

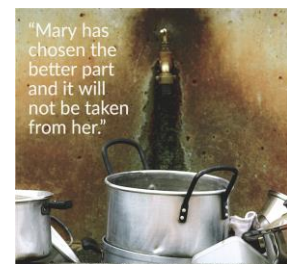


Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY 17TH JULY 2022

IT'S CELEBRATION TIME!

We are delighted to welcome all the children and their families who are joining us today to celebrate their First Holy Communion. I know how excitedly some of you have been waiting for this day, and now it is finally here!

Today you will welcome Jesus into your hearts as a special guest. Sometimes, when we have a special guest coming, we spend so much time and energy getting things ready that we forget to actually spend time with the guest themselves! That is Martha's mistake in today's Gospel isn't it? She wanted everything to be so perfect, that she didn't have any time left for Jesus. He didn't want ten fancy courses of food, he just wanted to enjoy some time with Martha and share with her the gift of his life and his love. Jesus had something great to give, and completely for free.



It is the same for all of us who are making our Communion today, whether for the first time or the ten-thousandth. Jesus has something great to give us. In fact, it is the greatest gift he can possibly give, because what more can you give than the gift of yourself? In the Eucharist, Jesus truly shares with us everything he has and everything he is. He holds nothing back. He gives himself to us so that his life might flow in us and that we might be united ever more closely with him and with the rest of his body, the Church. And that is worth celebrating!

FESTA DELLA MADONNA DEL MONTE CARMELO

We look forward to celebrating our Italian Festa once again next Sunday. There will be a pasta lunch at 12:30pm in the Parish Function Centre, together with cannoli's, biscuits, drinks and raffles. All are welcome!

ORDINATION OF (SOON-TO-BE) FR MATT RESTALL AND HIS RETURN VISIT

This coming Friday Matt Restall will be ordained at St Patrick's Cathedral in Ballarat. We pray for Matthew as he makes this very special step. It really is a sign of hope for all the Church and worth celebrating! Some of us will be able to make it down there, but for those not able to attend the Mass will be livestreamed at <https://youtu.be/gnpY6nMKz3M>. We have a card to sign if you could please add your name.

Fr Matt will also be returning here for a visit on the weekend of the 30th/31st July to celebrate Mass for us. We don't get a visit from a baby priest very often and so we are going to celebrate big time! Our Vietnamese Community will put on a special dinner after the 6pm Mass. A combined group (Mauritian, Nigerian and Malaysian) will also put on a lunch after the Sunday Mass. All are welcome to come and help celebrate! Just one request- if you have any special dietary requirements could you please let us know so we can make sure you are accommodated for.

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Bill Hayes, Moira Higgins, Dot Corridan,
Guiseppe Caruso, Ossie Coughlan, John Dunstan,
Ted Meney, Owen Stanley,

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 (16TH/17TH JULY)

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill (*First Communion*)
Sunday 8.30am Lalbert
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill (*First Communion*)
Sunday: 5pm Sea Lake

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5.30pm
Wednesday: 10.00am
**NO MASS Thurs or Friday- Fr James away for
ordination in Ballarat**

NEXT WEEKEND (23RD/24TH JULY)

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill (*First Communion*)
Quambatook Mass Moved to Following Sunday
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
(*Festa & First Communion*)

LAST 2 WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 1612
2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 1553
Pope's Collection: \$ 325

NOTICES

ST MARY'S HOSPITALITY GROUP

Thank you to all who attended last weeks meeting. Once again we thank Elva Carty for her work over the years (and Brian for his assistance!). We now welcome Mary Hoare as the new coordinator, with Brenda Grace on hand as back up when Mary is unavailable. Mary has already been active as both secretary and treasurer. We thank Mary for generously taking on this role and thank Brenda and all our many volunteers for their great service.

ITALIAN FESTA SUNDAY 24TH JULY
FESTA DELLA MADONNA DEL MONTE CARMELO

Mass at 10.30am,
Followed by Pasta lunch 12.30pm **at**
ST MARY'S FUNCTION CENTRE
Cannoli's, biscuits, drinks and raffles.

All welcome!

NATURAL FERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

this year is August 22 -28. Natural Fertility Awareness Week is dedicated to helping women understand their fertility and manage it without the need for drugs, devices or invasive techniques. Once learned, fertility awareness can be used throughout a woman's reproductive life, even when her cycles are not regular. The theme for Natural Fertility Awareness Week 2022 is "Fertility Literacy – Get the Know How" Monitoring your fertility health is easy when you know how to do it accurately. Visit www.billings.life for more information on events in your area.

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

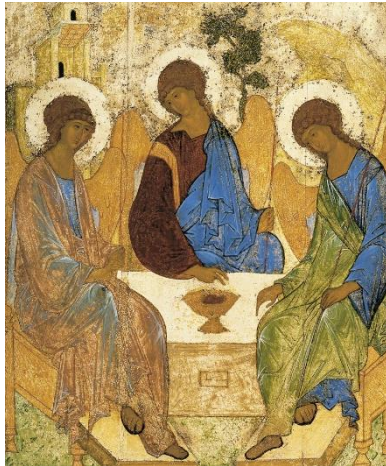
St Mary MacKillop College
Principal: Michelle Haeusler
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
Ph: 5032 9771
Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: FR BRENDAN BYRNE SJ

A clearly identifiable and theme unites today's readings: the theme of 'hospitality', which in many ways runs right through the Gospel of Luke.

The First Reading, from Genesis 18:1-10, gives part of a delightful episode where Abraham provides the traditional hospitality of his culture to three mysterious strangers. I say 'mysterious' because sometimes the narrative suggests that there are three figures who have come to visit Abraham, sometimes only one. Patristic commentators in fact saw here an Old Testament hint of the Trinity.

Certainly, the travellers have a divine aura about them. Later (19:1) they are referred to as angels. The fifteenth century Russian iconographer Andrey Rublev has wonderfully depicted all these aspects of the mystery in his well-known icon.



What rings through the story is the extreme solicitude of Abraham to provide the duties of hospitality. (In fact, of course, the chief burden will fall upon Sarah, his wife!) But the point to notice is that the guest(s) come not simply to receive but also to give. They leave a promise – a divine promise, in fact. Abraham and Sarah, childless hitherto and now well on in years, are to have a child (cf. Gen 21:1-2). So the hospitable Abraham has received from those to whom he gave hospitality a marvellous gift in return. He has received a future for himself and his family. His family will become a great people (Israel) and a blessing for all the nations of the earth (Gen 18:18).

In the Gospel, Luke 10:38-42, two sisters, Martha and Mary, give hospitality to Jesus. Martha appears to be the dominant personality. Certainly, her hospitality is more active and practical. Her sister Mary simply sits at Jesus' feet and listens. This sets up the kind of 'triangular' pattern often to be seen in Luke's gospel: Jesus interacts with a character, usually someone in a marginal situation in some respect; a third character or party takes offence at this and grumbles or murmurs. Jesus defends the more marginal party, showing how her or his action is the more appropriate in terms of what he has to offer.

In this case, it is Mary, seemingly the younger sister,

whom Jesus defends. While Martha has fussed about preparing too many dishes, when just one would have sufficed, Mary has 'chosen the better part' – literally, 'the better portion (or 'dish')'. In view of the identity of the One here present as guest and the gift that he has to give, it is Mary's attitude that is the more appropriate. As in the case of Abraham and his guests, hospitality is not simply flowing one way. Martha and Mary have far more to receive from their guest than he has to receive from them.

Understandably, down the ages and perhaps particularly in recent times, it is Martha who has evoked more sympathy. Her complaint that she has been left to do all the work by herself seems at one level very justified. But this is precisely where the provocation of the Gospel has its bite. As Luke's Gospel so often makes clear, frenetic service, even service of the Lord, can be a deceptive distraction from what the Lord really wants. Good people are always prone to measure their goodness by all they do for the Lord. They forget that nothing that they can ever do could match all they need to receive, and that the Lord's primary intent towards us is to bestow upon us life, love and salvation, rather than to make use of our service.

In its own way, the Second Reading, from Colossians (1:24-28) likewise dwells upon the abundance of God's gift. Paul meditates upon God's purpose, through his own ministry, to draw the nations of the world into the riches of salvation previously confined to Israel. There is no part of the human world where the saving power of Christ is not ready to break out. Hence the striking 'definition' of the 'mystery' Paul serves: 'Christ among you, your hope of glory.'

c Brendan Byrne SJ

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

- Why might Martha have been frustrated with Mary?
- In what way can Mary's actions be seen as the actions of a disciple?
- How can a guest be seen as a gift to the host?
- What implications arise for the way in which we treat newcomers to our community?
- How would you characterise the different attitudes of Martha and Mary?
- How does the theme of hospitality fit with another theme of this gospel: care for the outcast?
- Why is it so important for Christian communities to be welcoming?
- What conclusions could be drawn from a poorly-informed interpretation of this text?

First Reading Gen 18:1-10

A reading from the book of Genesis

Lord, do not bypass your servant.

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. 'My lord,' he said, 'I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction.' They replied, 'Do as you say.'

Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. 'Hurry,' he said, 'knead three bushels of flour and make loaves.' Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree.

'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him. 'She is in the tent,' he replied. Then his guest said, 'I shall visit you again next year without fail and your wife will then have a son.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1**(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? He who walks without fault; he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart; he who does not slander with his tongue.

He who does no wrong to his brother, who casts no slur on his neighbour, who holds the godless in disdain, but honours those who fear the Lord.

He who keeps his pledge, come what may; who takes no interest on a loan and accepts no bribes against the innocent. Such a man will stand firm for ever.

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**Second Reading** Col 1:24-28

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

The mystery hidden for centuries has now been revealed to his saints.

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of

his body, the Church. I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation See Lk 8:15

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 10:38-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Martha took up the duties in the house. Mary chose the better part.

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Readings Next Week:****17th Sunday Ordinary Time**

First Reading: Gen 18:20-32

Second Reading: Col 2:12-14

Gospel: Lk 11:1-13