



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

Be Humble
OR
BE HUMBLED

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST 2022

AN OPEN INVITATION: PARABLES RETREAT

Next Saturday 3rd September we look forward to once again welcoming the 'Sapientia Project' back to Swan Hill for another retreat offering, this time with a focus on Jesus' Parables. Jesus chose to use parables as a special means of teaching and instruction. His use of story and image in these parables continue to engage our minds and hearts, but they are not always easy to understand and it can take some work to grasp their meaning. This retreat will be a good opportunity to put some focus on Jesus' parables and how they continue to give life to us today.

The retreat will start at 2pm in the Parish Function Centre, and run through to the 6pm Mass. The afternoon includes two talks by Fiona Bradley and Anna Krohn, with some discussion and of course an afternoon tea. From 5pm Sr Rosie Drum mgl will lead us in a time of adoration and reflection in the Church, with an opportunity for confession as well.

I realise the timing of this retreat isn't perfect as it clashes with footy & netball finals as well as father's day. If you can even make it for just part of the retreat I am sure you will still get a lot out of it. This will be especially true of joining us during the final period of adoration and prayer before the evening Mass. Feel free to come and go as you need to, it is an open invitation. And please feel free to invite anyone to join us.

Entry by donation, bookings via sign up sheet in Church or through the parish office



CELEBRATING OUR FATHERS: SATURDAY SUPPER AND SUNDAY CUPPA

Speaking of Father's day, there will be a special celebration after Mass next Saturday as well as a cuppa on the Sunday. Again, anyone is welcome to come.

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

Bruce McDonald, Mary Grace Toledo, Rona Bookham, Kevin McDonald, Bernie Magee, Lila Moar, Salva Marotta, Antonino Miceli, Catherine Charleson, Vincent Byrne, Elizabeth Burns, Thomas Barry, John Foley, Barry Kelly.

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 (27/28TH AUGUST)

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

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
Mass (First Saturday) 10am

Parables Retreat- 2pm-6pm
(including Holy Hour from 5pm)

NEXT WEEKEND (3RD/4TH SEPTEMBER)

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

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 970
2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 1593

NOTICES

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Thank you for your support of this appeal. Envelopes can be returned 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. If you would like a receipt for your giving please email the office.

We hope to give an update on parish finances in September, but for the meantime a big thank you for your generosity. Regularly contributing, as part of the Parish planned giving program, whether by envelope, direct debit or credit card, helps give stability to the parish finances and basically remains the main source of income.

If you are not yet part of planned giving, but would like to be, we would love to hear from you. Just email or call the parish office or drop in on a Tuesday or Friday.

CUPPA AFTER MASS

Next Sunday 3rd September: Father's Day Cuppa. Come along to this community gathering and meet fellow members of the parish whilst enjoying a cuppa.

SPARE GUITARS

If anyone has a guitar sitting around at home, waiting for someone to play it, would you consider donating or lending it to the Parish?

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

A FOLLOW UP TO LAST WEEK'S FRONT PAGE REFLECTION

Just as a follow up to my reflection last week, I perhaps just need to flesh out what I meant by the challenge to 'take Christ's words to heart and act on them'. Perhaps the easiest way to do this is simply to explain where I borrowed the phrase from; Matthew 7:21-27, and its equivalent in Luke 6:46-49. Jesus has just come to the end of his great sermon, which sets out many of his teachings, beginning with the Beatitudes, and to finish up he implores us to actually go on and live out the words he has just spoken.

So when referring to Christ's words, I was referring to the whole body of his teaching, not to any particular formula. To act on his words is to strive to live out his teaching in our lives. So for example, in today's Gospel we hear of the great virtue of humility. A couple of weeks back we were warned of the danger of greed. Before that we were encouraged to pray with determination and hope. And before that we were taught that the key commandments were love of God and love of neighbour. And of course Jesus teaches us not only through instruction and parables, but also through his own example and actions. He serves, he shows mercy and compassion, he brings healing, he faithfully perseveres through suffering...

The lessons are all there for us to learn from. Living out those words in our life is a bit like a pilgrimage - it can seem like a slog but we are in this for the long haul! But let's do our best to persevere, and know that his help is always at hand.

A COMMENTARY ON THE SECOND READING: BRENDAN BYRNE SJ

The Second Reading from Hebrews stands, as so often, rather apart from the Gospel but evokes a splendid vision in its own right. It forms the conclusion to the long exposition in Hebrews of Christian life as a pilgrimage, to some extent modelled upon, but in every way surpassing the 'pilgrimage' of the Israelites through the desert of Sinai. For the Israelites the making of the old covenant was a fearful experience of the divine presence, remote and terrifying on the mountain. For the members of the Church, by contrast, what is described is a joyful arrival of pilgrims at the goal of their journey: the holy city Jerusalem. They arrive not as strangers but as citizens, delighted to receive the welcome accorded to 'firstborn sons and -

daughters'. They find the city thronged with fellow pilgrims - multitudes of angels and the holy men and women of old ('the spirits of the saints who have been made perfect') - all gathered to celebrate the festival. It is the festival that celebrates the reconciliation between God and human beings achieved through the blood of Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant.

In one sense all this is yet to take place; it belongs to the future; we tread now our pilgrim way. Yet in the perspective of Hebrews, it is a vision already realised to the eyes of faith. Like night vision spectacles now worn in military operations, faith makes unseen realities 'visible'. It lifts our vision to this wonderful and privileged 'citizenship' that is our destiny in union with God. The liturgy, above all, is the place where we celebrate the actuality of what we believe, where we draw encouragement and hope for the journey that still lies ahead.

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HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why would Jesus apparently insult his hosts by commenting on their behaviour during dinner?

Why would the idea of inviting the poor, blind and lame to a meal have been ridiculous?

If Jesus was telling this parable today, what image would he use instead of places at a meal?

In what ways do you give to those who are in a position to return your generosity?

What benefits come from giving something and expecting nothing in return?

What role does status and position play in our world today?

With which role or figure in the parable do you most associate?

When have you had the experience of being humbled or being 'put in your place'?

In what ways do you humble or raise up - exalt - others?

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

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Humble yourself and you will find favour with the Lord.

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business, and you will be better loved than a lavish giver. The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble.

There is no cure for the proud man's malady, since an evil growth has taken root in him. The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables, an attentive ear is the sage's dream. *The Word of the Lord.*

Responsorial Psalm Ps 67:4-7. 10-11. R. v.11

(R.) God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, they shall exult and dance for joy. O sing to the Lord, make music to his name; rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence.

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, such is God in his holy place. God gives the lonely a home to live in; he leads the prisoners forth into freedom.

You poured down, O God, a generous rain: when your people were starved you gave them new life. It was there that your people found a home, prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor.

(R.) God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

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

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

You have to come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them.

But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to

God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 11:29

Alleluia, alleluia! Take my yoke upon you; learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 14:1. 7-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All who exalt themselves shall be humbled and all who humble themselves shall be exalted.

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Readings Next Week:

23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Wis 9:13-18

Second Reading: Phlm 9-10, 12-17

Gospel: Lk 14:25-33