



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



4TH DECEMBER 2022

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE SECOND STEP OF GETTING READY: READING THE SIGNS

Advent is a special time to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ into our lives, and we do this in a very special way at every Mass. Last week we started some reflections therefore on how to prepare ourselves to welcome Christ in the Eucharist. The first step was simply turning up. Every time we do that we are acting out Jesus' invitation to "Do this in memory of me." The second step is to deepen our understanding of what the 'this' actually means. What are we doing when we celebrate the Eucharist?

Let's go back to the start. On the night before he died, Jesus gathered his apostles around him in a secret room. Soon he would go to his Cross, in obedience to the Father's plan. There he would offer himself for our sakes, so that we may be saved. In preparation, he gave his disciples a sign. He took some bread, blessed and broke it, and handed it to his disciples, saying "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you." And in the same way he took the cup and said, "This is my Blood, which will be poured out for you and for many." Without yet understanding, they took the gifts and shared in them.

Soon after, he was betrayed. He was put on trial and condemned to be crucified.

There, on the Cross, he gave up his Body for our sakes. There, on the Cross, his Blood was poured out for us. There, on the Cross, he offered up his whole life as a loving sacrifice. His disciples witnessed all of this. At first, it seemed a disaster to them. The one they loved had been taken from them. The one they hoped in had been abandoned by God. They laid him in a tomb and hid themselves away.

On the third day, the first day of the week, some of the women went to his tomb to finish anointing his body. But it wasn't there. Angels appeared to tell them he was risen. They were dumfounded. They ran to tell the others, still gathered in that same room. Meanwhile, some of his followers left Jerusalem in despair. Jesus began to walk alongside them, but at first they were prevented from recognising him. He asked them why they were so sad. They explained what they had seen and how their hopes had been dashed. Jesus then began to break open the Scriptures to them, explaining how it was all in accordance with the Father's plan. As they reached where they were going, they invited him to eat with them. Sitting down, he took some bread, blessed and broke it... and their eyes were finally opened. They recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread, but as soon as they did, he was taken again from their sight.

There is a lot going on in all of that, but for now let's just focus on this; the Easter story begins and ends with the Eucharist. *That is no accident.* The sign of the bread and wine is the special key with which we can open up the Easter Mystery. It not only helps us makes sense of what happened on the Cross, it is also the special means by which we can take *our* part in Jesus' sacrifice. Whenever we celebrate the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit bridges all distances of time and space, and our prayers are united with his prayer to the Father on the Cross. Whenever we break the bread, he stands among us again, victorious over death, and we stand alongside him, full of hope, that we too will share in that same victory. What we see and taste are humble signs, the stuff of everyday. But with the eyes of faith, we recognise Christ sharing his life with us, and we sharing ours with him. There can be no better gift.

Parish Contact Details:

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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

Donny Demaria (1 month)
Sheila Kelly, Thomas Stutley, Veronica Power,
Jack Robinson, James Derham, Donna Gammond
Des McDonald, Josie Caccavello
Margaret Joan Brennan, Bernie Ryan, Mary Kelly
Luigi Fedele, Eliza Driscoll, Tony Campinelli

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 (3RD/4TH DECEMBER)

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

WEEKDAYS

Fr James away beginning of week, back Thursday

Thursday: Confessions 5pm
Mass 5.30pm (*Feast of the Immaculate
Conception*); Adoration until 7pm
Friday: 11am Adoration, 12 noon Mass

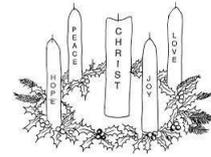
NEXT WEEKEND (10TH/11TH DECEMBER)

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)***

NOTICES



**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.



PRE-CHRISTMAS CUPPA & CHAT

Cuppa after 10:30am Swan Hill Mass in Parish Function Centre. Last one for the year!



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDARS ARE HERE!

Thanks for the great response so far from across the parish. Boxes are still available if you missed out last week. Or perhaps a whole box is not really an option, but you would still like to help? We would appreciate donations of the individual items below that we can then use to make up whole 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, and once ready can be returned either to the church or presbytery. 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

PUBLIC ROSARY

10am next Saturday 10th Dec at Joe and Teresa Taverna's place, 109 Werril St.

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 952

2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 1100



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

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What image comes to mind when you hear the description of John the Baptist? How would a character like John be regarded today?

How does our society tend to respond to those who bear a prophetic message?

Why does John appear so critical of the Pharisees and Sadducees? How do you think they would have reacted to what John said to them?

What does it mean to truly repent?

Where in your life do you need to make a conversion and honestly 'prepare the way'?

When have you experienced a 'wilderness' time from which you emerged rejuvenated and refocused?

ACTS OF KINDESS FOR ADVENT

*Get back in touch with a friend you miss.

*Notice when you're being hard on yourself and be kind instead.

*Take time to appreciate someone who does something you take for granted.

*Be the one to shift a negative conversation into something positive.

*Do something that makes you laugh out loud.

GOSPEL Mt 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



READINGS NEXT WEEK: 3rd Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Is 35:1-6, 10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Mt 11:2-11

FIRST READING Is 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

He judges the poor with justice

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict
for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the
Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to
the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7.

**(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.**

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's
son your justice, that he may judge your people in
justice and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the
moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the
Great River to the earth's bounds.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the
needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the
sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations
bless his name.

**(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.**

SECOND READING Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans:
Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures
was meant to teach us something about hope from
the examples scripture gives of how people who did
not give up were helped by God. And may he who
helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be
tolerant with each other, following the example of
Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may
give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat
each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated
you. The reason Christ became the servant of
circumcised Jews was not only so that God could
faithfully carry out the promises made to the
patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory
to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place:
For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing
your name.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL CONTINUED OVERPAGE...