



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

03 50324144

Website: 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



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY 14TH AUGUST 2022

"I HAVE COME TO BRING FIRE TO THE EARTH, AND HOW I WISH IT WERE BLAZING ALREADY!"

Put the hose away and let Christ's fire burn brightly!



Fire changes whatever comes into contact with it. Cold ice melts, soft clay is hardened, metal is purified, incense releases its sweet fragrance and wood begins to burn brightly, its hidden energy unleashed. Fire is dangerous for sure, but that is precisely the point isn't it? Jesus didn't come to be safe. He came to *save* us; to break us free from the shackles of sin and to set us ablaze with the fire of Divine Love. That fire was burning within him. It propelled him towards Jerusalem to see his Father's mission through to its completion on the Cross, and nothing was going to turn him from his path. That he describes his coming crucifixion as 'a baptism' should alert us to the challenges we too should expect as those baptised in him.

Family was everything to the people Jesus first spoke these words to. Family was home, livelihood, property and safety-net in times of need. To risk being cast out of your family was to risk absolutely everything. Division carried with it real danger. And yet Jesus challenges his hearers to be ready to face that danger for the sake of a much greater prize, the Kingdom.

Jesus' words speak to us as well. Many of us have experienced the alienation and division that following Christ can bring. Perhaps we have been misunderstood or even cut off by friends, ridiculed at work or school, or even faced tension at home. Jesus warned us it would be so. And yet we are still here, because we have been forever changed by our encounter with him and his fire still burns within us. Sometimes that fire might feel like no more than embers, but it is still there nonetheless, ready to be stoked and fuelled once more by the power of Word and Sacrament. May His Holy Spirit set our hearts ablaze!

15TH AUGUST: FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

On Monday we celebrate Mary's Assumption 'body and soul into heavenly glory' as 'a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people.' Celebrating this feast is like jumping to the last page of a novel to see the ending. In Mary's Assumption we see our own future; raised up from death to join Christ in his Resurrection. He is the First Born who opens up the way for us to follow. Mary's Assumption is the 'beginning and image' of our own final perfection in Christ. This Feast should fill us with hope as we walk our paths here in this life. It is also of course the original patronal feast for both Sea Lake and Swan Hill parishes, so happy feast day to you all, especially our primary schools who will come together on Monday to celebrate.

Mass will also be offered both at 10:30am and 5:30pm in Swan Hill Church.

Parish Contact Details:

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

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 03 5032 4144

Website: 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

Francis "Snow" Murphy
Ethel Mavis Sullivan (née Johnston)

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Annunziata Maiuto (1mth Anniversary)
Jim Meehan, Bill Woodhouse, Mark McMahon
Michael Callaghan, Douglas Scott, Therese Barry,
Eileen Conlan, Patricia O'Brien, Florence
McDonald, Ellen Clohesy, Leslie Clohesy, Beatrice
McLean, Alice Hayes.

SICK LIST

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

THIS WEEKEND (13TH/14TH AUGUST)

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Feast of the Assumption

Monday 10:30am & 5.30pm

Tuesday: Mass 5.30pm
Wednesday: **NO MASS-** (Balranald funeral)
Thursday: Confessions 5pm
Mass 5.30pm, Adoration until 7pm
Friday: Adoration 11am
Mass 12 noon
Saturday: Confessions 9am-10am

NEXT WEEKEND (20/21ST AUGUST)

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Lalbert
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Sea Lake

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 840
2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$935

NOTICES

SAVE THE DATE: PARABLES RETREAT SEPT 3RD

See posters. More details to come.

'SCHOOL OF ROCK' THE MUSICAL

performed by MacKillop College on
18/19th August at 7pm and 21st August at
2pm. Get tickets from the school office
or phone 50329771. Adults \$20,
students \$10.



KNOWING JESUS DAILY DEVOTIONAL VIDEOS

You cannot become what you do not know!

Join us as we seek to dive deep into the life of
Jesus to expand our understanding of who He is
and help us live and become more like Him.

This FREE Daily Devotional series is presented by
Bruce Downes, known as The Catholic Guy, and
starts on Mon 15 August. Receive these short,
practical, and inspiring Daily Devotional videos
into your inbox to help you explore and
understand who Jesus really is!

Sign up today: BruceDownes.org/knowningJesus/

FERTILITY LITERACY IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

Billings LIFE are presenting a free webinar
entitled

"Fertility Literacy in the Digital World ~ the best
use of fertility tracking apps"

on Monday 22nd August at 7.30pm AEST

Presenters from Australia, Mexico and NZ will
review 3 fertility tracking apps.

See the Billings LIFE website or Facebook page
for details and registration.

website: <https://www.billings.life/en/>

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

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin

2 Murlong St Swan Hill

Ph. 03 5033 2541

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



GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER

This week's short and sharp gospel brings to mind two popular sayings (sometimes regarded as blessings, and sometimes regarded as curses). The first is fictitiously ascribed as an ancient Chinese saying, 'May you live in interesting times!' The inference of the blessing/curse is that 'interesting times' equate to disturbing, tumultuous times or times of rapid change. Some people thrive on such change and upheaval, while others dread the thought of change.

The second blessing/curse is, 'May the peace of Christ disturb you!' It occasionally turns up around Christmas or Easter and is sometimes provocatively used by those who advocate for justice and peace. The saying cuts to the heart of what Jesus says in today's gospel: the message he brings is not a cosy, complacent peace, but rather a message that confronts and challenges, even turning loved ones against each other.

Jesus reminds us that if we take on his message of compassion, hospitality and table fellowship then it can set us apart from those who have not accepted the message – even family members. It's a challenging message that even love and loyalty within a family can be disrupted by seeking to authentically live the model of Jesus. If we authentically place the needs of the lowly and the outcast ahead of our own and ahead of our family, then this can be very confronting and very disrupting. What are the consequences for family gatherings? What might the gathering at Christmas dinner look like if we take this message seriously? Jesus says that the normal obligations to family have to take second place to acting on his message and bringing about the kingdom of God.

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HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What was your immediate reaction to the gospel message that Jesus came to bring division?

In what ways can family loyalty get in the way of living the way Jesus called us to live?

When have you ever held back from doing or saying the Christian thing for fear of rejection?

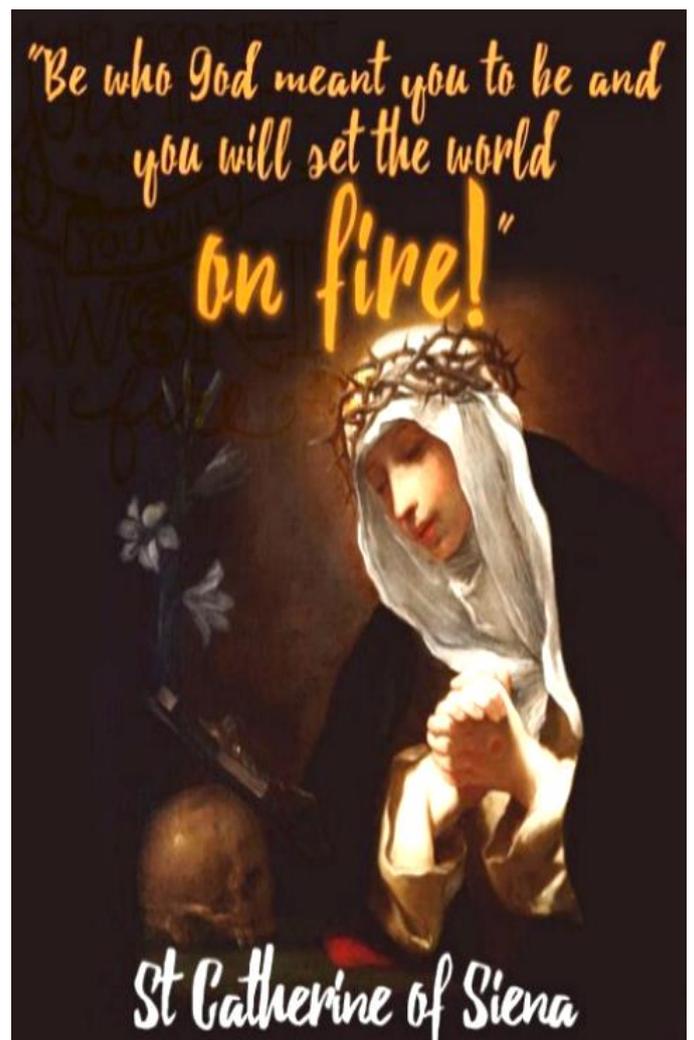
What area of your life is calling you to a more active Christian response?

How might the message of Jesus bring about division?

When have you experienced division or rejection as a result of the Christian message?

Who do you know in your local community who speaks up for Christian values without counting the cost?

What issue in your local community needs to be challenged on Christian principles?



First Reading Jer 38:4-6. 8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malachiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank. Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, come to my aid!

I waited, I waited for the Lord, and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.

He drew me from the deadly pit, from the miry clay. He set my feet upon a rock and made my footsteps firm.

He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. Many shall see and fear and shall trust in the Lord.

As for me, wretched and poor, the Lord thinks of me. You are my rescuer, my help, O God, do not delay!

(R.) Lord, come to my aid!

Second Reading Heb 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and

keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 12:49-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Readings Next Week:

20th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Is 66:18-21

Second Reading: Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel: Lk 13:22-30