



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 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



11TH SEPTEMBER 2022

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



'ALL I HAVE IS YOURS...'

We hear three parables today, linked together in response to the complaint that Jesus 'welcomes sinners and eats with them'. As we hear them each in turn, notice how they become progressively more intimate, even urgent. Losing one sheep from a hundred doesn't seem too bad. Most shepherds would probably just move on. Losing one coin from the ten is more of a hit, but still, would you turn the house over or just wait for it to show up? But losing one of only two sons... even the most hardened father would feel that loss deeply. Hearing the three parables in a row therefore gives us a unique perspective that we might miss if we only hear them in isolation. The deep pain that is felt in losing the 'one of two sons', God also feels that for the loss of even 'one of a hundred sheep.' And the same seemingly reckless abandon he is ready to show in seeking out that one sheep, he is also ready to show in pursuing that one son. Numbers are of no concern to our Heavenly Father. He never loses sight of any of his children, but is ready to give up everything, even his only Son, for the sake of the one who is lost....

The final parable of course has the extra twist; we don't just stand on the outside as an observer, but are invited into the parable as a participant. Which of the two sons do we identify with more? Perhaps we can even see a bit of ourselves in both? I think this would be the most honest answer. We have all sinned, and so should take courage from the story of the merciful Father's joy in welcoming his younger son back home. He will never turn us away, no matter how far we have strayed or how long we have been away. He seeks us with all his heart. But we can also see a bit of ourselves in the older son too. It is easy to be caught up in feelings of frustration and resentment. We have been slaving hard, bearing the brunt of the load without rest. What about us? Surely we 'deserve' some reward for that? It is no point hiding such feelings. If we are struggling with them, share them with the Father. He won't turn us away. He will hear us out and then reply... "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours." In other words, what greater reward could we ask for? He shares all he has with us, his very life. We receive his Son as pure gift, his Spirit stirs in our hearts. All God has is ours! There is no greater treasure that we could seek, and we couldn't even begin to 'earn' it if we tried!

Enter his house and enjoy the richness of his bounty.

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

Salvatore 'Sam' Nastasi (1 yr), John McNamara, Mary Casey, Ellen Olive Considine, Alice Ross, Ronald Shepherd, Mary Scarce, Les O'Halloran, Eileen Young, Joseph Case, George William Ledwich, Giuseppina Mase, Denis Gallagher, Robert Ryan, Jim Shepherd, Bruce McArthur, Ronald Ballantyne

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 (10TH/11TH SEPTEMBER)

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: No Mass
Wednesday: No Mass
Thursday: Confessions 5pm
Mass 5.30pm; Adoration until 7pm
Friday: Adoration 11am
Mass 12 noon
Sat: Confessions 9.00am-9:30am

NEXT WEEKEND (17TH/18TH SEPTEMBER)

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

NOTICES



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILIES PRESENTING THEIR CHILDREN FOR CONFIRMATION!

We are very pleased to welcome all those families who have joined us this weekend in order to present their children for Confirmation. As they begin this next step of their Sacramental journey, know that you are in our prayers and that we are here to support you. God gives us such a precious gift in his Sacraments. They are here to continually strengthen and nourish us all through our lives; from our youngest days up to our last. We hope this time of preparation will help open your hearts to the awesome treasure God offers us.

BALLARAT CLERGY IN-SERVICE

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this coming week, the Priests of the Ballarat Diocese will gather with +Paul Bird CSsR for their Annual Inservice at the Cathedral Precinct. The topic of focus is reflecting on the gift, experience and meaning of Priesthood. Please remember them in your prayers over the coming days.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Have you collected your envelopes? There are still quite a few boxes, monthly and yearly envelopes at the back of the church. Thank you for your ongoing generosity. Whether by envelope, direct debit or credit card, regularly contributing to the Parish planned giving program helps give stability to the parish finances and basically remains as 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.

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake
Principal: Kate Nunn
47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake
Ph: 03 5070 1272

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill
Principal: Kate Quin
2 Murlong St Swan Hill
Ph. 03 5033 2541

St Mary MacKillop College
Principal: Michelle Haeusler
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@smsealake.catholic.edu.au

principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

Notices Continued...

COLLECTION FOR SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund". A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$870

2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 1087

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God. ... I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian Gospel."

Queen Elizabeth II

HAVE YOU THOUGHT

In what way does the telling of the three parables answer the accusation of eating with sinners?

Why might Jesus have told three parables when one could have been sufficient?

What is the role of the older brother in the parable of the lost son?

How would someone regarded as a sinner have reacted to hearing these parables?

What is the underlying message about God that runs through these parables?

Readings Next Week:

24th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Am 8:4-7

Second Reading: 1 Tm 2:1-8

Gospel: Lk 16:1-13

GOSPEL CONT.

so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant, "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.



FIRST READING Ex 32:7-11. 13-14

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord relented and did not send the evil he had threatened.

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried, "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.'

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said, 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.' So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 50:3-4. 12-13. 17. 19. R. Lk 15:18

(R.) I will rise and go to my father.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. My sacrifice is a contrite spirit; a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

(R.) I will rise and go to my father.

SECOND READING 1 Tm 1:12-17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Christ came to save sinners.

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here

is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 15:1-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who does penance.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

He also said, 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch,