



# 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*



## 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### SUNDAY 24TH JULY 2022

#### GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD: THE EUCHARIST AS FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

Once again, we are delighted to welcome all the children and their families who are joining us today to celebrate their First Holy Communion this weekend. We've been praying for you all, and have been looking forward to this celebration with great excitement.

Our readings today tell us something special about the gift of the Eucharist, which today some of you will receive for the first time. In the first reading, we hear about Elijah. He is tired and sad. He has been doing God's work, but has suffered for it. And now he wants to give up. But God sends an angel to feed him. He eats the little bread that is there before him, and with that food finds the strength to go on. The Church has seen in this story a special symbol of the Eucharist, our food for the journey. When we are tired and sad, it gives us the strength to go on. It is always there for us, to help us on the road.



And why wait a long time before you fill yourself up again? Why not fill yourself every week, or even every day? In the Gospel we hear Jesus teaching his disciples how to pray. You should recognise the prayer! In it Jesus teaches us to pray for 'our daily bread'. We understand this to mean both the food we need to keep our bellies full and our bodies going, as well as the spiritual nourishment we need for our souls to thrive. In other words, each time we pray for 'our daily bread', we are opening our hearts to the awesome gift of the Eucharist. It is truly our daily bread, our nourishment for the journey of life. It is always there to give us the strength to carry on. So let's make the most of it! Why wait? Get up and eat!

#### *FESTA DELLA MADONNA DEL MONTE CARMELO*

After two years of cancellations, it is so exciting to again celebrate our Festa this Sunday. Well done to the organising committee and all their helpers for their perseverance! 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!

***PS- DON'T FORGET THE SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS NEXT WEEK- SEE INSIDE FOR MORE DETAILS***

#### **Parish Contact Details:**

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

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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**

Rick Anderson  
Annunziata “Nancy” Maiuto

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Peter Hoare (14<sup>th</sup> July)  
Rene Devereux, Rosa Puglisi, Margaret Elliott,  
Wendy Bennett-Teague, May Lewis,  
Anne Kelly, Fr Declan Duggan

**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 (23<sup>RD</sup>/24<sup>TH</sup> JULY)**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill (*First Communions*)

**Quambatook Mass Moved to next Sunday**

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

(*First Communions & Festa Della Madonna del Monte Carmelo*)

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday: Mass 5.30pm

*Feast St Anne & Joachim*

Wednesday: 10.00am

Thursday: Confessions 5pm

Mass 5.30pm, Adoration until 7pm

Friday: Adoration 11am

Mass 12noon

Saturday: Confessions 9am-10am

**NEXT WEEKEND (30<sup>TH</sup>/31<sup>ST</sup> JULY)**

*Special Visit Fr Matthew Restall*

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

**Sunday: 8.30am Quambatook**

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**Sunday 10am Sea Lake Ecumenical** lay led service

Uniting Church, all parishioners in Sea Lake are  
welcome to attend.

*Celebrations after Masses this weekend!*

**NOTICES**

**ITALIAN FESTA THIS SUNDAY**

**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!

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

This Friday (22<sup>nd</sup>) 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 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> 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! Feel free to put the invite out to friends and family. 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 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

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**St Mary MacKillop College**

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

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## REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

The readings invite us to reflect on prayer. Whether our prayer be praise, contrition, thanksgiving or petition, it always recognises our need for God. In the gospel Jesus instructs us to ask for what we need. He assures us that God is more than willing to give us what we need. However, for this to happen we must turn to God and humbly acknowledge our need.

The most obvious characteristic of prayer depicted in the readings for this Sunday is persistence. Neither Abraham nor the man in the gospel was deterred by any obstacle. They show that it is not so much that we persist in prayer in order to change God's mind as it is that we persist in order to discover what God's mind might be.

The salutariness of prayer is often found in the change that it effects in us, not in God. By persevering in genuine prayer we may come to acknowledge that all things are in God's hands, and that we can rest content to leave them there, trusting that the situation will be cared for as God sees fit. It seems trite to say that God hears all prayer and sometimes the answer is 'No!' It is better to say that God respects the freedom of people and will seldom intervene to change the way events unfold. Still, prayer can change the one who prays and also the one for whom the prayer is offered if only human need is recognised and divine solicitude is acknowledged.

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### HISTORICAL CONTEXT – STONE FOR BREAD

The stone/bread, snake/fish and scorpion/egg comparisons seem a little far fetched to us, but would have made perfect sense to a 1st Century Palestinian audience. The flat, brown stones around Lake Galilee look very similar to the flat bread that was baked in the area. The 'snake' may refer to a sea-snake – an eel – which might be caught up in a fisherman's nets but was regarded as unclean by the Jews. The poisonous scorpions of the region are very pale in colour and when curled up at rest could be mistaken for an egg.

### GOSPEL FOCUS – RELATIONSHIP

A crucial aspect of prayer is the attitude with which we view God. We trust in God's character that it is

not a pointless exercise to ask for something. We trust that God is even more loving than a parent who tries to give their child what they need. If we did not make these basic assumptions about God, there would be little point in prayer. When our prayer lives falter at times, perhaps we need to first check out our relationship with God and our attitude toward s God before trying to 'fix' the ways we pray.



### HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What appears to be the reason the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray?

What is meant by praying that God might 'give us each day our daily bread'?

Aside from petition, or asking, what are other purposes of prayer?

Why is prayer an important part of the Christian life?

Where do you find the best place/s to pray?

What message/s about prayer do you get from this gospel passage?

Why does Jesus suggest that we have to be persistent in our prayer?

What is the most fulfilling form of prayer for you?

**First Reading** Gen 18:20-32*(Special Reading for our First Communion Celebrations)*

A reading from the first book of Kings

*In the strength of that food, Elijah walked to the mountain of God.*

Elijah went into the wilderness, a day's journey, and sitting under a furze bush wished he were dead. 'Lord', he said 'I have had enough. Take my life: I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down and went to sleep. But an angel touched him and said, 'Get up and eat.' He looked round, and there at his head was a scone baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. But the angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, 'Get up and eat, or the journey will be too long for you.' So he got up and ate and drank, and strengthened by that food he walked for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

*The Word of the Lord.***Responsorial Psalm** Ps 137:1-3. 6-8. R. v.3**(R.) Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you.

I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of affliction you give me life and frustrate my foes.

You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

**(R.) Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.****Second Reading** Col 2:12-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

*He has made you alive with Christ for he has forgiven all our sins.*

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins. He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

*The Word of the Lord.***Gospel Acclamation** Rom 8:15

Alleluia, alleluia! You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father. Alleluia!

**Gospel** Lk 11:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*Ask, and it will be given to you.*

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

OUR FATHER,  
*who art in heaven*

**Readings Next Week:****18th Sunday Ordinary Time**

First Reading: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23

Second Reading: Col 3:1-5, 9-11

Gospel: Lk 12:13-21

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