



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

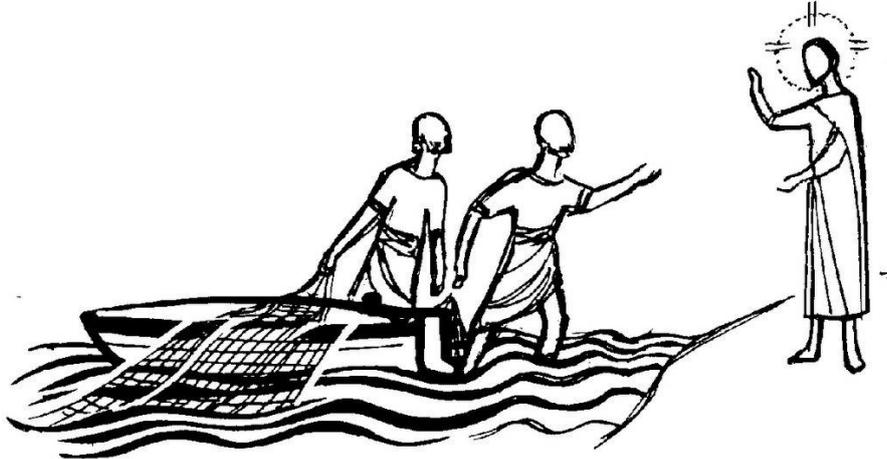
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Incorporating the Communities of St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Michael's Lalbert, St Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill as well as the Lake Boga Families & Faith Group



22ND JANUARY 2023 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



'AT ONCE, LEAVING THE BOAT AND THEIR FATHER, THEY FOLLOWED HIM.'

Two things about today's Gospel. Number one: Jesus starts his ministry, and what is the first thing he does? He calls people to follow and thus starts to form a new community around him. This is the beginnings of the Church. His Mission and the Church go together. Christ has come to build Communion.

Number two: Jesus invites others to be part of his work. It begins with Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, and James and his brother John. I wonder what they were thinking as they left their boats behind? I think the most likely answer is simply, 'Who is this man?' They knew they couldn't just let him pass by. There was something so special about the man calling them that they were ready to leave everything to find out more.

So how did it go for the fishermen? Well, within a few short years James has been beheaded, Peter and Andrew have been crucified and John ends up in exile after seeing all his loved ones murdered. It hardly seems a roaring success, and yet... we still remember their names don't we? Despite all their fear and failings, Christ was able to win a victory in these men. Despite all their weaknesses, they helped establish Christ's new family, the Church, on firm foundations. We still benefit from their work today.

We count those men as saints, which means they are now with Christ in heaven. I wonder if they laugh at the ridiculousness of it all, that here we are talking about them some 2000 years later. How many other ancient Galilean fishermen can you name? But because they were ready to say their 'Yes' to Christ's invitation, they were caught up in something far beyond themselves, a story that started with Creation and continues until our day; the great story of the Father's love for us. We too are invited to be part of that story. Every act of faith is the next page. Whenever we chose courage over fear, forgiveness over resentment, hope over despair, or love over hatred, we are right at the centre of that story. Seem ridiculous? Perhaps. But surely no more ridiculous than us remembering that some random blokes left their boats behind 2000 years ago.

EVERY BLESSING FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR !! CHÚC MỪNG NĂM MỚI !!

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

Fr Tao Pham (Melbourne)
Giuseppe Galluccio

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Alf Wilson, Tom & Jo Murphy, Carmelo Carpenteri
Mary Fogarty, Brian "Pud" Walsh, Laurel Kelly
Catherine Willson, Julia Wilson, Bill McCartney
Dick Barratt, Agnes Joyce O'Loughlin, Ken Jillard,
David "Tige" Bonney, Elizabeth (Betty) O'Brien
Colin Lawry

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 21ST/22ND JANUARY
3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: NO MASS
Wednesday: NO MASS

Thursday: AUSTRALIA DAY MASS 6pm

Friday: Requiem Mass Joe Galluccio 10:30am

NEXT WEEKEND 28/29TH JANUARY 2023

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

1st (Presbytery): \$830 2nd (Parish): \$997

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

4TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
First Reading: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13
Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:26-31
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

NOTICES

FR TAO PHAM: AN AWESOME STORY OF TRUST
My seminary year mate, Fr Tao Pham, died this week. He had a tough road to the priesthood. Two weeks out from ordination he suffered a nasty hand injury closing his car boot, which soon snowballed into a deadly blood infection. He was in a coma for 74 days, and then in ICU and intense rehab for almost two years. He was close to death many, many times, but put all his trust in God and fought on. His example of perseverance in faith was an inspiration to all those who knew him, especially the parishioners he served and the Vietnamese community of Melbourne who supported him so well over many years. His story is definitely worth sharing. The following is taken from an interview he gave to Shalom World back in 2021.

"When I woke up from the coma, I was still in a lot of pain. I could not talk because there was a tube in my throat. Even after the tubes were removed, I could not speak. It took months to slowly and painfully learn to talk again. My condition was still critical so the doctors prepared me for another surgery, which my brother had already consented to, but when I read that they were planning to cut my leg off, I refused. The doctor told me that I would die if it was not amputated, but I did not want this to prevent me from being ordained as a priest. I would not give up my dream of becoming a priest even though my family and many good friends were telling me that it was hopeless. It was very challenging, mentally and physically, but I put my hope and trust in God.

After a month on "Nil by Mouth", I was desperately longing to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. If I could receive even a drop of the Precious Blood, I knew that I would be healed. The next day Father Peter brought the Precious Blood to me in Holy Communion. As he trickled a few drops into my mouth, I visualized it moving into my body and touching the infection. The following day, I felt much better. Tests were done and the infection was gone.

After more than a year in hospital, we had a meeting with the staff of the hospital to discuss my future. The bishop attended on my family's behalf. The doctor reported that I would never be able to walk again and would need high level care 24 hours a day for the rest of my life. They said that I would not be able to look

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake
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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
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after myself, shower myself or even get in or out of bed without help. It was devastating to hear this and even more devastating to hear the bishop's decision that he would not ordain me as a deacon or priest. After all the years of study and waiting, my dream seemed to be over. It was very difficult for me, however I kept praying. I was determined to walk again, so I worked hard at all the painful exercises I was given, offering up my suffering in union with Christ for all the people who needed my prayers. The rehabilitation took years. Often I felt like giving up, but I held onto my dream and that gave me the courage to go on.

Despite all these challenges and obstacles, I still felt Christ calling me to become a priest to serve His people, even in my weakness. So, one day I sent a letter to the Archbishop of Melbourne asking him to accept me for ordination. To my surprise, he arranged to see me straight away and discuss what he needed me to do. He agreed to ordain me, even if I had to lie in a bed or sit in a wheelchair, but he told me that I would get better and better, and I would be walking. At that stage I was still in a wheelchair, but I continued to work at my exercises while I finished my study, so when ordination day came I was able to join the others walking in procession. The Cathedral was filled with the jubilant faces of friends. Many of them had met me when I needed their care in hospital so they knew how astonishing it was that I had lived to see this day. Tears of joy filled my eyes and I could see their eyes glistening too. I could not believe that this day had finally come, 30 years after I set out from my village in pursuit of my dream. Now, I work with 2 other priests in a busy community.

Every day when I walk in to say Mass is like a fresh miracle. I do not think that I will ever tire of it. Then, strengthened by the Holy sacrifice of the Mass, I go out to visit the children in the schools and the elderly in the nursing homes. I feel blessed to bring His presence to them. The long wait to share in Christ's priesthood is over and I can share with them the fruits of my suffering in union with Him.

I have learned that thinking about the needs of others and putting on a smiling face for them diverts me from my own afflictions and transforms my suffering into joy..."

Read more at shalomtidings.org/braving-the-storm/ or watch the full interview at www.shalomworld.org/episode/priesthood-triumphs-over-coma-fr-tao-pham-triumph

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What purpose does the geographic detail in the passage serve?

Why does the gospel writer emphasise that Jesus is the fulfilment of scripture?

How do you think the families of the first four disciples reacted to them following after Jesus?

When have you 'repented' – changed your mind or attitude about something?

In what ways is Jesus' call to repentance still needed today?

Why does the arrest of John the Baptist appear to be the catalyst for Jesus to begin his ministry?

Why is Isaiah so frequently quoted in the gospels?

What is significant about the first disciples leaving their livelihoods and leaving their family?

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Discipleship is not something that we take upon ourselves. We are called to it. Some people are very conscious of this call. They are aware of it in their aspirations and dreams; they recognise it in the events of their lives. They hear the call as clearly as Simon, Andrew, James and John heard the voice of Jesus. For others, the call to discipleship is not so clear. They may experience an undefined restlessness, a dissatisfaction with their lives. People can respond to the call in one of two ways. They can consider the mere suggestion of discipleship an intrusion into their plans, or they can drop what they are doing, leave their former concerns behind and follow Jesus.

There is a misunderstanding about being called and leaving everything behind. Although the gospel says that the four men left their occupation of fishing in order to follow Jesus, this kind of 'leaving behind' was not, and still is not, required of all, for it is in the ordinary events of life that our salvation unfolds. For most people, this is precisely where they are to function as disciples. Still, disciples of Jesus are called to leave behind certain ways of living as they follow him. They are called away from lives of pettiness and division. They are called away from the kind of factionalism that seems to have threatened the unity of the Corinthian community. They are called away from narrow-mindedness and mean-spirited competition. It is much easier to leave nets than to leave the web of one's prejudices. ©

Dianne Bergant CSA

FIRST READING Is 8:23 – 9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

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.

The word of the Lord. **ALL Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1**(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

Before whom shall I shrink?

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of
the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**SECOND READING** 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians

*I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the
differences between you.*

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus
Christ, to make up the differences between you, and
instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united
again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's
people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear
that there are serious differences among you. What I

mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for
Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'.
Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was
crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?
For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the
Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of
philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be
expressed.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and
healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 4:12-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
*He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be
fulfilled.*

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to
Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in
Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun
and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be
fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,

Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the
message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at
hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two
brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother
Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net,
for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me
and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets
at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers,
James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in
their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets,
and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their
father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their
synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom
and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the
people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.