



## Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 50324144

Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://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



### 9TH OCTOBER 2022

## TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### *REMEMBERING TO GIVE THANKS*



Jesus cures ten. Only one returns to give thanks.

It can be so easy to forget to give thanks to God. Perhaps we are so immersed in his love and blessings that we can almost begin to take them for granted. It's a bit like a fish swimming happily about in water. It doesn't think anything of it until some lucky fisherman hooks it and reels it in. Only then does the fish realise how awesome water really is. God has given us everything. If it wasn't for his love, we simply wouldn't exist. And more than just bringing us into being, he also showers us with his mercy so that we might have life to the full. And so we give thanks with our hearts, our voices and indeed our whole lives. Gratitude is at the core of everything we do and everything we are called to be.

It is a good moment then to remember that we live that spirit of thankfulness above all in the Eucharist. After all, the Eucharist is *the* great act of Thanksgiving. That is why we call it the Source and Summit of the Christian life! When we see the bread and wine

carried forward to the altar, we see our own thanks lifted up and united with Jesus' own offering to his Father. In a mysterious way, we really are invited to have a part in Jesus' sacrifice of the Cross. In doing so, we add our own 'Amen' to all that the Father has done for us.

### *IF WE HOLD FIRM, THEN WE SHALL REIGN WITH HIM*

I usually avoid any direct commentary on current controversies. You come to hear the Gospel, not my opinion. But I think the news around the Essendon Football Club needs to be touched on. I think two things are clear. Andrew Thorburn was pushed out of his job not for anything he had said or done, but simply for his belonging to a church. In other words, there was no room for him because of who he was, a Christian. That is concerning. Having said that, should we be surprised? Jesus taught us that we would face rejection. As Christians we recognise and trust in a plan, an authority and a power beyond our own. That is simply too much for many to accept, and so we should expect some kick back. And let's be honest; even as his followers we often struggle to accept it ourselves. But what is hardest to accept is also the greatest source of our hope. If it was just me in charge, or someone like me, then God help us all! But thank God, he never fails to help us and holds us always in his care. And that is what gives us hope!

*"We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful, for he cannot disown his own self."*

#### **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](http://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**

Lucia & Ralph Amitrano, Donald Nicholson, Maureen Irwin, Theresa Ederson, Christopher Rinaldi, Noeline Neild, Francesca Sobara, Shaun Mangiameli, Antonio Pati, John McInerney, Peter Fosdick, Antonia Giampaola, Patrick O'Loughlin, Anthony "John" Burns

**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, Bill Free

**THIS WEEKEND (8<sup>TH</sup>/9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER)**

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

**WEEKDAYS**

Tuesday: 5.30pm

**Wednesday: 8:30am**

**Change of time due to Confirmation Retreat**

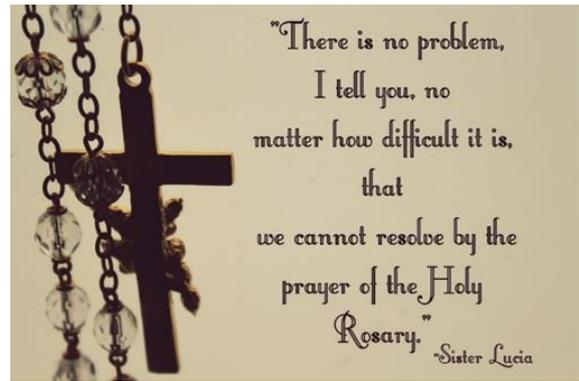
Thursday: Confessions 5pm  
Mass 5.30pm; Adoration until 7pm

Friday: Adoration 11am  
Mass 12noon

**NEXT WEEKEND (15<sup>TH</sup>/16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER)**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill  
**\*Sunday 4pm Sea Lake\***  
**(Please note earlier time)**

**NOTICES**

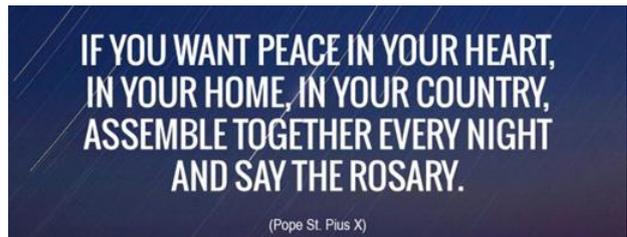


**2022 PUBLIC ROSARY**

**Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** - 10am Riverside Park.  
BYO chair. Please note change of date.

JOIN US FOR A NATION-WIDE ROSARY CHAIN. To commemorate the 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 'Miracle of the Sun', Australia will take part in the nationwide Public Rosary. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima, we will ask for God's merciful blessing upon our nation.

A world-wide event, this annual public Rosary unites people from all different ages and backgrounds, across our planet, in a common prayer for the reparation of sins. It is held in public to be a sign of hope in these confused and troubled times, to give witness to our faith and to invite and encourage others to also lift their hearts and minds to God and return to the peace and comfort of his loving and merciful embrace.



**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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au)

## LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 870

2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 850

### HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What purpose is served by reminding the reader that Jesus was 'on the way to Jerusalem'?

Why did the men stand back and call out to Jesus?

How does the thankfulness of the Samaritan highlight the general ingratitude of the Jews?

What parallels can be drawn between this story and the parable of the good Samaritan?

How does God act to make a difference in peoples' lives today?

Why do the men ask Jesus to have pity on them, rather than asking to be healed?

In what ways do the men's reactions reveal that they didn't expect to be fully healed?

Why is it significant that the grateful man is a Samaritan?

In what way can the 'leprosy' of the story be applied as a metaphor for today?

### SOME QUOTES ON GRATITUDE

One of my favourite authors is G.K. Chesterton. His most famous creation is the detective priest Fr Brown, but I would argue his greatest legacy are his many words about gratitude. Here are just some...

"When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?"

"When it comes to life the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude."

"You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink."

"The aim of life is appreciation; there is no sense in not appreciating things; and there is no sense in having more of them if you have less appreciation of them."

## BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Today we hear about how Jesus, continuing on his journey to Jerusalem, heals 10 lepers. This story is a lesson about faith and reminds us that faith is sometimes found in unlikely places. Ten people afflicted with leprosy cry out to Jesus. Struck with pity, Jesus heals all 10. However, only one is described as glorifying God and returning to thank Jesus. The one who returns is a Samaritan, a foreigner. In the Jewish circles in which Jesus lived, Samaritans were looked down upon because of the differences between the two communities in their observance of Judaism. It is significant, therefore, that Jesus commends the Samaritan for his faith, which has been his salvation. Throughout Luke's Gospel, faith is found in surprising places.

Another lesson for us in this Gospel has to do with salvation. All 10 of the lepers were given the gift of healing, but in his gratitude to God for this gift, the Samaritan found salvation. Our salvation is found in recognizing the gifts we have been given and knowing to whom we must offer our thanks.



### REFLECTION:

The first reading is an interesting link with the gospel of Luke. In chapter 4 of the gospel, when Jesus visits Nazareth and preaches in the synagogue, he later tells a story about the prophets Elijah and Elisha responding to the needs of Gentiles rather than Jews. He tells the story to make the point that the message of salvation is not reserved exclusively for the Jews. The incident involving Elisha that Jesus refers to in chapter 4 is the one we hear in today's first reading.

Whilst both the first reading and the gospel tell stories about the healing of those with skin diseases, the common factor is actually about their expressions of gratitude and conversion of heart. In the gospel, all ten men are healed but it is only the stranger; the foreigner; the Samaritan, who comes back to give thanks and to praise God. The others – Jewish men, presumably – are only concerned about themselves and have no time to acknowledge the graciousness of God that they have experienced. The gospel writer has Jesus emphasise the point that it is the Samaritan – the outsider – who has recognised God's activity in his cure and come back to give praise and thanks. It is only he who has experienced the change of heart; the conversion of faith. © Greg Sunter

**FIRST READING** 2 Kgs 5:14-17

A reading from the second book of the Kings  
*Naaman returned to Elisha, the prophet, and acknowledged the Lord.*

Naaman the leper went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.

Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. 'Now I know' he said, 'that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now, please, accept a present from your servant.' But Elisha replied, 'As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing.' Naaman pressed him to accept, but he refused. Then Naaman said, 'Since your answer is "No," allow your servant to be given as much earth as two mules may carry, because your servant will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any god except the Lord.'

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2

**(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy.

**(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

**SECOND READING** 2 Tm 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

*If we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.*

Remember the Good News that I carry. 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal – but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for

the sake of those who are chosen, so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that you can rely on:

If we have died with him, then we shall live with him. If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him. If we disown him, then he will disown us. We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful, for he cannot disown his own self.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** 1 Thes 5:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

For all things give thanks to God, because this is what he expects of you in Christ Jesus. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Lk 17:11-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*It seems that no one has returned to give thanks to God except this foreigner.*

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

29th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Ex 17:8-13

Second Reading: 2 Tm 3:14 – 4:2

Gospel: Lk 18:1-8