



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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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



11TH DECEMBER 2022

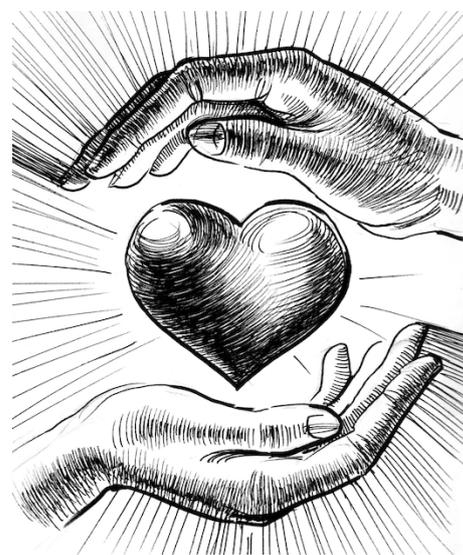
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE THIRD STEP OF GETTING READY: OPENING OUR HEARTS

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one?" John can 'see' the signs and understand what they mean, but he is looking for something more. 'Head Knowledge' is not enough, he is reaching out heart to heart. Jesus' response is very special; he refers back to the very signs that had spurred John's hope. In other words; he gives John exactly the confirmation he needed to hear.

Last week we spoke about understanding the signs of the Mass. Reading the signs then leads to the next step; deeper engagement on the level of the heart. If we open our hearts to the mystery of the Eucharist, we allow Christ to give us exactly what we need.

We all have our desires, our hopes and our needs. Bring them to the Eucharist. Allow Jesus to fill us with his strength and life. Just like we need to eat, sleep and rest to keep our bodies going, so too we need to be nourished spiritually. I hear many speak of the Mass as like our 'recharge', and how true that is! In it we find the rest and renewal we need. In it we can find the help and comfort we need in difficult times, the healing we need when we are hurting. After all, in the Eucharist we hear Christ speak to us. He is our Good Shepherd, we turn to him as our Light, and we trust that he will guide us.



And let's not be afraid to get specific; ask Jesus what you need.

There is a beautiful tradition of bringing special intentions to the Mass. If something is worrying us, maybe an issue at work, a health crisis or a strain in a relationship, bring that prayer to Jesus in the Eucharist. Whatever is weighing on us, bring it to the Mass. The issue itself won't necessarily disappear, but perhaps we will find some hope and peace, or the understanding and strength we need. If we open our hearts to the mystery of the Eucharist, we will find it acting more and more as the Source or Font of our Christian life.

But we can go further still. As well as bringing our hopes to the Mass, we can also bring all our efforts to live as Christ has taught us. From the smallest things to the biggest; bring those efforts to the Mass as a special offering. And by doing that, we open ourselves more and more to the great things Christ is seeking to accomplish in us. And not only our works, we bring our thanks for all that he has already done in us. God blesses us in so many ways. We have so much to be thankful for. In the Eucharist we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise. It is after all the perfect act of Thanksgiving, the true Summit of our Christian life.

Every time we see the gifts of bread and wine brought forward to the altar for consecration, we see all our hopes and needs, our efforts and our thanks handed over to Christ for his blessing. There is so much we can bring to the Mass. The focus of our prayer will shift according to our life circumstances. But one thing is always the same; by bringing an open heart, we allow Christ to give us what we need.

Parish Contact Details:

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Website:

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

Tom Murphy, Caterina Bonanno, Norma Ryan
Frank Raudino, Faye Nolan, Vince Pellegrino
Vera Schlitz, Michael Farrell, River Purtill
Gordon Moar, Abby & Bronte Foott
Glenys Power

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 (10TH/11TH DECEMBER)

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Friday 5pm Culgoa
Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 2:30pm Sea Lake

*(Note special time for Graduation Mass-
Nandaly Mass moved to Sunday 18th)*

WEEKDAYS

Tuesday: 5.30pm
Wednesday: 10 am
Thursday: Confessions 5pm
Mass 5.30pm: Adoration until 7pm
Friday: 11am Adoration, 12 noon Mass

NEXT WEEKEND (17TH/18TH DECEMBER)

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8:30am Lalbert
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

NOTICES

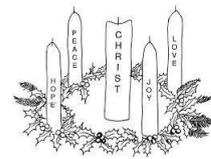
WELCOME!

A special welcome to the Anglo-Indian Catholic Community who are visiting Swan Hill this weekend. It is a delight to have you join us!

CONGRATULATIONS ON ANOTHER YEAR

We have reached the end of another school year.

How time flies! MacKillop's students have already finished up for the year. St Mary's Sea Lake are celebrating their Graduation Mass this Sunday, and St Mary's Swan Hill their End of Year Mass on Tuesday. Well done to all on making it through another year, and special thanks to all our staff and families for their ongoing work.



**2023 COLUMBAN CALENDARS
AND "GOD'S WORD" BOOKS**

The 2023 Columban Calendars (\$10) and 'God's Word' booklets (\$20) are now available. We also have Majellan Christmas Cards (\$10 for pack of 10) for sale through the Parish Office.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDARS ARE HERE!

Thanks for the terrific response so far. There is still time to be involved if you would like to. Complete boxes or individual items can be returned either to the church or parish office/presbytery by Sunday 18th December. Alternatively, you may like to contribute via the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal- envelopes are available at the entrance of Church and can be returned through the collection plate.

Thanks again!

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

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin
2 Murlong St Swan Hill
Ph. 03 5033 2541

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

EARLY NOTICE:
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
Christmas Eve (Saturday 24th Dec)

Sea Lake 4pm

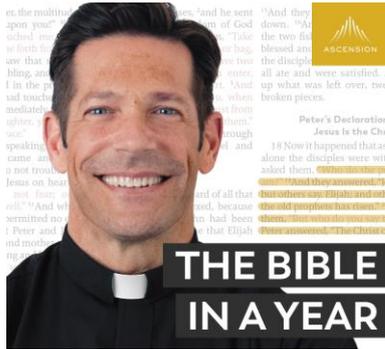
Swan Hill 6pm

Swan Hill 8pm

Christmas Day (Sunday 25th Dec)

Quambatook 8:30am

Swan Hill 10:30am



WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ, FEATURING JEFF CAVINS

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Read and Understand the Bible with “The Bible in a Year” Podcast with Fr Mike Schmitz!

If you’ve struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Following a reading plan inspired by Jeff Cavin’s Great Adventure Bible Timeline—a groundbreaking approach to understanding salvation history, Fr. Mike Schmitz 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 from Fr. Mike Schmitz
- A guided 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

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

If a prophet were predicting signs of the coming of the Messiah today, what might those signs be?

What do you think John’s messengers did after they left Jesus?

Why might the gospel writer highlight the fulfilment of prophecies about John? What role does John serve in the Jesus story?

In what way were the signs Jesus described an answer to John’s question?

What evidence can be found in this passage to indicate that Jesus admired John the Baptist?

How might Jesus’ audience have responded to the idea of the least being greatest in the kingdom?

ACTS OF KINDNESS FOR ADVENT

*Say something positive to everyone you interact with.

*Forgive someone you have been holding a grudge against.

* Appreciate good service-smile and say thankyou to everyone who serves you today.

*Surprise a friend with their favourite chocolate bar.

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

GAUDETE!

The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word, gaudete, (pronounced gow-day-tay) is from Latin and means Rejoice! The name was given to this Sunday because the entrance antiphon for the day is: ‘Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.’ When Advent was observed as a more penitential season, this third Sunday was a break from the sombre mood and was more celebratory. The rose-coloured candle in the Advent wreath and rose-coloured vestments convey a mood of joy and celebration.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

4th Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Is 7:10-14

Second Reading: Rom 1:1-7

Gospel: Mt 1:18-24

FIRST READING Is 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
 let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
 let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
 let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
 the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
 they shall see the glory of the Lord,
 the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
 steady all trembling knees
 and say to all faint hearts,
 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
 vengeance is coming,
 the retribution of God;
 he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 the ears of the deaf unsealed,
 then the lame shall leap like a deer
 and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
 for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
 everlasting joy on their faces;
 joy and gladness will go with them
 and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING Jas 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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