



# 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*



## 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

As you know, I am off this weekend for my younger sister's wedding. It turns out she has picked a very appropriate weekend to be married- because I've read that this Sunday is World Marriage Day, and that is something definitely worth celebrating! This initiative was started by the Marriage Encounter movement, which has helped many couples across the world grow in their appreciation and love for each other. Why this Sunday? I think quite simply because it is the closest to St Valentine's Day. How romantic!

While not all of us are married, all of us benefit from the gift of married love lived out with faithfulness and perseverance. Children and grandchildren are nurtured and learn what it means to be loved and spouses help each other grow in love day by day. But the fruits of marriage are not limited to the immediate families. All of us benefit from the friendship, support and hospitality of married couples, but perhaps even more importantly we are continually strengthened by their example of sacrificial love. When the marriage covenant is lived out in faithfulness, all of us can see there a living sign of Christ's abiding love for his Church. And this is not mere romanticism- married life brings many tests and challenges. It is not necessarily outward 'success' that best witnesses to Christ's love, but rather faithful perseverance through all the ups and downs. To all of you who persevere so faithfully in the circumstances in which you find yourselves... thank you. We continue to pray for you and ask God to bless all married couples.

Our world needs your witness.

### WELCOME FR DENIS RYAN

We welcome Fr Denis Ryan and thank him for travelling up from Geelong to celebrate our weekend Masses in across the Parish. Fr Denis had a good stint in Sea Lake 'back in the day', so he knows our area well and is looking forward to catching up with some old friends. Thank you Fr Denis!

#### 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**

Adelina Buccheri  
Alwyn Hayes (Fr Andrew's father)

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

*1 year* Aileen Meehan

Salvatore Buccheri, Edward Fitzgerald  
Frank Lonergan, Jan Marie Bell,  
Carmela Mammone, Ronald Duryea  
Annunziata Russo, Lorna Phyland  
John Bernard Bell, Patrick McInerney

**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 11/12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Friday 5pm Culgoa  
Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill  
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday NO MASS  
Wednesday NO MASS  
Thursday Confessions 5pm, Mass 5.30pm  
Adoration until 7pm  
Friday: 11am Adoration, 12 noon Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 18/19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023  
7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
**Sunday 8.30am No Mass Lalbert**  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill  
Sunday 5pm Sea Lake School Mass

**COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection (Presbytery): \$1260  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Parish): \$1300

**NOTICES**

***BRACE YOURSELVES: LENT IS COMING!***

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

This year it begins on Wednesday 22nd February. If you are after something more, there are many great resources on hand to help you make the most of Lent.

**LENTEN PROGRAM- TRIUMPH BOOKLETS**

Lenten Booklets are available from the office for \$10 each. These include a reflection for each day as well as the readings and extended reflections for Sundays.

If there are any groups forming please give your details to the office.

*Or if you would prefer videos to booklets how about...*

**'THE CATHOLIC GUY' BRUCE DOWNES**

For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent23>

Go to [BruceDownes.org](https://BruceDownes.org) for more info

*Or for even more options...*

CHECK OUT



***THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND***

Why not check out the Lenten resources available on *FORMED*? As a gift to you all we present *FORMED*, an online platform featuring quality Catholic content to help you explore and grow in our beautiful Catholic faith. We encourage you to sign up and take a look at what *FORMED* has to offer - movies & documentaries, studies & programs, audio dramas, talks, e-books, cartoons - there is something for everyone! *FORMED* is accessible anywhere/anytime on most smartphones, tablets and computers.

To sign up simply:

1. Go to <https://formed.org>
2. Click on 'Sign up as a parishioner'
3. Create a New Account-  
*Find your Parish or Organisation*  
enter Holy Family Parish Swan Hill &  
select Holy Family Parish 62 Splatt St Swan Hill Vic  
Click *Next*
4. Enter your Name and email and click *Sign-Up*.

**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)

## **MISSION: CHANGE THEIR LIVES AND YOURS**

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. Perhaps you might consider answering the call through Palms Australia? Visit [palms.org.au](http://palms.org.au) to learn more about potential assignments and to read stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER- SWAN HILL**



This year the Swan Hill celebration of World Day of Prayer will be held in St Mary's Swan Hill on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>

March at 10am. All welcome.

The theme this year is taken from Ephesians 1:15-19, "I have heard about your faith", and the prayers prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan.

## **SEEKING VOLUNTEERS**

To assist as readers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, bringing the offertory gifts to the altar, at weekend Masses. If you are interested please email or contact Glenda at the office Tues or Fri.

## **ROSTER FOR ALL SWAN HILL MASS MINISTRIES**

have been emailed and copies are also available at the back of the church. If you wish to receive your roster via email and haven't please contact office.

## **WANTED**

Very small clear containers: jars/vases to hold tealight candles. If you can help please contact Glenda in the parish office on Tuesdays and Fridays.

## **HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

What do you think Jesus means when he uses the words 'abolish' and 'complete'?

Why is Jesus' combination of both the Law and the Prophets significant?

What do you take from the final teaching about not making oaths; just saying yes or no if you mean it?

What modern interpretation could be used that might better explain one of these laws?

Why do you think it's important to interpret the Bible rather than read it as literal truth?

Why does Jesus speak about not only keeping commandments but also teaching others to keep them?

Where in your life are you called to be someone who fulfils or completes the Law and the Prophets?

## **THE GOSPEL CONTINUED.**

or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**"Let your  
'YES'  
mean  
'YES,'** **and your  
'NO'  
mean  
'NO.'"**

## **READINGS NEXT WEEK**

7th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Lv 19:1-2. 17-18

Second Reading: 1 Cor 3:16-23

Gospel: Mt 5:38-48

**FIRST READING** Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*He never commanded anyone to be godless.*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,  
to behave faithfully is within your power.

He has set fire and water before you;  
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.

Man has life and death before him;  
whichever a man likes better will be given him.

For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;  
he is almighty and all-seeing.

His eyes are on those who fear him,  
he notes every action of man.

He never commanded anyone to be godless,  
he has given no one permission to sin.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R.v.1

**(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow  
God's law! They are happy those who do his will,  
seeking him with all their hearts.

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with  
care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes.

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your  
word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders  
of your law.

Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will  
keep them to the end. Train me to observe your  
law, to keep it with my heart.

**(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

**SECOND READING** 1 Cor 2:6-10

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

*God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the  
ages began.*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached  
maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still  
less of the masters of our age, which are coming to  
their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach  
in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined  
to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a  
wisdom that none of the masters of this age have  
ever known, or they would not have crucified the  
Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the

things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard,  
things beyond the mind of man, all that God has  
prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us  
through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths  
of everything, even the depths of God.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the  
kingdom. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Mt 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking  
to you.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have  
come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come  
not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you  
solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one  
dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law  
until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who  
infringes even one of the least of these  
commandments and teaches others to do the same  
will be considered the least in the kingdom of  
heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches  
them will be considered great in the kingdom of  
heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that  
of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into  
the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You  
must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer  
for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone  
who is angry with his brother will answer for it before  
the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will  
answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls  
him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So  
then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and  
there remember that your brother has something  
against you, leave your offering there before the  
altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first,  
and then come back and present your offering. Come  
to terms with your opponent in good time while you  
are still on the way to the court with him,

***Continued on inside page***