



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

03 50324144

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

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 as well as the Lake Boga Families & Faith Group



## 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: SUNDAY 26TH JUNE 2022

### THERE IS SOMETHING GREATER THAN ELIJAH HERE

Today's Gospel is a challenging one. The underlying theme is that with the coming of Jesus, the Kingdom of God is upon us, and the final moment of decision has arrived. There is simply no more time to waste. In earlier days, Elijah called down fire from heaven on the offerings as a sign for the people to see. Those days are past. The Mercy of God is upon us, and we can't let it slip us by. In earlier times, Elisha kept Elijah waiting so he could say goodbye to his folks. This was a dutiful thing to do, but there is no time for that now. When Jesus calls, we must drop everything and follow. Is this reasonable? If Jesus were only another prophet, no, it wouldn't be. No mere man should be asking of us such total surrender and trust. Even if we were madly in love with someone, we should be questioning our devotion if they demanded us to leave our family without even a 'see you later'.

**TO RECEIVE US SIMPLY TRUST** Such obedience can only be owed to God, and God alone. And we can only assent to such demands because we believe and know that God is the source of all life. Everything we have comes from God and is lovingly sustained by God. Nothing therefore is truly ever 'left behind' by surrendering to God's will, except our sin, and we can trust that any sacrifice we make is overwhelmingly outweighed by his love and grace. Jesus can demand so much of us because he always gives more.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION: FRIDAY JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 6PM: JOHN CANAVAN SPEAKING ON DIVINE MERCY

*"You know you're old when your doctor hands you medication and tells you that you have to take it for the rest of your life, but he's only handed you two pills."*

We are very much looking forward to welcoming John Canavan to our parish this coming weekend, together with Karen his wife and their family. While here, John has offered to share his own story about God's grace and mercy. A former comedian, John has been a powerful messenger of Divine Mercy here in Australia and abroad, and a terrific support to many on their journey of faith. He will share from his own experiences, with a lot of jokes and laughs along the way. The presentation will be held in the Parish Function Centre, 62 Splatt St Swan Hill. Dinner (Soup and rolls) to follow his talk. All are welcome to this night- feel free to invite friends and family. Numbers would be appreciated by Thursday for catering purposes- write your name down on the sheet at the weekend Masses or contact the office by email or phone.

For more on John's story, see

[www.thedivinemercy.org/articles/meet-gods-comic](http://www.thedivinemercy.org/articles/meet-gods-comic)



#### **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**

**Carmel Ahearn**

**Bernard O'Sullivan**

(brother-in-law Jim & Joan Conheady)

**Immacolata Capone**

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Frank Powell, Brian O'Bree, Sarah O'Halloran,  
Noel Storer, Thomas Considine, Des Rinaldi,  
Mary Kelly, John Hayes, Luke O'Bryan,  
Margaret Fitzgerald.

**SICK LIST**

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

**THIS WEEKEND (25<sup>TH</sup>/26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE)**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday: Funeral Immacolata Capone 10:30am

Parish Mass 5.30pm

Wednesday: 10am

Thursday: Confessions 5pm,  
Mass 5.30pm, Adoration until 7pm

Friday: Adoration 11am

Mass 12noon

Saturday: Confessions 9am-10am

Mass 10am (1st Saturday)

**NEXT WEEKEND (2<sup>ND</sup>/3<sup>RD</sup> JULY)**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

1st Collection (Presbytery):

2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving):

**NOTICES**

**BLESSINGS FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!**

We wish all the best to our school families and staff as they begin their winter break. We hope and pray it is a good time of rest and recuperation as well as a great time for families to strengthen their relationships, especially perhaps with grandparents being able to spend a little more time with their grandkids than usual. Safe journey too to all those who may be travelling!

**ROSTERS** for ministries are available at the back of the church. Some families will have received their roster via email. We are in **NEED OF MORE VOLUNTEERS** in all ministries, so if you can assist one Saturday evening/Sunday at Mass a month please contact the office.

**WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 22 - 26 JUNE**

Every three years since 1994, the Church has celebrated the World Meeting of Families in a different city of the world. In 2022 the event will be hosted by the Diocese of Rome with Pope Francis leading special celebrations. However, the Holy Father has also asked that the World Meeting of Families be celebrated concurrently in every diocese of the world in 2022. The idea is for families to gather locally around their bishop to explore and celebrate the theme of "Family love: A vocation and a path to holiness." You can discover local Australian events or explore the resources with your own family by visiting: [www.family.catholic.org.au](http://www.family.catholic.org.au)

**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.

**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)

**Notices Continued...**

**ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE POPE**



Each year a collection is taken up in Church's across the world for the support of the Pope and his mission. This collection taken around the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul draws on an ancient tradition (Peter's Pence) and is an expression of our unity as a universal Church and of our solidarity with the Pope and his ongoing ministry, including his charitable works. We will take up this collection as a leaving collection next weekend (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> July), or you can leave a donation in an envelope marked 'Pope's Collection' over the next month and pop it in the collection.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

Why do you think the gospel writer so directly contradicts the story about Elisha from the first reading?

Why does the gospel writer portray such determination at this mid-point of the gospel?

Why might the disciples' reaction to the lack of hospitality have been so extreme?

How do you react to these difficult sayings of Jesus?

Why did Jesus see the mission for the Kingdom as more important than family responsibilities?

What was your immediate reaction to hearing/reading today's gospel?

Why might the gospel writer have incorporated these difficult sayings of Jesus?

How do you think the three would-be followers reacted to Jesus' words?

When have you ever felt a similar passion, commitment and urgency?

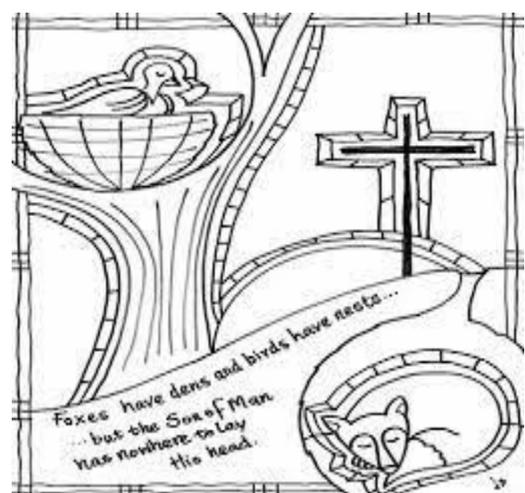
**REFLECTION** by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we consider some of the personal difficulties we might have to face as disciples. First, there is no part-time discipleship. Our commitment must be wholehearted and complete. We must have a willing attitude that frees us interiorly from all other concerns so that we might be able to follow Christ regardless of our state in life or our occupation. This attitude of commitment comes not merely from our own generosity of heart but from our having been transformed into Christ through faith and baptism.

We may face conflicts when our various allegiances seem to clash. We may have family responsibilities. There are children to raise, elderly parents or infirm relatives to care for. What does discipleship require of us? We all must earn a living. Are we expected to leave our employment to follow Jesus? And if so, what then will we do? All disciples must face the interior struggle caused by the conflict of legitimate responsibilities.

The freedom of which Paul speaks comes with genuine love. If, out of love, we can negotiate successfully these conflicts caused by competing responsibilities, without compromising our total commitment to Christ, we will find a new kind freedom. This is the freedom that enables us to be faithful to both sets of responsibilities according to the proper priority. We will see that commitment to Christ is primary and the circumstances of our lives with the accompanying responsibilities set the parameters within which we live out our commitment. It is not in opposition with these responsibilities or despite them, but by means of or through them that we live out our discipleship.

© Dianne Bergant CSA



**First Reading** 1 Kgs 19:16. 19-21

A reading from the first book of the Kings

*Elisha rose and followed Elijah and became his servant.*

The Lord said to Elijah: 'Go, you are to anoint Elisha son of Shaphat, of Abel Meholah, as prophet to succeed you.'

Leaving there, Elijah came on Elisha son of Shaphat as he was ploughing behind twelve yoke of oxen, he himself being with the twelfth. Elijah passed near to him and threw his cloak over him. Elisha left his oxen and ran after Elijah. 'Let me kiss my father and mother, then I will follow you' he said. Elijah answered, 'Go, go back; for have I done anything to you?' Elisha turned away, took the pair of oxen and slaughtered them. He used the plough for cooking the oxen, then gave to his men, who ate. He then rose and followed Elijah and became his servant.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. cf. v.5

**(R.) You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.' O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right-hand happiness for ever.

**(R.) You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

**Second Reading** Gal 5:1. 13-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

*My brothers, you were called to freedom.*

When Christ freed us, he meant us to remain free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

My brothers, you were called, as you know, to liberty; but be careful, or this liberty will provide an opening for self-indulgence. Serve one another, rather, in works of love, since the whole of the Law is summarised in a single command: Love your neighbour as yourself. If you go snapping at each other and tearing each other to pieces, you had better watch or you will destroy the whole community.

Let me put it like this: if you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since

self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. *The Word of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation** 1 Sm 3:9; Jn 6:68

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening; you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

**Gospel** Lk 9:51-62

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Jesus resolutely set his face towards Jerusalem. I will follow you wherever you will go.*

As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But he turned and rebuked them, and they went off to another village.

As they travelled along they met a man on the road who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

Another to whom he said, 'Follow me,' replied, 'Let me go and bury my father first.' But he answered, 'Leave the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.'

Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go and say good-bye to my people at home.' Jesus said to him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Readings Next Week:****14<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

First Reading: Is 66:10-14

Second Reading: Gal 6:14-18

Gospel: Lk 10:1-12. 17-20