



# 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



## 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022: THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

***'HE IS GOD, NOT OF THE DEAD, BUT OF THE LIVING;  
FOR TO HIM ALL MEN ARE IN FACT ALIVE'***

A friend once shared a beautiful little book with me. It was written by a mother who had tragically lost a child at birth. In the book she tells the moving story of a dream that came to her after years of struggling through grief and sadness. She got to meet her son once again. He was no longer a tiny new born but had grown into a strapping young lad. He walked over to her and gave her a great big hug. Years of anguish seemed to melt away in that embrace. Her boy was not truly dead; he was alive in Christ. And he was not stuck back in that traumatic moment when she had lost him at birth. His life had continued on. Knowing that gave her the freedom to keep on living as well. Her vision had set her free from the shackles of grief.

We heard in the Gospel that our God is not God of the dead, but of the living. To Him, all are in fact alive. This is a huge claim, and it should fill us with hope. But this can be hard. I think the biggest challenge is in imagining what eternal life actually looks like. When we can't picture something, it isn't so easy to pin your hopes on it. And that is just the objection raised by the Sadducees isn't it? What they imagine looks silly to them, and so they dismiss it as impossible. But while eternal life may be *beyond* our current experience, is it really *contrary* to it? We can't quite see eternity, but don't we sometimes *taste* it, if only for a fleeting moment? Don't we taste it when we feel joy piercing our hearts? Don't we touch it when we are filled with an overwhelming sense of peace, and it seems like nothing could ever hurt us? And aren't we already living eternity in a very real way when we experience perfect love? When all division seems to drop away, and we experience only openness and mutual gift? Surely, that is a true taste of eternity? What we experience now is only a tiny seed of the fullness of life to come, but it is still a true seed. We don't need to wait until after death to start living eternal life. Life in Christ is the beginning here and now of the life to come.

### **SPECIAL PRAYERS AND CONGRATULATIONS FOR OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES!**

We are very pleased to welcome 8 more children for Confirmation this weekend. Our children and their families have been preparing over the last few weeks. This has been a time to open our hearts to receive and respond to God's love. He loves each of us deeply, as if we were his special favourite. However he never forces his love on us, but offers it as a free gift. We pray for each of the children presented today. We pray that your hearts will always be open to the Father's love for you. May his Holy Spirit strengthen those special gifts that you receive today and help bring growth to His fruits in your lives. As special sharers in Jesus' Mission, may you always be ready to share his love with all the world!



#### **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**

Raffaele (Ralph) Mollo  
Beryl O'Neill (Dandenong)

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Lucille Nolan, Keith Rowe, Kelvin Upton,  
William O'Brien, Les Johnston,  
Ashley Maher, Michele Costa, Jean McInerney,  
Zoe Teague, James Gleeson, Rosa Nasisi

**SICK LIST**

Gavan O'Brien, 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, Bill Free

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

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**WEEKDAYS**

Tuesday 5:30pm

**Wednesday Funeral Mass Grace Pati 12:30pm**

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

Friday: 11am Adoration  
12 noon Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND (12/13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER)**

Friday 5pm Culgoa  
Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8:30am Quambatook  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill  
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

**NOTICES**



**REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR**

Last year this was adopted by the parish community with over whelming support. We will be running this venture again this year. We have 80 boxes for distribution available in 2 weeks time.

**CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL**

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

**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

**LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS**

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 1110  
2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 1124

**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

33rd Sunday Ordinary Time  
First Reading: Mal 3:19-20  
Second Reading: 2 Thes 3:7-12  
Gospel: Lk 21:5-1

**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)

## A WORD ON PURGATORY

The doctrine of purgatory is a very enlightening one. It tells us that the fullness of life that Jesus promises ends in absolute transparency and unqualified intimacy in all our relationships. This prompts a thought worth pondering when next we come across someone we can't stand a bar of! The fact is the two of us are going to spend eternity together. It would be rather limiting and somewhat presumptuous to think that only the people I like will be in heaven! So, will heaven be unending bliss or unending enmity?

There are no half-measures in eternity. We are stripped down to an ultimate and irrevocable choice. None of us would deliberately choose unending enmity. We would all opt for unending bliss- which could be possible if the other person were to change, or be changed, drastically! And that's okay, as long as we realise that we are the other person. Each of us is the other person for someone else.

So this is the doctrine of purgatory. It reminds us that our lives will end, if we so choose, in absolute transparency and unqualified intimacy in all our relationships and that this will involve some rather drastic and possibly painful changes in ourselves. If these changes don't occur in this life, they certainly will happen on the threshold of eternity, for in eternity the crummiest creeps we've ever met will turn out to be our closest friends, and they will have a similar story to tell about us. We still have time to change our story.

*Taken from 'Sure Beats Selling Cardigans' by Fr Patrick O'Sullivan SJ*

## HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why do the Sadducees seek to quote Moses in their argument?

What does the scenario they paint reveal about the Sadducees' notion of the afterlife?

What comfort and hope exists for those who have lost a loved one?

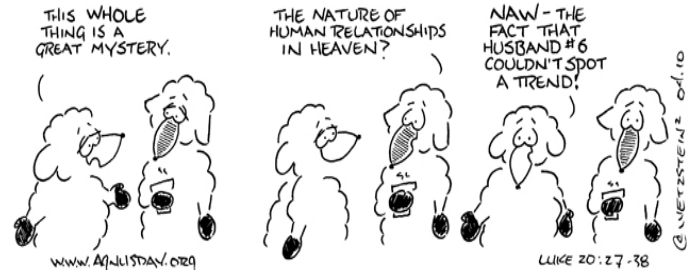
Why does the gospel writer need to explain that Sadducees don't believe in a resurrection?

What does it tell us about 1st Century Judaism that different groups held some different beliefs?

*Have you thought continued...*

Why might the Law have insisted that a man marry his brother's wife if the brother died childless?

What link exists between today's reading and the Nicene Creed that is said during the Mass?



## GOSPEL REFLECTION:

### NEW STANDARDS AHEAD!

God doesn't rule over the dead but is Lord of the living. So the question remains: are we dead or alive? Moses once posed two alternatives at the edge of the promised land: "I will place before you Life and Death, Blessing and Curse. Choose life so that you and your children will live" (Deuteronomy 30: 19). Life means embracing the freedom of the children of God. Death is mere existence governed by the shadowy values of a passing world. Most of us aren't as free as we could be. We're chained to the expectations of a society we claim has no hold over us. We're not yet children of the age to come.

But we can move in that direction. We can stop defining ourselves in terms of material success or failure, physical attraction, popularity and possessions. We can start living by beatitude values, sharing more in common with saints and angels than the faces smiling out of every noticeboard and commercial. Like the Sadducees in the gospel, we may try to impose upon God the petty systems we hold dear. But God lives by different rules and they outlast ours.

***How alive are you? What aspects of your current life are "dead" to the age to come?***

Time to be roused to new life! Examine one aspect of your behaviour that's been dead to God's rule. Shake off the chains of this age and follow your Lord.

Source: GPBS eNews [enews@gpbs.com.au](mailto:enews@gpbs.com.au)

**FIRST READING** 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

*The king of the world will receive us into life eternal at the resurrection.*

There were seven brothers who were arrested with their mother. The king tried to force them to taste pig's flesh, which the Law forbids, by torturing them with whips and scourges. One of them, acting as spokesman for the others, said, 'What are you trying to find out from us? We are prepared to die rather than break the Law of our ancestors.'

With his last breath the second brother exclaimed, 'Inhuman fiend, you may discharge us from this present life, but the King of the world will raise us up, since it is for his laws that we die, to live again for ever.'

After him, they amused themselves with the third, who on being asked for his tongue promptly thrust it out and held out his hands, with these honourable words, 'It was heaven that gave me these limbs; for the sake of his laws I disdain them; from him I hope to receive them again.'

The king and his attendants were astounded at the young man's courage and his utter indifference to suffering.

When this one was dead they subjected the fourth to the same savage torture. When he neared his end he cried, 'Ours is the better choice, to meet death at men's hands, yet relying on God's promise that we shall be raised up by him; whereas for you there can be no resurrection, no new life.'

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 16:1. 5-6. 8. 15. R. v.15

**(R.) Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.**

Lord, hear a cause that is just, pay heed to my cry. Turn your ear to my prayer: no deceit is on my lips.

I keep my feet firmly in your paths; there was no faltering in my steps. I am here and I call, you will hear me, O God. Turn your ear to me; hear my words.

Guard me as the apple of your eye. Hide me in the shadow of your wings. As for me, in my justice I shall see your face and be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory.

**(R.) Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.**

**SECOND READING** 2 Thes 2:16 – 3:5

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

*May the Lord strengthen you in everything good that you do or say.*

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father who has given us his love and, through his grace, such inexhaustible comfort and such sure hope, comfort you and strengthen you in everything good that you do or say. Finally, brothers, pray for us; pray that the Lord's message may spread quickly, and be received with honour as it was among you; and pray that we may be preserved from the interference of bigoted and evil people, for faith is not given to everyone. But the Lord is faithful, and he will give you strength and guard you from the evil one, and we, in the Lord, have every confidence that you are doing and will go on doing all that we tell you. May the Lord turn your hearts towards the love of God and the fortitude of Christ.  
*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Rv 1:5. 6

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; glory and kingship be his for ever and ever. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Lk 20:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*He is not a God of the dead but of the living.*

Some Sadducees – those who say that there is no resurrection – approached Jesus and they put this question to him, 'Master, we have it from Moses in writing, that if a man's married brother dies childless, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother. Well, then, there were seven brothers. The first, having married a wife, died childless. The second and then the third married the widow. And the same with all seven, they died leaving no children. Finally the woman herself died. Now, at the resurrection, to which of them will she be wife since she had been married to all seven?'

Jesus replied, 'The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are sons of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all men are in fact alive.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**