



# 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*



27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### *GETTING READY*

I love having visitors coming to stay. There is something so special about being able to welcome people into your home. I must admit though, I am not always the best at getting ready for them. There is a bit of work to do. I am not the greatest fan of cleaning, and so usually put it off to the last minute. Making the beds isn't my forte either. Cooking is perhaps more along my lines, but even there I often lose track of time and get caught up in a mad last minute rush. And I usually just drink black coffee, so I have to remember to make sure there is milk in the fridge. Getting things ready takes a bit of work, and that isn't always fun. But once the visitors arrive, all that work is well and truly paid off. And let's be honest, often they have to help me finish it off!

### *THE FIRST STEP OF GETTING READY: TURNING UP*

Advent is a time of preparation. For what? The coming of Jesus. He entered history when he was born in Bethlehem, but he stands ready to enter our hearts here and now. At Christmas we celebrate both comings, Christ's birth in history and his birth in our hearts. Now Mary and Joseph made sure little baby Jesus arrived safely all those years ago, so when we talk of Advent as a time of getting ready, we are really talking about getting ready for his second birth in the here and now of our lives.

This Advent I would like to pay special attention to Jesus' coming to us in the Eucharist. Each week we will look at how we can be better prepared to welcome Christ through the Mass, starting with the first step: turning up! I know I am preaching to the choir here. You are already here. However, I dare say we have all struggled with motivation at times, so it doesn't hurt to remind ourselves of why we come. And why is that? Because Jesus asked us to; "Do this in memory of me."

Look, I know Mass doesn't always seem that exciting or fun. Sometimes it can even feel like a chore. Of course, if we truly understand it for what it is, and engage in it with our whole hearts, it is anything but boring... but we have to do a little work before we can appreciate that. The first step though is a very simple one; just turn up. We know that is what Jesus wants; "Do this..."

I know it isn't always easy, but we really just have to push through all the excuses. But father's homilies are boring! How do you think I feel? I have to hear myself five times some weekends. But my friends aren't there! There is no-one my age! Well, someone has to be the first don't they? You can be the trend-setter! There is a lot more to say of course, and we will work through that over the coming weeks, but we have to start somewhere. If we don't take that first step of turning up, we have no chance of experiencing the joy of welcoming Christ in the Mass.

There is a real joy on offer in the Mass. But just like the joy of welcoming a guest follows after the work of preparing for them, so too the joy of the Mass follows the work of our engaging in it. And the first step of that is simply turning up.

#### **Parish Contact Details:**

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

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

**Office Hrs:** Tues 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**

Jenny O'Loughlin  
Graham 'Rusty' Power  
Robert Scott (Mount Torrens)

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Grace Pati & Ralph Mollo (1 month)  
Mary Bryant, James Stahl  
Trevor Wright, Antonio Tarascio, Brian Templeton  
Mary O'Connor, Michael Considine, Cade Hickey  
Carmela Capone, Mary Considine, Owen Rogers  
Frank Richardson, Frederick Ledwick, Stan Smith,  
Deanne Ryan, John Billing, Caterina Siciliano

**SICK LIST**

Elizabeth Williamson, Paul Donohue,  
Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott,  
Jarrod Crimmins, Michael Bourke, Sarah Kenny,  
Jack Donohue, Jude Lewis, Susan, Yvonne Annan,  
Bridget Phyland, Carmel Ryan

**THIS WEEKEND (26<sup>TH</sup>/27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER)**

**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

**WEEKDAYS**

Tuesday: 5.30pm  
Wednesday: 10am  
**(Special Mass of Anointing for Advent)**

Thursday: Confessions 5pm  
Mass 5.30pm; Adoration until 7pm  
Friday: 11am Adoration  
12 noon Mass  
Saturday (1<sup>st</sup> of Month): Confessions 9am,  
Mass 10am

**NEXT WEEKEND (3RD/4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER)**

**2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8:30am Sea Lake  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**NOTICES**

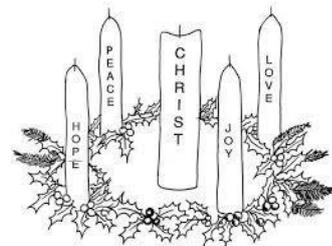


**REVERSE ADVENT CALENDARS ARE HERE!**

We know many families find themselves under pressure come Christmas. Last year there was a great response from the parish to reach out to those in need of a little extra help through the Reverse Advent Calendar hampers. These are now ready again for this year.

Perhaps you do not want to do a box but want to help. Donations of the following items would be appreciated as we have singles, couples and families who can use these boxes.

Canned fruit: Canned Vegetables: Soup  
Baked Beans: Dried fruit and nuts: Pasta Sauce  
Crackers/ biscuits: Long Life milk: Juice: Coffee, tea and Milo: Spreads- Jam, Vegemite, Honey, Peanut Butter etc: Rice, Pasta and Noodles:  
Pasta Sauce: Cereal: Muesli Bars: Shampoo & Conditioner: Toiletries: Treats- Chips, Sweets, Chocolate etc: Christmas Item:  
Boxes are available after Mass or from the Parish Office on Tuesdays and Fridays.



**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS DAILY REFLECTIONS; "INCARNATE"**

Advent is a special time to open up our hearts to Christ into our lives. A special way of welcoming him is through meditating on his Word. These daily reflections are designed to help you do just that. If you are you interested, there are a limited number of this booklet available for \$5

**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)

Some of you will also be looking forward to latest Columban Calendars (\$10) and the new 'God's Word' booklets for 2023. These have arrived and are now available for \$20. We also have Majellan Christmas Cards (\$10) packs of 10 for sale through the Parish Office.



### LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 852

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 2165

Catholic Missions: \$170

### HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why does Jesus draw a parallel between the people of Noah's time and the people of his own time?

For what is it that Jesus is urging the people to be ready?

Why do we need a designated period of preparation during Advent?

In what ways can Advent be a time of preparation for Christmas?

When Jesus speaks of the 'coming of the Son of Man', to what is he referring?

In what ways does the image of the burglar work as a call to vigilance and alertness?

In what ways is Advent like Lent?

How can you better enter into observing Advent as a time of preparation?



### ACTS OF KINDESS FOR ADVENT

\*Ask others "Are you Ok?"

and really listen to their reply.

\*Shop Locally to support independent businesses.

\*Offer to run an errand for someone who needs help.

\*Buy a few extra items during your supermarket shop and donate to Reverse Advent Calendar.

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:

BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

We may be accustomed to think of Advent as the time when we prepare for the coming of God, but the readings also train our attention on our own journey to God. We see this most clearly in this first Sunday with readings that tell us the identity of the pilgrims, the destination toward which they travel, and the way of life that is required of them on their journey. As the Vatican Council has proclaimed: We are a pilgrim people.

Both the reading from Isaiah and the psalm response speak of the pilgrimage to the mountain of the Lord, the place where God can be found. Although the psalm speaks about Jerusalem and refers to the temple there, the broader theological significance of the mountain, the city and the temple is one and the same. They represent the presence of God in our midst, and this presence is the goal of our striving. There are clear directions about how we are to live while we are on this pilgrimage to God. In Isaiah we learn that we must put away our instruments of violence and hatred, our swords and our spears. Lest we pick them up again, we are told to convert them into life-producing implements, into ploughs and pruning hooks. Paul exhorts us to put away our deeds of darkness and self-indulgence and to clothe ourselves instead in the deeds of Jesus Christ. Matthew points out the need for alertness, attentiveness, a disposition that is open to a change of heart.

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### PRAYER FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

Lord I pray your hand of safety and guidance upon all the victims of the regions under flood conditions. Bless these people Lord and keep them safe. Do not let the flood waters steal their lives. Drive back the floods to protect their homes and their precious animals. Lord, please be with everyone waiting to be rescued, keep them safe, and bring help to them soon. God, bless each and every person affected by the floodwaters and surround them with Your love, protection, and angels. Let them know there are millions of us out here praying for them and their loved ones. Amen

**FIRST READING** Is 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

**(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’ And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel’s law it is, there to praise the Lord’s name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: ‘Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!’

For love of my brethren and friends I say: ‘Peace upon you!’ For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.

**(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

**SECOND READING** Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The time has come, our salvation is near.*

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*Stay awake, you must be ready.*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

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

**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

First Reading: Is 11:1-10

Second Reading: Rom 15:4-9

Gospel: Mt 3:1-12



**THE ADVENT WREATH**

One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then four outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity.