



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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*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*



18TH SEPTEMBER 2022 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



***'NO SERVANT CAN BE THE SLAVE OF TWO MASTERS...
YOU CANNOT BE THE SLAVE BOTH OF GOD AND OF MONEY.'***

Let's be honest, as we hear today's parable we are probably hoping the dishonest steward will get his comeuppance. He really is a dodgy character, but at the same time he is also clever, and so makes the most of his last day as steward to basically buy himself some friends with his Master's money. It fits with his character doesn't it? He hasn't repented or changed. He has just readjusted his strategy according to shifting circumstances. And yet... he gets praised by his Master. How do we make sense of this?

The key is in Jesus' conclusion; *"the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light."* In other words, he is making a contrast. If even the dodgy steward can be clever enough to use money to win friends, then how much more should "the children of the light". Everything we have, wealth included, is ultimately gifted to us from above. So let's make the most of it while we can to win some friends while serving the true Master, our Father in heaven.

ALSO TODAY:

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR FAMILIES PRESENTING THEIR CHILDREN FOR CONFIRMATION!

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

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

Norma Meney

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Joy Parsons, Bridgett & Sean Walsh, Jack Cleary, Pierce Derham, Mary Jane Phyland, Irene Drummond, Kathleen Kennedy, Martino Raco, James Francis Kiley, Michael Considine, Nancy McNamara, Millie Grant, Colin Gregor, Francis John Conlan, Ned Doyle, Nora Ritchie, Ted Curran, Thomas Nolan, Doreen Meney, Maggie Nolan, Des Bourke

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 (17TH/18TH SEPTEMBER)

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 5.30pm
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday: Confessions 5pm
Mass 5.30pm; Adoration until 7pm
Friday: Adoration 11am
Mass 12 noon
Sat: Confessions 9.00am-9:30am

NEXT WEEKEND (24TH/25TH SEPTEMBER)

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

NOTICES



**SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR OUR CHILDREN
PREPARING FOR THEIR SACRAMENTS**

Let's pray in a special way for all those children preparing for their Sacraments in the weeks ahead, both in Sea Lake and Swan Hill, and for their families as they support them in this big step.

We are very pleased to welcome the families who join us this weekend in order to present their children for Confirmation. As they begin this next step of their Sacramental journey, know 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 DIOCESAN LAUNCH OF THE
SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2022-2023**

Everyone should feel safe in their own home, but unfortunately many instead suffer through violence and abuse. Their hurt cannot be ignored. The latest Australian Catholic Social Justice Statement seeks to respond to this urgent issue.

Our Diocese will host a launch event on Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 10.00am – 12.00noon. This is a unique opportunity to learn about this year's statement entitled "Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse." Join our parish hub in the Parish Function Centre (62 Splatt St Swan Hill) or attend online via zoom. There will be two guest speakers offering different understanding and viewpoints on this topic.

Notices Continued...

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

Todd Sparkman, Senior Sergeant Victoria Police and Susan Muller, Family Safety Practitioner, Family Law Services, CatholicCare Victoria. Bookings are now open through the Parish Office (email or phone) or at trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CCSWQ>

SWAN HILL SHOW GATES

As mentioned at Mass in Swan Hill, the Parish had been approached about staffing a gate for the Swan Hill Show (Sept 30th/ Oct 1st). While we don't have the numbers to take a whole gate, we took up some names of volunteers to pass on to Reg Packer. If you missed out last weekend, just pop your name down on the list this week and I will pass your details on.

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.

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 967

2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 1345

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

In what ways was being a steward a position of great trust?

Why does the master praise his steward's actions with the debtors?

Why might the way we deal with money be seen as a measure of our trustworthiness?

What appears to be the central message of this gospel passage?

What really motivates the steward to lose his profit on the deals he strikes?

Is it accurate to suggest that Jesus condemns money and its use altogether?

What would appear to be the proper use of wealth?



GOSPEL REFLECTION

A WORD FROM THE PAST

There is a certain erroneous opinion inherent in mankind, which increases evil and lessens good. It is the feeling that all the good things we possess in the course of our life we possess as lords over them, and accordingly we seize them as our especial goods. But it is quite the contrary. **For we are placed in this life not as lords in our own house, but as guests and strangers,** led whither we would not, and at a time we think not of. He who is now rich, suddenly becomes a beggar. Therefore whoever thou art, know thyself to be a dispenser of the things of others, and that the privileges granted thee are for a brief and passing use. Cast away then from thy soul the pride of power, and put on the humility and modesty of a steward... For as often as a man, perceiving his end approaching, lightens by a kind deed the load of his sins, (either by forgiving a debtor his debts, or by giving abundance to the poor,) dispensing those things which are his Lord's, he conciliates to himself many friends, who will afford him before the judge a real testimony, not by words, but by the demonstration of good works, nay more-over will provide for him by their testimony a resting-place of consolation. **But nothing is our own, all things are in the power of God.**

Pseudo-Chrysostom

as quoted by St Thomas Aquinas in Catena Aurea

FIRST READING Am 8:4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos

The Lord God spoke against those who buy the poor for money.

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat? Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.'

The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob,
'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 112:1-2. 4-8. R. see vv.1. 7**(R.) Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.**

Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord! May the name of the Lord be blessed both now and for evermore!

High above all nations is the Lord, above the heavens his glory. Who is like the Lord, our God, who has risen on high to his throne yet stoops from the heights to look down, to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly, from the dung heap he raises the poor to set him in the company of princes, yes, with the princes of his people.

(R.) Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.**SECOND READING** 1 Tm 2:1-8

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Let prayers be offered to God for everyone; he wants all people to be saved.

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 2 Cor 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 16:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
You cannot be slaves both of God and of money.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes."

'Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty." 'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

26th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Am 6:1. 4-7

Second Reading: 1 Tm 6:11-16

Gospel: Lk 16:19-31