



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

Incorporating the Communities of

St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Michael's Lalbert,
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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4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8TH MAY 2022 GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Every year, on this fourth Sunday after Easter, we hear Jesus speak of himself as the Good Shepherd. It is a powerful image and speaks both of his tender and watchful care towards us as well as of the dangers he is ready to face for our sake. As his flock, we recognise our Good Shepherd's voice as he calls out to us. Sometimes this voice challenges, at other times it consoles, but it always breathes forth new life. Knowing each of us by name, he will never allow any of us to be lost. No matter where we stray, no matter who might attempt to snatch us away, he will seek us out and lead us home. As the Eternal Word of the Father, he called Creation into existence. Surely then he can call any of his 'little ones' back into fullness of life? With our Good Shepherd to care for us, we have nothing to fear.

As always, Jesus wants us to experience his care in concrete ways. This is why he has called out some of his followers as ministers to serve the needs of his Church. Broken and weak as they are, he commissions his priests to help nourish and care for his people. As the Good Shepherd, he continues to act through them in a special way so that he might continue to lead us to fullness of life. This Sunday then is a special one for us to pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. In a particular way, we pray for Deacons Matthew Restall and William Lowry who will be ordained priests for our Diocese on Friday July 22nd in Ballarat, as well as for Peter Cay, our other seminarian, and for any who are discerning their call.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Of course, when we think of God's care for us, how can we not think of our Mothers? They were our first carers and the first voice we heard. Their care for us called for sacrifice and selfless love. With thanks we pray for all mothers today, and for all who have cared for us in a motherly way. For some this day is also tinged with sadness. We also pray therefore for all who are hurting; whether from the loss of loved ones, the breakdown of relationships or the grief for opportunities and experiences that never came about. We turn to our heavenly Mother Mary in a special way to pray for us all, her spiritual children.

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

Francesco (Frank) Miceli

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Michael Conidi (2 Year), Desiree Smith,
Neil McKerrow, Pat Jobling, Irene Matthews,
Thomas Ryan, Daniel Starkom, Violet Egan,

SICK LIST

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

THIS WEEKEND (7TH/8TH MAY)

Friday 6th Culgoa 5pm

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

(Please note change of time)

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Nandaly

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 10th 5.30pm

Wednesday 11th: 10am

Thurs 12th: Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

Adoration 6pm-7pm

Fri 13th: Adoration 11am Mass 12 Noon

Sat 14th: Confessions 9-10am

Special Syro-Malankara Mass: 10am

NEXT WEEKEND (14TH/15TH MAY)

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Lalbert

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Sea Lake

Last Weekend's Collections

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 925

2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 981.50

NOTICES

SATURDAY MASS TIME CHANGE THIS WEEK

From this Saturday 7th we will move our vigil Mass
thirty minutes earlier, to now start at 6pm.



PROJECT COMPASSION PLEASE RETURN BOXES

A big thank you to all who have already brought in
their giving envelopes. If there are any boxes,
could you please bring them in by May 15th.

UPDATE ON ST JOSEPH'S LAKE BOGA

As you know, we made a decision as a community
to close St Joseph's Lake Boga as a Mass centre.
The former church will go on the market within the
next few days. Once again, my sincere thanks to
the Lake Boga community for their understanding
and openness as we take this step, and for the hard
work many have put in over the years caring for
and maintaining the property.

*If anyone is interested, there are still a few pews
available for purchase.*

MASS COUNTS

Beginning this week, we will be undertaking the
annual Mass counts at each weekend gathering.
This will continue until the end of May.

THURSDAY ADORATION

We have started to offer an extra time for
Adoration of the Eucharist on Thursdays after
Mass through to 7pm.

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

Ph. 03 5033 2541

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St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

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What does it mean to love as Jesus loved? The love Jesus poured out to all was an expression of God's love that has been poured out to all creation since the very beginning and continues to be poured out today. God's love doesn't keep score. When humankind turned its back on God, God's love continued to call them back to faithful relationship. God's love is not conditional – whatever we do, God continues to love us. There is no barrier that we can construct that God's love cannot get around. It is this sort of love that the new commandment demands of us.

LIVING THE GOSPEL – LOVE IS ALL AROUND

Love surrounds us all the time. It is impossible to turn on a radio without hearing 'love' used in one way or another. Love is the most common theme of songs, poetry, literature and art. Although we might bemoan the casual use of 'love', the fact remains that we fill our lives with the sounds and images of love. It's easier to imagine the all-pervasive nature of God's love when we recognise just how pervasive the commercial and artistic expressions of love have become. As Christian people, the challenge that faces us is to imbue these expressions with a richer, deeper notion of love.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT? LOVE

I love my dog! I love your hair! I love that new song! I absolutely love chocolate! We throw around the word 'love' so casually today that it has almost lost its meaning. The decision whether or not to say 'I love you' in a relationship has become a major dilemma – or alternatively, just the formula that has to be said to get what you want! Jesus did not use the word so casually or so inappropriately. He spoke of love very deliberately and very specifically. Jesus calls us to share in the selfless love that he modelled and to follow his example.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why has the image of the 'good shepherd' been such an enduring and significant one in Christianity?

Why might Jesus have chosen such a 'controversial' image to describe himself?

What are the positive and negative implications of describing faithful people as 'sheep'?

What message of hope for people today can be found in this short passage?

What phrase from today's reading carries special significance to you? Why?

What is your understanding of 'eternal life'?

For whom are you a 'good shepherd'?

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR MOTHERS, GRANDMOTHERS AND TO ALL WHO HAVE GUIDED US IN OUR JOURNEY

Mothers hold our hands for a little while...but they hold our hearts forever!

All-loving God,
we give you thanks for mothers
young and old. We pray for all
mothers of every kind. Those
who have loved us and
helped shape us
with motherly care
and compassion.
We remember
mothers,
grandmothers,
and godmothers
who are no longer
with us, but
whose love is in
our memory
forever. Amen



First Reading Acts 13:14, 43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We are now turning to the gentiles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.' It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock. Alleluia!

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him, we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age.

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock. Alleluia!

Second Reading Rv 7:9, 14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 10:27-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
I give my sheep eternal life.

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Readings Next Week: 5th Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27

Second Reading: Rv 21:1-5

Gospel: Jn 13:31-35