

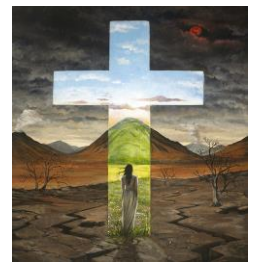


Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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

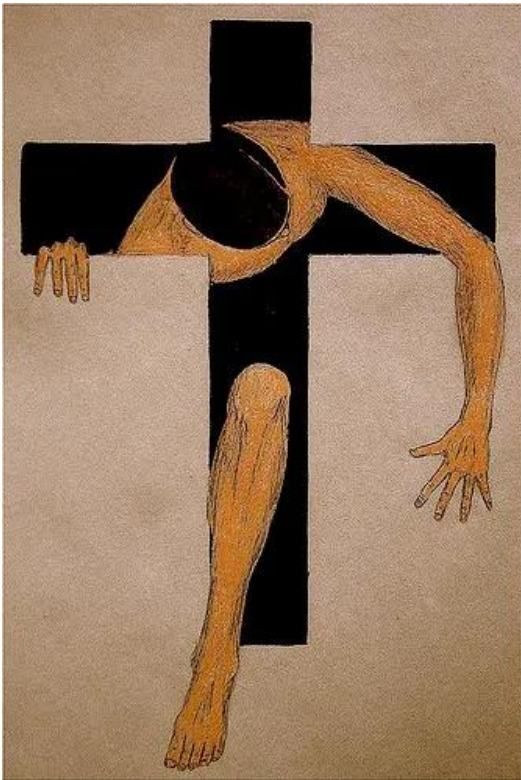


21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 21ST AUGUST 2022

'TRY YOUR BEST TO ENTER BY THE NARROW DOOR'

Jesus himself is the 'narrow door'. The invitation is there for us to find salvation and life through him.



But it is not enough simply to hear this call, we must also act on it. Those who tried to get through the locked door by claiming "we once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets," were turned away with the condemnation "I do not know where you come from." The challenge is there before us; take Christ's words to heart and act on them. The time to do so is now. The door won't be open for ever.

But every time Christ challenges us, he also makes a promise. The door may be narrow, but the feast on the other side of it is most certainly *wide*. There at the banquet are gathered people from the east and west, north and south; from the very widest corners of the earth. There is no shortage of room at the feast. And can't we already see that reality taking shape before our very eyes? Look around next time you are at Mass. What a beautifully mixed bunch we are! We should take that as a sure sign of the wideness of Christ's final victory. But in the meantime the challenge remains; receive his words and act on them as best we can, so that we too may 'enter by the narrow door'.

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

Richard Pippin

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Geraldine O'Loughlin, Donna Murchie, John O'Brien, James "Megs" McMahon, Thomas Good, Elise McInerney, Joan Blythman, Phonse Clohesy, Frank Bonanno, William Hill, Madi Kozma Colombo, Paul Castelli, Kali Fifita, Catherine Feeny, Raymond Mortensen. Luigi Dutto, Brian "Megs" O'Sullivan, Rassaella Caccaviello

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 (20/21ST AUGUST)

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Lalbert

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Sea Lake

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: Mass 5.30pm

Wednesday: 10am

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

Friday: Adoration 11am
Mass 12 noon

Saturday: Confessions 9am-10am

NEXT WEEKEND (27TH/28TH AUGUST)

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 904

2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 789

NOTICES



PARABLES RETREAT

SATURDAY

3RD SEPTEMBER

Following the success of last year's St Joseph's Retreat, we have invited the 'Sapientia Project' back to Swan Hill for another offering, this time with a focus on Jesus' Parables.

The retreat will start at 2pm, and run through to the 6pm Mass. The afternoon includes two talks, discussion, afternoon tea and Adoration with Reflection. Our presenters will be Fiona Bradley, Sr Rosie Drum and Anna Krohn. Entry by donation, bookings through the parish office.

If you can't make the whole retreat, you are welcome just to come for part of it. See the flyers for more details.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Envelopes are available at the back of the church. You can return these to the office or via the collection.



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new planned giving year begins in September. Envelopes will be available in the next week or so.

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 MARY COLOE PBVM

WILL I BE SAVED?

As the Letter to the Hebrews draws to a close, the writer's aim to encourage the faith of the community becomes very clear. The entire letter has often been compared to a homily, exhorting the congregation to keep faith. The exact date and location of the letter is not known, but from the clues in the letter the community is undergoing difficulty, perhaps even persecution. Such suffering is likened to the instructive training of a child who may need punishment and reprimands.

Earlier in this letter the author had stated that even Jesus was taught in this way: 'Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.' (Hebrews 5:8). So too the Christian, whose life is modelled on that of Jesus, must also expect to suffer trials. This type of theological thinking reflects the Wisdom tradition where we find:

"My child, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves the one he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights."

(Proverbs 3:11-12)

Rather than see suffering and difficulties as a sign of God's absence, the believer is exhorted to receive these as signs of God love.

In the Gospel, Jesus is now on a journey south to Jerusalem and a question is asked, 'will there be only a few saved?' Hear the urgency of the question put to him as he preaches about the reign of God: 'How many will get in?' In other words, 'What about me, will I be saved?' I suspect that sometimes we all ask such a question – 'will I go to heaven?' Jesus does not give a direct number, but replies with a parable. Not for him are those religions that promise salvation to a predetermined finite number. God's hospitality is expansive, all are invited, and yet the caution is given that the opportunity to respond to God's invitation is not going to be available forever. Like the person who shuts down for the night, there will come a time when the invitation expires.

Have you ever had the experience of issuing an invitation and getting the reply, 'Can I let you know later?' In other words, I'm interested if nothing better comes along. The reign of God asks more than such a half-hearted response. It calls for a clear commitment, 'Yes' or 'No'.

In Jesus' presence, God is inviting all to participate in God's desire for a world of wholeness, justice and peace. The offer is being made and it is modelled in Jesus' lifestyle. Now is the time to make the choice and don't think you can put this off till later.

While the initial question asks, 'Will I be saved?' which places the responsibility for salvation on Jesus, his reply turns this question back on each individual. Do you want to be? If so, there are things you need to do about it. The parable leaves the choice of salvation to each person not to Jesus. It is as if Jesus is saying to us, 'You have the invitation, do you want it?'

@Mary Coloe



HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What is Jesus' message about who can get into the kingdom of God?

Why might the Jews of Jesus' time resent non-Jews being accepted into the kingdom before them?

When have you wanted to be part of something and not been allowed or able to participate?

Does wanting to belong or be accepted always lead to good outcomes?

From today's gospel and reflection, what action can you commit yourself to for the coming week?

How can today's gospel be reconciled with a notion that the kingdom is inclusive and open to all?

What is the message of the gospel for a modern audience?

What are the observable actions of someone who is trying to live like Jesus taught?

How would you answer someone who claimed that Christians say one thing and do another?

First Reading Is 66:18-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

They will gather all of your people from all nations.

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15

(R.) Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples!

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever.

(R.) Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

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

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

The Lord disciplines those he loves.

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons.

Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness.

So hold up your limp arms and steady your

trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 13:22-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
From East and West they will come to take their place in the kingdom of God.

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Readings Next Week:

22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Sir 3:17-20, 28-29

Second Reading: Heb 12:18-19, 22-24

Gospel: Lk 14:1. 7-14