



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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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

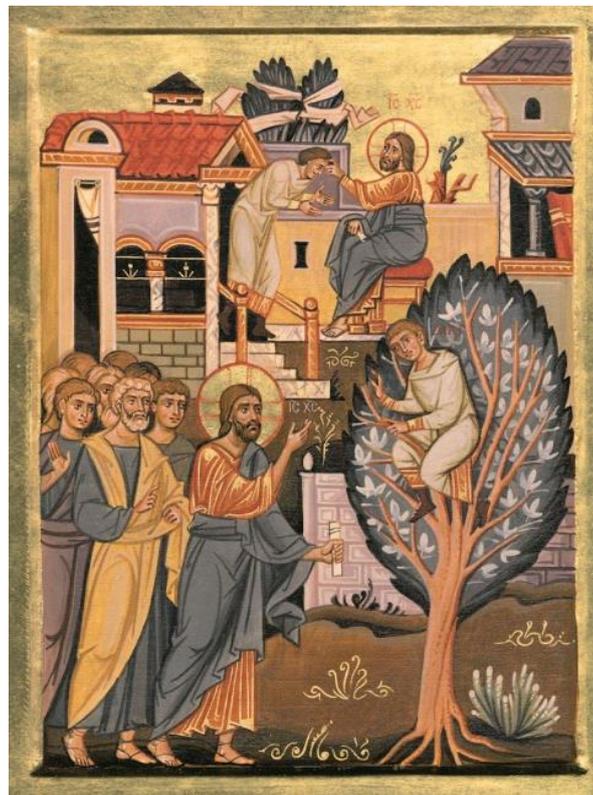


## 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

### THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

***'ZACCHAEUS, COME DOWN. HURRY, BECAUSE I MUST STAY AT YOUR HOUSE TODAY.'***

I wonder what Zacchaeus was expecting when he climbed that sycamore tree? He was probably just hoping to see what all this fuss over Jesus was about without drawing too much attention to himself. After all, Zacchaeus wasn't the most popular man in town, and he knew it. Up there, hiding in his tree, he should be safe to watch on from the sidelines. So he settles in when suddenly he experiences the greatest surprise of his life. Hoping to be invisible, Jesus sees him. And I mean, really sees him. Something about those eyes tells Zacchaeus that Jesus is seeing him for who he truly is. He doesn't need to hide anymore. Jesus looks beyond his sinful reputation to see a brother and a friend. He looks beyond Zacchaeus' past to see the great future the Father has in store for him. And something about the power of Jesus' gaze fills Zacchaeus with the hope and courage he needs. He learns that he is lovable. He learns that he is loved. And in that love he finds the freedom to accept Jesus' invitation to become the saint he is called to be.



#### **WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE SAINTS!**

This week we celebrate the very special feasts of All Saints and All Souls. These feasts are a special reminder of our final destination in heaven. We are all called to make it there, and that means becoming the saint we are each called to be. Does that sound impossible? As impossible as Zacchaeus the dodgy tax collector being called by Jesus? Christ never gives up hope on us, no matter how insecure we may feel about ourselves or how many times we may stumble. He sees in each of us a beloved brother and sister, a friend. He yearns to be welcomed into our homes and our hearts. His great love should fill us with hope and courage. And so too should the stories of all the saints before us. They come from every walk of life. They each struggled through their own shortcomings and challenges. And if they can do it, so can we!

#### **CONTINUED PRAYERS IN TIMES OF FLOOD**

We continue to pray for all those affected by floodwaters, and for those still facing potential damage in the days ahead. We also pray for the many heroes doing their bit to help out those in need.

#### **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**

Grace Pati

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Patrick O'Reilly, Jack Giddings, Luke Brennan,  
Deborah Ann Elliott, Phyll Taylor, Margaret Byrne  
Jean Eustace, John Betts, Christina Heron,  
Keith Greenham, Bill Shanahan, Jane Scanlon,  
Hugh Kelly, Roma Giddings, Rodney Walsh,  
Claire Dunstan, Patricia O'Loughlin, Jack McGrath,  
James McNamara,

**SICK LIST**

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

**THIS WEEKEND (29/30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER)**

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

**WEEKDAYS**

**ALL SAINTS**

Monday 31st October: 5:30pm (Vigil)

Tuesday 1st November: 5:30pm

*We will bless water at both of these Masses if you  
would like to bring a bottle.*

**ALL SOULS**

Wednesday 2nd Nov: 10am & 5:30pm

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>: Confessions 5pm

Mass 5.30pm; Adoration until 7pm

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>: 11am Adoration

12 noon Mass

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>: Confessions 9am & Mass 10am

*(For First Saturday of the Month)*

**NEXT WEEKEND (5<sup>TH</sup>/6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER)**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**NOTICES**

**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



**FEASTS OF ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS**

If you have been to the shops in the last few  
weeks, you would have seen all the Halloween  
themed special buys. We even have the special  
pumpkins on offer ready for carving! Good to  
know the floodwaters didn't delay their delivery.

Well, whatever of the pumpkin lanterns and  
skeletons, it is good to remember that Halloween  
has its roots in the celebration of All Saints (or All  
Hallows' as it used to be called) and All Souls.

One of the special traditions of these Feast days  
is to visit graves on Hallows' Eve (the night of 31<sup>st</sup>

Oct) or All Saints day (1<sup>st</sup> Nov) to pray for the  
dead and to call on the prayers of those already  
in heaven. Sound a bit spooky? Well, our faith  
teaches us we have nothing to be scared of. We  
still share a real communion with the dead in  
Christ, and together with them we look forward  
to the day of the Resurrection, when Christ will

**Our Parish Schools**

**St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake**

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**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

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raise us all up. Another tradition is to visit a church on All Souls to offer a special prayer for those still in Purgatory. There are plenary indulgences attached to both of these acts of mercy, along with the usual conditions. These really are great Feasts that should fill us with hope and build us up in loving communion.

### **CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL**

These envelopes are available at the Church entrance and can be returned directly by post (when giving by cheque or credit) or via collection plate (cash donations).

### **LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS**

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 1290

2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 1817

Clayton's Cake Stall Updated Total: \$ 1070.50

### **READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

32nd Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14

Second Reading: 2 Thes 2:16 – 3:5

Gospel: Lk 20:27-38

### **HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

Do you think it is Zacchaeus' height or occupation that makes it most difficult to see Jesus?

What might Zacchaeus have hoped to achieve by just catching a glimpse of Jesus?

What emotions are going on for the crowd who complain about Jesus dining with Zacchaeus?

What prevents you from seeing the goodness of certain people?

In what ways are you like Zacchaeus and in what ways are you like the crowd?

What is significant about the fact that this episode takes place in Jericho?

What is remarkable about Jesus' first words to Zacchaeus?

Why do the people in the crowd complain about Jesus going to the house of Zacchaeus?

Where in your community do you see signs of welcome and acceptance?

Where do you see the need for welcome and acceptance?

### **REFLECTION BY MARY COLOE PBVM**

#### **GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?**

In November, we move closer to the end of this Liturgical Cycle and the readings direct our attention towards the future that we believe awaits us when Jesus returns at the end of time. In the early church, that was a very real expectation that believers would see this glorious day of Christ's return. As history has passed, the urgency of this longing has also decreased. Our scientific knowledge of the age of our cosmos and its continuing expansion also can make it difficult for us to sense what faith teaches – that ultimately all creation will be caught up in Christ's great surrender to God.

In Luke 19, Jesus is nearing the end of his long journey from Galilee, which began in Luke 9) to Jerusalem. Jericho is the last major place before the final stage of the walk up to Jerusalem. The story of Zacchaeus acts out the teaching of last Sunday's parable of God's mercy to the sinner, and repeats its message. Jesus comes to Jericho, and of all the people in that village, he singles out the one most in need, the senior tax collector. Jesus gives himself to Zacchaeus, just as he now is. He imposes no conditions and simply says, 'Come down, it is necessary that I stay at your house today.' The necessity is caused by Zacchaeus' neediness. Jesus responds to him and offers to eat with him, the village outcast. You can imagine how others might be feeling. Jesus' words to Zacchaeus are like the free ticket to Heaven I wrote about last week. In response to Jesus' offer Zacchaeus changes. He recognises the utter generosity of God and makes the only appropriate response, humble gratitude and generosity in return. In the gift, its reception and the generous response Jesus recognises Salvation has happened for Zacchaeus. He has that free ticket to heaven.

When Jesus says, 'I must stay' – or more literally, 'it is necessary that I stay at your house', this type of passive expression is referred to as 'the divine necessity'. As part of Jesus' mission to seek out the poor and the lost, he must necessarily find a home with the social and religious outcasts. Their state of need calls out to God to come to their aid.

In our neediness and poverty may we continue to place our hope in the gracious generosity of God. In the words of the psalms, 'May God support the fallen, and raise up those bowed down.'

Throughout this year, Luke has presented us again and again, with a portrait of Jesus bringing the mercy of God to all people, particularly those who might see themselves as living outside such mercy. Jesus' consistent message has been, 'You are welcome; the kingdom is for all, and none of us are worthy.' © Mary Coloe

**FIRST READING** Wis 11:22 – 12:2

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*You have mercy on all things because you love everything that exists.*

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust that tips the scales, like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground. Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things and overlook men's sins so that they can repent. Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence, for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it.

And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist, how be conserved if not called forth by you?

You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life, you whose imperishable spirit is in all.

Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend, you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned, so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14. R. see v.1

**(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

I will give you glory, O God my King, I will bless your name for ever. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God.

The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds. The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down.

**(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

**SECOND READING** 2 Thes 1:11 – 2:2

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*The name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him.*

We pray continually that our God will make you worthy of his call, and by his power fulfil all your desires for goodness and complete all that you have been doing through faith; because in this way the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him, by the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To turn now, brothers, to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we shall all be gathered round him: please do not get excited too soon or alarmed by any prediction or rumour or any letter claiming to come from us, implying that the Day of the Lord has already arrived.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Jn 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Lk 19:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*The Son of Man came to seek and to find that which was lost.*

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

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

