of purification and healing. But who can we find to help us? Who can bring that healing, if everyone is in the same boat? Who can help us to see, if we are all equally blind?



'A disciple cannot be greater than their teacher.' Left to ourselves, we would be helpless, left blind and in need of healing. We would only be able to shuffle as far as the blind person ahead of us. But with the coming of Jesus, everything is changed. Free from sin, his eyes are clear, and so he can restore our sight and lead us forward to firmer footing. Filled with the Holy Spirit, his heart is pure, and so the fruits he shares with us are only good. Sent by the Father, we can entrust ourselves to him as the true teacher who can lead us to fullness of life.

### PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE

I'm sure you are also disturbed and anxious about the latest developments in Eastern Europe. Pope Francis has invited us to join in prayer and fasting for peace on Ash Wednesday.

#### **Parish Contact Details:**

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St  
Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

[northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Phone: 03 5032 4144

Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://northeastmallee.org.au)

**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**

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Vincenzo Iannucci, Flavio Dutto,  
Wilhelm Wierderman, Mary Giddings, John Quirk,  
Lozz Nolan, Simon Hayes, Gary Patching,  
John Walsh, Eileen Sheehan, Ted Corrie,  
Giuseppe and Nella Bellofiore.  
Mitchell Donohue

**SICK LIST**

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

**THIS WEEKEND (26/27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY)**

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

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday 5.30pm

**Ash Wednesday 10am and 5.30pm Swan Hill**  
**Sea Lake 2pm**

Thurs: Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

Fri: Adoration 11am Mass 12 Noon

Sat: Confessions 9-10am, First Sat Mass 10am

**NEXT WEEKEND (5/6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH)**

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

**COLLECTIONS LAST 2 WEEKENDS**

1<sup>st</sup> (Presbytery) \$ 835

2<sup>nd</sup> (Parish) \$ 674.50

**NOTICES**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Our Lenten journey begins this Wednesday. As well as the usual 10am Mass in Swan Hill, we will also gather for prayers in Sea Lake at 2pm and offer another Mass in Swan Hill at 5:30pm.

**EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES AND FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION**

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. On first Saturdays I will also offer a Mass at 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. It is a beautiful sacrament and one of the greatest treasures of our faith.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER-**

World Day of Prayer will be hosted at the Anglican Church of Swan Hill at 10 am this coming Friday March 4th. All welcome.

**CUPPA AFTER MASS** after the 10.30am Mass in Swan Hill next Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March. All welcome

**ROSARY IN THE PARK** Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March. 10am Riverside Park. All welcome. BYO chair.

**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.a](mailto:principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.a)

**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)

## NOTICES CONTINUED...

### LENTEN PROGRAM

We will be selling the rest of the Lenten Program booklets for \$10 after Masses this weekend. If you would like to join a Lenten reflection group, it is still not too late. You are welcome to join in on Thursdays after 5:30pm Mass and on Fridays after the 12pm Mass here in Swan Hill, starting this coming week. No pressure if you can't make it every week, you are free to come and go as circumstances allow.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Which phrase or concept from today's gospel catches your attention?

What lesson/s do you take from this passage?

What is the danger of treating all opinions as equal?

In what way is treating all opinions as equal different from showing respect for a person's opinion?

What does it mean to 'take the log out of your own eye'?

What strategies do you use to 'filter' or evaluate critical comments before you make them?

How do you recognise a person who produces good 'out of the good treasure of the heart'?

How do you seek to nurture the good treasure of your heart?



### REFLECTION BY FR MICHAEL TATE

#### *Disciples or Mask-Wearers?*

In ancient Greece actors wore masks which concealed the face. One may say they were 'two-faced'. They were called 'Hypocrites', and we derive our word and the idea of 'hypocrite' from that. As did Jesus.

He could always see through the veneer which people (such as you and I) present to the outside world, and his gaze would (and still can) penetrate through to the heart – the core of the personality.

For us, judging the heart of someone is fraught with risk. As Jesus humorously put it, how readily we see the smallest splinter of sawdust in someone else's eye, and in super-critical mode fail to see the plank of wood which impairs and distorts our vision. We should not rush to judgment.

The fact is that only the gaze of God can really penetrate to the heart of someone. We know that the gaze of Jesus, Who is God, is always a loving gaze visualising a heart open to salvation. (Mk 10:17-22)

This is one of the reasons why recent Popes have opposed capital punishment. Time must be given for the heart of the convicted criminal to respond to that loving gaze. And it leaves the Final Judgment, even of the murderer, to God.

Listen to the dying moments of Our Lord. His loving gaze penetrated beyond the masks and actions of his tormentors and focused on their hearts. Then he cried out this plea: 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.'

We are all conscious of the times we have fallen short of the practice and teaching of our Master despite our praying: 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

We could pause for a moment to pray that The Teacher's loving gaze fall upon us to make us whole-hearted disciples willing 'to be formed by divine teaching'.

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**First Reading** Sir 27:4-7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus  
*Do not praise someone before they have spoken.*

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

**(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night.

The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

**(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

**Second Reading** 1 Cor 15:54-58

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
*Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.*

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Readings Next Week: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

First Reading: Dt 26:4-10

Second Reading: Rom 10:8-13

Gospel: Lk 4:1-13

**Gospel Acclamation** Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

**Gospel** Lk 6:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*A person speaks from what is in his heart.*

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

