

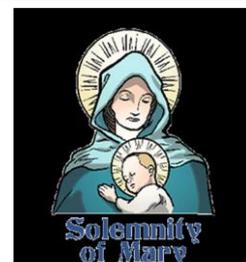


## Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 50324144

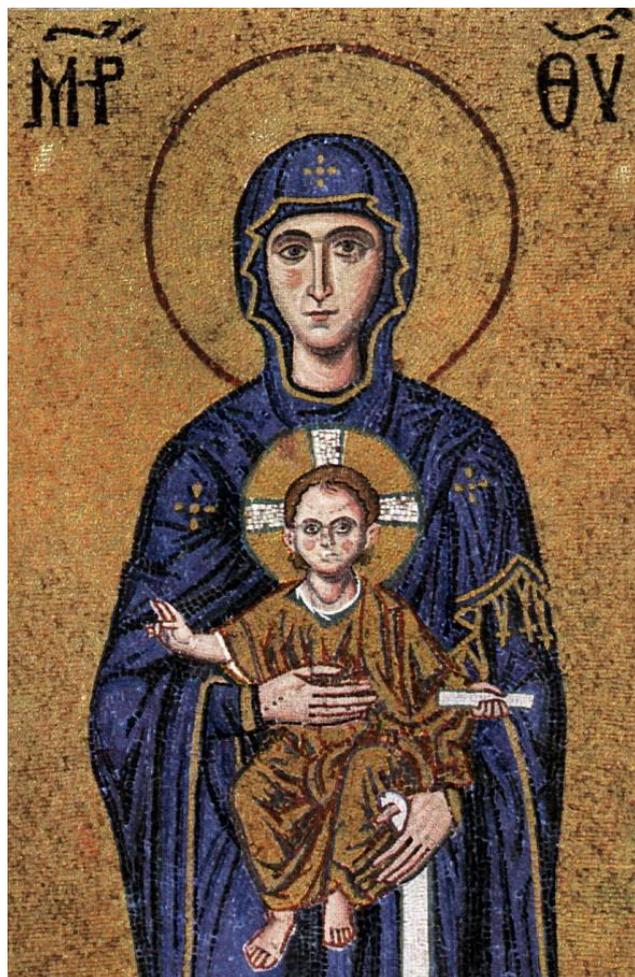
Website: northeastmallee.org.au

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



1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2023

## MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



**MARY'S VOCATION IS OUR VOCATION TOO:  
TO BEAR CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**  
From Caryll Houselander "The Reed of God"

"When we are attracted to a particular saint it is usually the little human details which attract us... of Our Lady such things are not recorded. We complain that so little is recorded of her personality, so few of her words, so few deeds, that we can form no picture of her, and there is nothing that we can lay hold of to imitate. But it is Our Lady- and no other saint- whom we can really imitate.

All the canonised saints had special vocations, and special gifts for their fulfilment: presumption for me to think of imitating St Catherine or St Paul or St Joan if I have not their unique character and intellect- which indeed I have not. Each saint has their special work: one person's work. But Our Lady had to include in her vocation, in her life's work, the essential thing that was to be hidden in every vocation, in every life. She is not only human; she is humanity. **The one thing she did and does is the one thing that we all have to do, namely, to bear Christ into the world."**

### ***THANKS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR***

Thank you all for the part you played in making our Christmas celebrations so special; for all those who decorated and cleaned our churches in readiness for the big day, for all those who prepared for the Masses, performed a special role in them or helped coordinate the participation of others, for all those who went out of their way to make others welcome or to bring them to Mass... I could go on and on and on! I was delighted with how everything went, and I know how lucky I am to be here with you all. Thank you! And on a more personal level, thank you for all the cards, gifts, kind wishes and generous invitations to join your families for the Christmas meal.

I wish you and all your loved ones every blessing for the New Year!

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

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Website: northeastmallee.org.au

**Office Hrs:** Tues and Fri 10:30 -2:30

#### **Parish Priest**

Fr James Kerr

#### **Parish Office:**

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**

1 Year Anniversary: Bill Croft

George Livingston, Paolo Peluso, Nicholas Bruton  
Connie Isgro, Monica Livingston, John Capiello  
Maria Mirabito, Patricia Hinton, Marg Mason  
Paul Dutto, Bill Croft

**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 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

**NO EARLY MASS SEA LAKE**

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**WEEKDAYS**

Tuesday: 5.30pm

Wednesday: 10 am

Thursday: Confessions 5pm

Mass 5.30pm: Adoration until 7pm

Friday: 11am Adoration, 12 noon Mass

First Saturday of the Month: Confessions 9-10am,  
Mass 10am

**NEXT WEEKEND 7/8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023**

Friday 5pm Culgoa

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8:30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Nandaly

**NOTICES**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Please note that during January the office might be opened during different hours, please send any bulletin notice via email and do leave voice messages on the phone answering machine as this will be checked at different times.

**REVERSE ADVENT CALENDARS: THANK YOU!**

A huge thank you for your participation, we received over 70 boxes which were distributed out to families at the Good Kitchen on the Tuesday before Christmas to many grateful and delighted families.

Also to the schools and individuals for their donations of food, gifts and money which was donated and used to make up boxes.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS FOR THE EPIPHANY**

Next week we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. This is traditionally held as a special time to call on God's blessing over our households for the year ahead.

Like last year, we will bless some chalk and prepare some prayers for you to take home as a family. If you would like, I will be very happy to your homes to join you for the blessing. Just let me know and we can organise a time.

*Follow the maze into the center of Mary's heart*



**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)

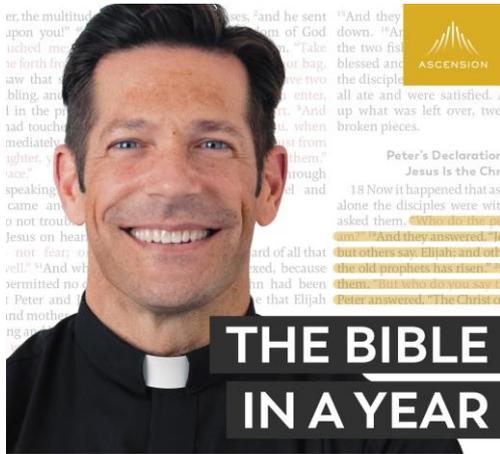
**St Mary MacKillop College**

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

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



WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ, FEATURING JEFF CAVINS

## LOOKING FOR A GOOD PODCAST?

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

### **"THE BIBLE IN A YEAR": FR MIKE SCHMITZ**

Would you like to know the Scriptures better? This podcast is for you! Over the course of a year, Fr. Mike walks you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes, providing commentary, reflection, and prayer along the way.

*Each 20-25 minute episode includes:*

- Two to three scripture readings
- A reflection
- A prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word

Listen and...

1. Read the ENTIRE Bible
2. Feel more confident about your understanding of Scripture
3. Experience the transformative power of God's Word in your daily life
4. Start seeing the world through the lens of Scripture

You'll finally understand how all the pieces of the Bible fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today!

Follow at: <https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>

Or listen on your favourite app

### **Note from Fr James:**

*The beauty of this program is that you can listen in your own time, whenever and wherever best suits you. But perhaps you might find a little extra motivation in knowing that you are not on your own! A small group of us will be starting this program Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, and would look to get together to share how it is going throughout the year.*

## HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What might Mary have been thinking as she pondered all that was happening?

What might have happened when the shepherds told their friends about what they'd seen?

In what ways can Mary be an example for young people today?

How could you be more 'peaceful' in your life?

How could you directly help to bring about peace around you?

What might Joseph the carpenter have thought about all the events he witnessed?

What can we learn from the response of the shepherds?

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

Liturgically, the Octave of Christmas commemorates: the Solemnity of the Mother of God; the day designated for prayers for global peace; and the beginning of the New Year. Though the shepherds gain insight into the presence of God by seeing this holy family, it is Mary who holds all these things in her heart. She is the one who ponders the significance of these mysterious events. Mary becomes for Christians an inspiration of contemplation and reflection. She inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events, lest we go blandly through life without meaning or direction. She inspires us to fidelity to the practices of our faith, practices which are the disciplines of soul that lead the community to a clearer focus on God's presence in human affairs.

The theme of peace appears today on many levels. Its meaning, 'fullness of life', bursts forth in every one of the readings. The ancient prayer or blessing of peace is an appropriate start for the New Year. It resonates well with the angels' wish for people of good will. Peace is also our inheritance in Christ. As adopted children of God, we have been given the freedom to live in a godly manner, calling God our Abba. Right relationships in the covenant activity of God are the pathways of peace. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to reach out to others and to pray for God's blessing of peace for each dimension of human encounter. © Dianne Bergant CSA

**FIRST READING** Nm 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers

*They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 66:2-3. 5. 6. 8. R. v.2

**(R.) May God bless us in his mercy.**

God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples. you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him.

**(R.) May God bless us in his mercy.**

**SECOND READING** Gal 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

*When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.*

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir. The Word of the Lord. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Lk 2:16-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib... When the eighth day came they gave him the name of Jesus.*

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**



Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**THE EPIPHANY**

First Reading: Is 60:1-6

Second Reading: Eph 3:2-3. 5-6

Gospel: Mt 2:1-12