



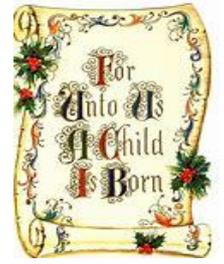
# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

Incorporating the Communities of

St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Michael's Lalbert, St Joseph's Lake Boga, St Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill

[northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au) 03 50324144

Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://northeastmallee.org.au)



## SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



***AND THIS IS THE NAME THEY GIVE HIM:***

***WONDER-COUNSELLOR, MIGHTY-GOD, ETERNAL-FATHER, PRINCE-OF-PEACE***

Today we celebrate the joyful news; Christ has come into the world! He was born first in history, some 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, and he is born again today in our hearts. We believe this event changed everything; Creation was turned on its head! So why is this child so special? His many names help fill in the picture. He is Emmanuel; 'God-with-us'. There is no more seperation, no more distance. God has come to live among his people. He is Jesus; 'The-Lord-is-Salvation'. The time of waiting is over, our Lord has come to save us from our sins. He is 'Wonderful-Counsellor'; Wisdom to guide us and Light to scatter all darkness. He is the Word that brings life and hope wherever it is heard and received. He is 'Mighty-God'; he has the power to break any shackles that imprison us and the strength to lift any burdens that weigh us down. He will raise us up and heal us. He is 'Eternal-Father'; he will never abandon or forsake us, his love has no end. He is 'Prince-of-Peace'; he conquers all hatred and division, he restores our humanity and brings reconciliation. How our world cries out for that peace!

He is all those things, and more, but all we 'see' in the manger is a tiny little baby. That says something very important too. He comes in poverty and humility so that we may approach him in freedom and faith. He is ready to be all those wonderful things for us, but he first waits for us to open our hearts and say our 'Yes'. As we come forward at Communion time, remember that it is the same Christ born in Bethlehem who comes to us today in the Eucharist. As you cradle the sacred Host in your hands, renew your 'Yes' and receive him in joy. Let him become for you all that he was sent to be;  
*Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Everlasting-Father, Prince-of-Peace.*

### **Parish Contact Details**

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St  
Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585  
Phone: 03 5032 4144

[northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### **Office Hours**

Tues, Wed , and Fri 10am -2pm

### **Parish Priest**

Fr James Kerr

### **Parish Admin Officers:**

Glenda Klabbbers

Mary Kennedy

### **Child Protection Officers:**

Damian and Karen Kelly

### **Child Safe Church**

Here in the Parish of Holy Family North East Mallee follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office.

## Anniversaries of Death

Jim Romeo, Eileen Watson, George Livingston  
Margaret Cleary, Paul Peluso, Connie Isgro,  
Nicholas Bruton, John Capiello, Maria Mirabito,  
Patricia Hinton, Marg Mason, Paul Dutto,  
Alexander Irwin, Margaret Johnston

## WISHING YOU A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND EVERY BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR!

I will heading home this week to spend a few days with my family. The Office will be closed from Christmas Eve until Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan with limited hours during January on Tuesday and Friday.

### MASSES IN COMING DAYS

DEC 26<sup>TH</sup>-30<sup>TH</sup>

*No week day Masses*

### NEW YEAR'S MASSES

#### FEAST OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 6pm Swan Hill

#### NO EARLY MASS SEA LAKE

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 10:30am Swan Hill

### SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 5pm Culgoa

Saturday 6 pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Nandaly

### ANNUAL BISHOP'S COLLECTION

Each year at Christmas we take up a special collection across the Diocese that is then distributed to those in need, both locally and internationally. Last year the \$42,000 collected were distributed as follows: \$10,000 given to the Appeal for Ukraine, \$5000 to each of Catholic Mission, Caritas Australia, Nazareth House Ballarat, Diocese of Lismore Flood Appeal, SVDP Flood Appeal & St Columban's Mission Peru, \$2000 to Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans. This collection will be taken as you leave the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

## LOOKING FOR A GOOD PODCAST?

Have you been on the lookout for a good podcast to listen to in the New Year? Perhaps you could try out 'The Bible in a Year' with Fr Mike Schmitz. It has been the number 1 Apple Podcast two years in a row, so it can't be half bad! If you start it Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, you will get daily uploads that will step you through the great story of God's love for us which we find in the Scriptures. A few of us are planning to take this journey, so you won't be on your own.

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

Or listen on your favourite app

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What words or phrases from the passage appear to be particularly significant? Why?

How might Mary and Joseph have felt about their situation for having their baby?

What message about Jesus is portrayed by his mother laying him in a manger – an animal feed trough?

Does a close reading of this passage change your picture of the birth of Jesus in any way?

Why do you think the different infancy stories have been commonly combined into one?

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Loving God on this Christmas Day, we praise the newborn child, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We open our eyes to see the mystery of faith and we claim the promise of Emmanuel, "God with us."

We remember that Jesus was born in a manger, and walked as a humble suffering Saviour. Lord, help us to share the love of God with everyone we encounter, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and stand against injustice and oppression. We pray for the ending of war and for peace in the world.

We thank you for our family and friends, and for the many blessings, we have received.

We rejoice today with the best gifts of hope, peace, joy and the love of God in Jesus Christ. Amen.

--By Rev. Lia Icaza Willett

## 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.a](mailto:principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.a)

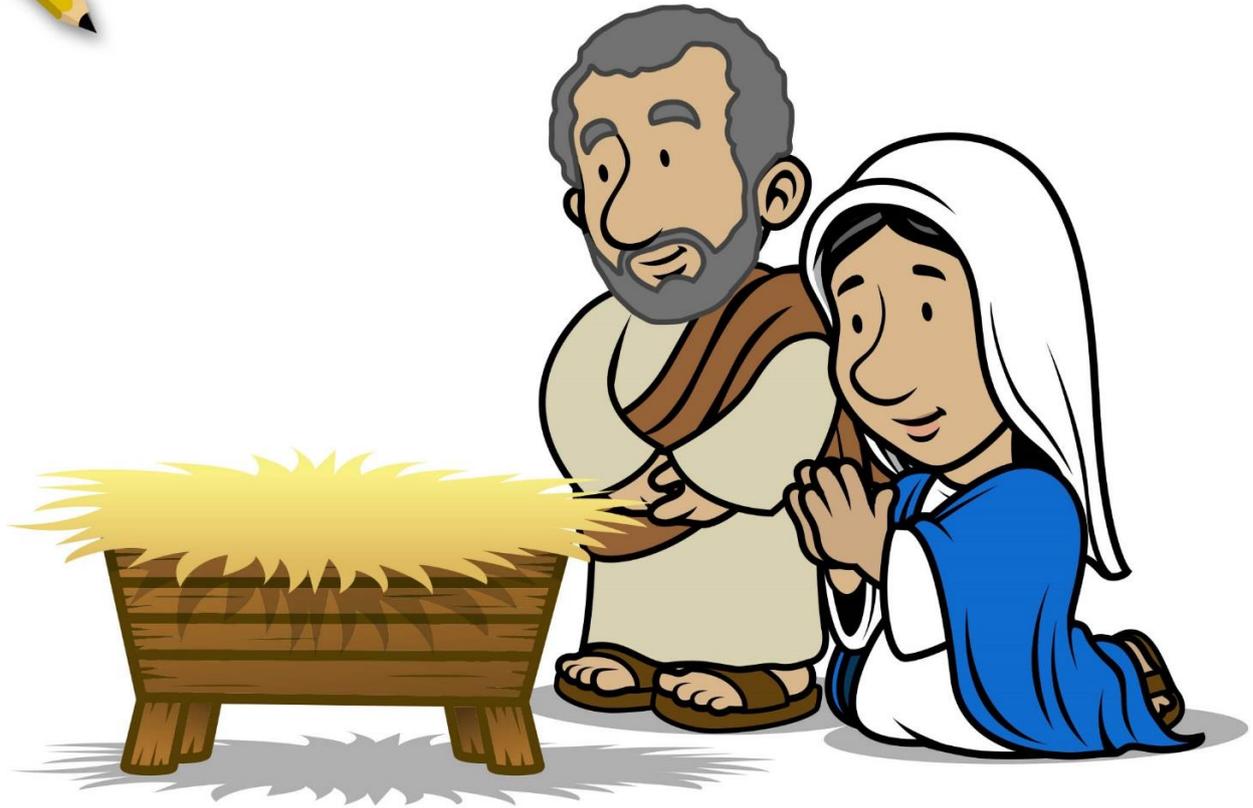
### St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler  
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill  
Ph: 5032 9771

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



Draw a picture of the newly born Jesus lying in the manger.



JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Joy to the world! The Saviour is Born!

18/11/08

B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	N	M	N	F	A
A	J	Z	P	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	J	J	L
D	E	D	S	K	U	Q	D	R	G	L	O	R	Y
V	S	L	N	E	Y	L	K	E	P	N	P	V	Y
W	U	G	D	V	C	U	N	S	P	A	X	S	J
Y	S	U	F	A	S	L	F	Q	D	Z	P	Z	B
F	P	E	A	C	E	L	Q	K	I	A	F	D	Q
L	C	C	T	V	K	H	C	M	R	R	V	J	I
O	M	Q	D	P	Q	D	L	E	F	E	A	O	N
C	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	T	N	S	L
K	H	I	M	A	R	Y	Z	Y	H	G	E	H	
S	V	W	B	R	N	D	Q	J	M	S	E	P	I
V	J	O	C	O	N	Q	V	G	C	R	L	H	O
G	U	B	B	M	A	P	M	P	G	L	S	D	C
X	Y	D	A	U	F	J	M	A	N	G	E	R	C

Try to find these words:

- angels
- Bethlehem
- flocks
- glory
- Jesus
- Joseph
- manger
- Mary
- Nazareth
- peace
- shepherds
- saviour

**FIRST READING** *Is 9:1-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this. *The Word of the Lord* .

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 95:1-3, 11-13 R. Lk 2:11*

*(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth.

With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth.

*(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

**SECOND READING** *Ti 2:11-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. *The Word of the Lord*.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Lk 2:10-11*

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *Lk 2:1-14*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*