



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



25TH SEPTEMBER 2022 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



...AND AT HIS GATE THERE LAY A POOR MAN CALLED LAZARUS...

There is a beautiful and ancient hymn that references today's Gospel. Known as 'In Paradisum', it is sung during the final commendation of a funeral, more or less the last thing heard before leaving the church and heading to the cemetery. The final words go like this; 'May the choirs of angels welcome you and lead you to the bosom of Abraham; *and where Lazarus is poor no longer may you find eternal rest.*'

"Where Lazarus is poor no longer." Poor Lazarus suffered greatly in this life. His neighbours ignored him. They could have easily helped him, but their eyes and hearts were closed to his plight. Forgotten by his neighbours, I'm sure Lazarus would have often felt forsaken by God as well. But in truth he was always close to God's heart. God's Word was there from the beginning, speaking through 'Moses and the Prophets', calling on his people to reach out to the poor and needy like Lazarus. God wants his People to be part of the solution, so he gives them a chance. But in the end he shows who he truly stands with; he stands with the poor.

I must admit I have really struggled in knowing just what to say in response to this Gospel. I have to grapple with the feeling that perhaps I am just another hypocrite. Am I any better than the rich man in the parable? Sure, I have always been ready to feed anyone who has come to my door, but is that enough? When my time here on earth is done, will I too take my place with Lazarus as the hymn sings? I have never really gone hungry. There are so many in need across the world. Am I standing with them? Am I doing enough?

Ultimately, I have to surrender these questions to God, but I think this tension or uneasiness can be the beginning of an honest response to the Gospel's challenge. It becomes a healthy or life-giving response if it gives growth to an ongoing *openness* to the needs of others. This openness in turn helps us to recognise particular needs when we meet them and motivates us to help in concrete ways according to the circumstances. In other words, let's break things down and take them step by step. We might not be able to fix everything, but God certainly calls and empowers us to do something. And that something in turn begins with an open heart.

Parish Contact Details:

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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

Frank Miceli

John Nolan, Mary O'Loughlin, William McInerney,
Chris Pupillo, Mary Cecilia Kelly, Br Pat Stanley,
Mary "Josie" Johnston, Rema O'Sullivan, David
Burns, Giovanna & Lorenzo Colombo, Leo Deola,
Catherine Hilda McInerney, Thomas Kelly,
Leo Phyland,

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 (24TH/25TH SEPTEMBER)

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook CANCELLED

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS

Monday 26th: 11am Quambatook

Funeral Norma Menev

Tuesday 27th: 5.30pm

Wednesday 28th: 10am

Thursday 29th: Confessions 5pm
Mass 5.30pm; Adoration until 7pm

Friday 30th: Adoration 11am

Mass 12 noon

Sat 1st: Mass 8:30am (1st Saturday)

Confessions 9.00am-9:30am

NEXT WEEKEND (1ST/2ND OCTOBER)

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 4pm Sea Lake

(Mass at later time due to Baptisms)

NOTICES

**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.

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>

A BIG THANK YOU

The Scripture readings these last couple of weeks have kept a special focus on the call to care for those in need. I think it appropriate therefore to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers of our local St Vincent de Paul Conference and A Good Kitchen for their tireless work. Many of you have been faithfully serving the needy for years, showing tremendous generosity and perseverance. Thank you for this witness, and for the concrete help you provide.

I know many others also reach out to the poor in other ways too, for example by volunteer tutoring or simply reaching out to a neighbour in hard times. Thank you.

Your response to God's call in your life makes room for his Kingdom to grow.

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

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St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Please check that you have collected your envelopes for 2022/2023 from the back of the church. There are a number of monthly and yearly envelopes still to be collected.

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 905

2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 1842

SPECIAL APPEALS

Retired Priests Collection: \$ 415

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal: \$ 700

Many thanks for your generous contributions to these appeals

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why do you think this story was specifically told to the Pharisees?

What is the intended message of the story for those who are poor and marginalised?

What is the intended message for those who are rich?

How relevant is this story for today?

What action can you commit to that would make a difference in someone else's life?

Is this story told to simply scare people into doing the right thing?

Is the man condemned to Hades for being rich or for something else?

If a society is measured by its treatment of the poorest, how would you rate our country?

How is it possible to get 'distracted' by wealth and possessions?

How would you define 'justice'?



GOSPEL REFLECTION

The rich and powerful are visited with woe and exile in today's Liturgy—not for their wealth but for their refusal to share it; not for their power but for their indifference to the suffering at their door.

The complacent leaders in today's First Reading feast on fine foods and wines, revelling while the house of Joseph, the kingdom of Israel (see Amos 5:6), collapses around them.

The rich man in today's Gospel also lives like a king—dressed in royal purple and fine linen (see 1 Maccabees 8:14).

The rich man symbolizes Israel's failure to keep the Old Covenant, to heed the commandments of Moses and the prophets. This is the sin of the rulers in today's First Reading. Born to the nation God favoured first, they could claim Abraham as their father. But for their failure to give—their inheritance is taken away.

The rulers are exiled from their homeland. The rich man is punished with an exile far greater—eternity with a "great chasm" fixed between himself and God.

In this world, the rich and powerful make a name for themselves (see Genesis 11:4) and dine sumptuously, while the poor remain anonymous, refused an invitation to their feasts.

But notice that the Lord today knows Lazarus by name, and Joseph in his sufferings—while the leaders and the rich man have no name.

Today's Liturgy is a call to repentance—to heed the warning of One who was raised from the dead. To lay hold of the eternal life He promises, we must pursue righteousness, keep the commandment of love, as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle. ©Scott Hahn

FIRST READING Am 6:1. 4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos

You who give yourself to licentiousness and revelry will be exiled.

The almighty Lord says this:

Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria. Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp, they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves, but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all. That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. v.2**(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger.

He upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!**SECOND READING** 1 Tm 6:11-16

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Obey the commandments until the coming of the Lord.

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

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 16:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

During your life good things came your way just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted while you are in agony.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things come your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning, so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

27th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4

Second Reading: 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14

Gospel: Lk 17:5-10