



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

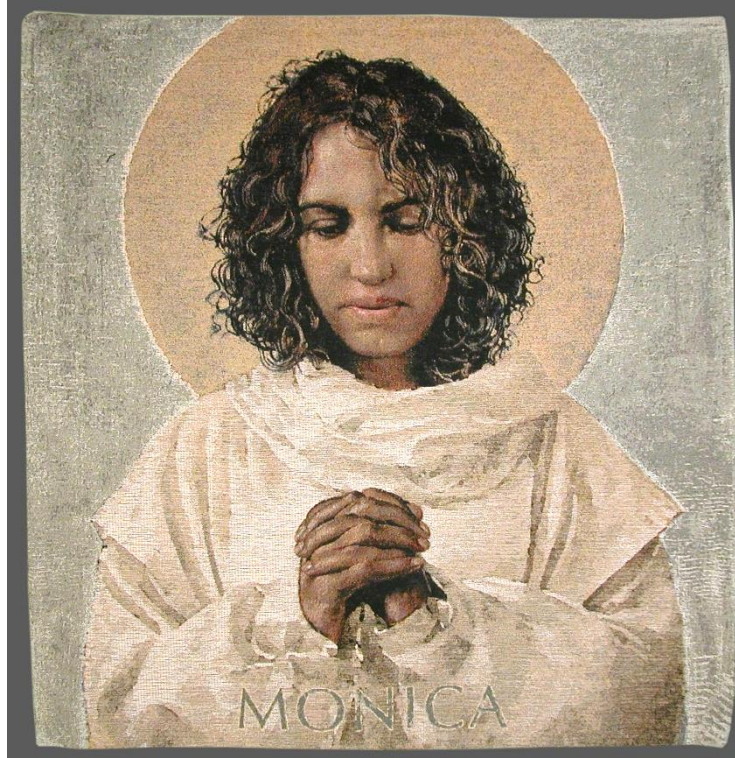
northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 50324144

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*



16TH OCTOBER 2022 TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"PRAY CONTINUALLY AND NEVER LOSE HEART"

Perhaps you know the story of St Monica? If you want an inspirational example of someone persevering in prayer, St Monica is your champion! She first prayed for years and years that her husband and his mother would turn to God. They did. She then turned her prayers to her son Augustine, that he might leave his sin behind, come back to the faith of his youth and be baptised. After many, many years, (along with many, many, tears), she saw that prayer answered too. And not only did Augustine convert, he became arguably the most important & influential theologian of the Church's history (and a great saint to boot)! It is because of him that we know the story of his mother's unwavering perseverance. It is also through him that we know how important her example of hope and faith was in his conversion.

Perseverance in prayer means pinning our hopes in God and his love for us. Just like how exercising our hearts helps build up our fitness, so too constancy in prayer builds us up in faith. It opens our minds so that we may come to see as God sees and better understand his plan. It stretches our hearts, that we might more fully trust in his will. And perhaps most crucially of all, it prepares us to play the part he is calling us to play in bringing his plans to fruition.

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

Sam Guastalegname
Rosetta Buccheri (Hartford USA)
Randolfo Tolentino (Philippines)

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Peter Gallo, Mary Anne Byrne, Philomena Walsh
Edith Jordan, Josephine Mary Bull, Michael Conidi,
Eileen Doyle, Catherine Hooper, Lila Proctor,
Joy Noble, Greta Sherlock, Nancy Power, Ellen
Real, Catherine Patching, Lee Power, Christina
Donnelly, Frank Capone. Mary Morton, Fr Frank
Monaghan, Henry Kiley, Luke Bennett.

SICK LIST

Paul Donohue, Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott,
Jarrod Crimmins, Jack Donohue, Jude Lewis,
Susan, Yvonne Annan, Bridget Phyland,
Carmel Ryan, Bill Free

THIS WEEKEND (15/16TH OCTOBER)

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Lalbert
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
***Sunday 4pm Sea Lake ***
*(Please note earlier time for
Baptisms/Confirmations)*

WEEKDAYS

Tuesday: 5.30pm
Wednesday: 10:30am
Thursday: Confessions 5pm
Mass 5.30pm; Adoration until 7pm
Friday: 1:30pm Funeral Mass
Sam Guastalegname

NEXT WEEKEND (22ND/23RD OCTOBER)

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

NOTICES

JOSEPHITE COMPANION NEWS:

This week we have sent eight boxes of rugs to the Warehouse in Sydney to be given to cold humanity throughout the world.

Many thanks to the wonderful knitters and crocheters who contribute to this worthy cause.



CONFIRMATION RETREAT: THANK YOU

We were very blessed to welcome close to 50 children from across the Parish for our Confirmation Retreat on Wednesday.

It was a great day, and it was especially beautiful to hear from some of the children what they have already learnt working through the program with their families.

Mary and I would like to especially thank Belinda Davies from St Mary's Primary for her vital help, as well as all the other staff of St Mary's who assisted either on the day or in preparation for it.

We would also like to thank Bev and Barbara for their terrific support, and Tom and Harrison for their great help and special witness. Thank you too for your prayers for the success of the day. God is good! The rain held off for as long as we needed it to! Please continue to keep the children and their families in your prayers as they move closer to their Confirmation.

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): \$ 900
2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 1340
Clayton's Cake Stall So Far: \$115

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

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What is meant by the description of the judge as having 'neither fear of God nor respect for man'?

What finally motivates the judge to act on the widow's case?

In what way is the story a parable about 'the need to pray continually and never lose heart'?

In what aspect/s of your life do you recognise that you need God's help?

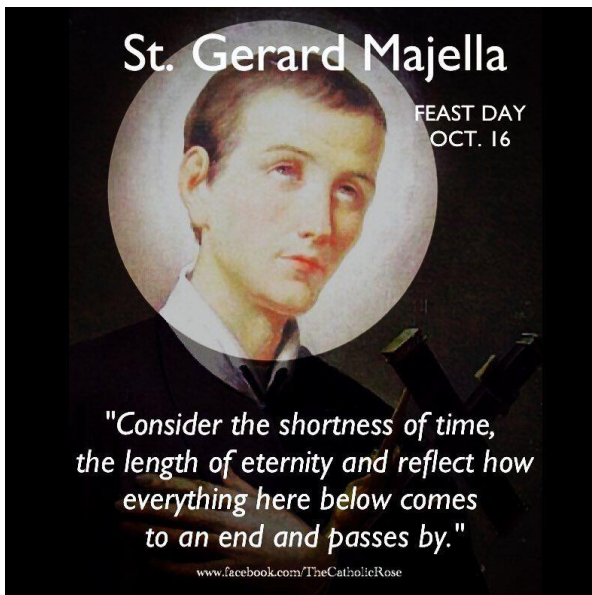
What regular time do/could you set aside for prayer?

Why does Jesus use such unsavoury characters – like the judge – in his parables?

Why is it specifically a widow who pleads her case with the unjust judge in this parable?

What are the conflicting demands that push prayer from your daily/weekly routine?

What positive impact could time spent in prayer have upon these other demands?



GOSPEL REFLECTION

In the gospel of Luke, widows represent the lowly of society. They also are a measure of how the society is travelling. In the Old Testament, God commanded the people to care for widows, orphans and strangers. Widows, in particular, were to be cared for by the whole community. From that point on, the level of compassion within the society could be measured by the care extended to the widows. A number of the prophets point to neglect of the widows as a sign that the community has turned its back on the covenant with God.

Continued...

In this parable, the widow is petitioning her local judge for justice against towards the widow, but the judge fobs her off repeatedly. The widow, knowing that her cause is just, persists and finally wears down the judge.

Another feature of the gospel of Luke is that the lowly and poor – represented here by the widow – are those who recognise their own condition and call on the mercy of God to lift them up. Jesus says that God will see justice done to those who cry out for God's help. Jesus' final comment about finding any faith on earth is a reminder that human beings have a tendency to think they can solve all their own problems and forget that they need God's action in their lives. The faithful in the gospel of Luke are those who know that they are in need of God's mercy and love and call out for it.

When Jesus tells this parable about the widow and the judge, he is actually painting a picture about God for his disciples. This is not to suggest that God needs to be worn down by persistence but rather it is a description of what God is not. If such a wicked and unjust judge can eventually be worn down, how much more quickly will God respond to a just cause? Yet the parable is told to reinforce the need to pray continually. The continuous prayer is not to wear God down – like the judge – but rather to demonstrate the genuine need.

Remembering that the gospel is written 50 or more years after the events described, the gospel writer has also deliberately structured these teaching moments for the audience of believers struggling day by day to live out the message and ministry of Jesus. As such, these teachings are just as important for modern audiences.

Does this teaching about the need for continual prayer mean that God needs to be convinced of our cause? Does a one-off prayer not get heard? Is God swayed by the force of numbers? Can the prayers of ten people carry more weight than the prayers of one? All these questions miss the point of the parable. It is not God who needs our prayers, but we who have to recognise, through prayer, our need for God's mercy and gracious love. The constancy of prayer is not to convince God but to remind ourselves of our dependence upon God.

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FIRST READING Ex 17:8-13

A reading from the book of Exodus

As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage.

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 120. R. v.2

(R.) Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains: from where shall come my help? My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble! Let him sleep not, your guard. No, he sleeps not nor slumbers, Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade; at your right side he stands. By day the sun shall not smite you nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil, he will guard your soul. The Lord will guard your going and coming both now and for ever.

(R.) Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

SECOND READING 2 Tm 3:14 – 4:2

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

This is how the people of God become equipped and ready for every good work.

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is

dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Heb 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia! The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 18:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
God will see those who cry to him vindicated.

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."'

And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

29th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Sir 35:12-14, 16-18

Second Reading: 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18