



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



29TH JANUARY 2023 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



'REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT IN HEAVEN.'

I love the Beatitudes. Jesus clearly speaks them straight from the heart. Sometimes when I am reading or hearing them, one or other of the lines shoots straight through to touch my heart right where I needed it. At other times however I can find the same words an enigma and difficult to understand. There is definitely a mystery to them; our expectations are completely overturned and the limits of our human wisdom are tested. But I suppose that is the point isn't it? God's ways are not our ways, his plans are often hidden to our sight and understanding.

I think part of my struggle is that I keep trying to read the Beatitudes like you would the Commandments; as clear instructions of what we should do as followers of Jesus. That doesn't really work though does it? You can hardly go around searching for abuse and persecution! But you do have to be prepared for it when it comes, and that is where the Beatitudes come in.

Following God's way does not always lead us to worldly comfort and success, but it does lead us to God. He himself is our greatest prize, and if we are ready to bear the cost of discipleship we will find in him our greatest blessing and happiness, far beyond anything this world can give us. In this sense, the Beatitudes can help us to understand our own life *as we live it*. They put a name to the trials and sufferings we experience as we walk this path of discipleship, and in doing so hold out to us the promise of God's presence even in our darkest moments. Whatever we face, we can be sure he is by our side, and in that hope we find a deep happiness and peace that no-one can take away from us.

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

Vince Mobilio, Rita Stahl, Eugenio Aiello
Evaline, Bernard, William Wilkinson,
Wilma Woodburn, Lucio Tieri, Mary Hall,
Vince Iannuci, Audrey Walsh, Fred DeLeux
Marjory Bormann

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, Jim Conheady

THIS WEEKEND 28TH/29TH JANUARY
4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday 30th: 5:30pm
Tuesday 31st: 5.30pm

Wednesday & Thursday NO MASS

Friday 3rd: 5:30pm
Saturday (1st of Month): Confessions 9:30am
Mass 10am

NEXT WEEKEND 4/5TH FEBRUARY 2023

PARISH FEAST DAY

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

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

**CELEBRATED AS THE
FEAST OF PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD**

First Reading: Mal 3:1-4
Second Reading: Heb 2:14-18
Gospel: Lk 2:22-40

NOTICES

**NEXT SUNDAY: FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION
& THE BLESSING OF CANDLES**

You may remember from last year that we celebrated the first Sunday in February as our Parish Feast Day. The Feast of the Presentation celebrates Mary and Joseph bringing the infant Jesus to the Temple. While there, they meet Simeon and Anna, who recognise the child Jesus for who he really is and help Mary and Joseph grow in understanding of their own Mission. Jesus is named as a 'Light to the nations', so this feast has also traditionally been a special time to bless candles (hence the traditional name Candlemas). Perhaps you might like to bring some candles next weekend to be blessed? You can then light them at home or give them to others as a reminder of the Light of Christ continuing to shine in and through us.

STAFF COMMISSIONING MASS

Next Sunday will also be an opportunity for the staff of St Mary's Swan Hill and Mackillop College to come together in prayer as they begin a new academic year. We continue to pray for all our staff. They play a very special role in helping to form our young people, and in a very real way are called to share the Light of Christ and help set hearts aflame with God's love.

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!
A SPECIAL WORD FROM KATE QUIN
PRINCIPAL ST MARY'S SWAN HILL

It is exciting to commence the 2023 school year at St Mary's Swan Hill and certainly a great deal of excitement and lots of happy children as we gather to begin another year of learning. We welcome several new staff members and over 90 new students this year and look forward to them joining our school family.

We have been busy over the summer break with new projects and maintenance work being undertaken across the school. Thanks to our amazing P & F and their fundraising efforts, we have installed a wonderful new sensory garden and water feature near the labyrinth area, and have ordered Buddy Benches to be placed around our school grounds for students to sit and enjoy being with their friends.

Our new OSHC (before and after school care service), known as @ 2 Murlong Street has expanded to include a new vacation care program, and throughout January

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

we had 30-40 children onsite each day. While a big undertaking, the holiday program has proved to be very popular with families and has provided a much needed care option for school age children in our community.

Most exciting has been the progress made on our new Junior Hub, a large multipurpose space, designed to house 8 classes and a large internal learning street. The builders have been busy throughout the school holidays and it is really taking shape. It is on track to be completed in May this year and will house our Year 1 and Year 2 classes.

St Mary's is well known for its strong family partnerships, commitment to the well-being of every child, and excellent academic record. 2023 sees a continued focus on family engagement, student and staff wellbeing, and the provision of opportunities for our students to thrive academically, spiritually, and emotionally in an environment of respect, love, and care.

Kate Quin Principal

CUPPA AFTER MASS NEXT SUNDAY 5TH FEB

EARLY NOTICE: ROSARY IN THE CHURCH

Sat 11th Feb at 10am. All welcome.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In his book, *The Ladder of the Beatitudes*, Jim Forest makes a terrific recommendation: use *The Beatitudes of Jesus* (Matthew 5:1-12) as a set of questions for self reflection. Think about the possibilities for using them to prepare for prayer or worship or the start/end of the day. This kind of reflection provides a framework for discovering our next steps in more fully following Christ. So, here are the questions which came to mind for me. What questions do *The Beatitudes* stir in you?

Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Am I still trying to save myself or am I completely depending on God's love, mercy and grace?

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN

Do I mourn my destructive thoughts and actions, my sin, my brokenness?

Am I heartbroken over the brokenness of my community and world?

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

Do I think too lowly or too highly of my gifts, talents and strengths?

Have I placed my gifts, talents and strengths fully under the authority and discipline of God that they may be used by God for a greater good?

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Am I doing all I can to build right relationships with God, others, myself, and the rest of creation?
Are other appetites taking first place in my life?

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

Have I forgiven those who have done me harm?
Do I need to ask anyone for forgiveness?
Have I rejected revenge and bitterness fully?

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART

Who or what rules my motivation and desire? God? Others? An addiction? Myself?
How am I cooperating with the Holy Spirit in the development of an undivided heart?

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

How am I building bridges and breaking down dividing walls in Jesus' Name?
How can I more fully abandon violence, prejudice, bias, and hate?

BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED

How am I loving my enemies and praying for them?
Am I living and practicing my faith in gracious ways everywhere I go or am I hiding it as a way of protecting myself?

©Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What reaction might the disciples have had when they heard Jesus preach the Beatitudes?

Where have you come across references to any of the Beatitudes in music, film or modern culture?

Why might the Beatitudes be one of the most famous and most quoted scripture texts?

Was Jesus trying to console and comfort the people or confront and challenge them?

Which Beatitude/s do you think you do well?

In what ways can the Beatitudes be seen in parallel with the Ten Commandments?

How do the Beatitudes provide a guide for living in right relationship with God and others?

How might you answer the claim that the Beatitudes just teach Christians to accept bad things?

How can the Beatitudes be misused?

FIRST READING Zep 2:3; 3:12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.

Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find
shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the
name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured
tongue will no longer be found in their mouths.

But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to
disturb them.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, 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.) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

SECOND READING 1 Cor 1:26-31

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

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were
called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense
of the word, how many were influential people, or came
from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that
God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to
shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by
human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common
and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen –
those who are nothing at all to show up those who are
everything. The human race has nothing to boast about
to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus
and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our
virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture
says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the
Lord. *The Word of the Lord. ALL Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 5:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad; Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat
down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to
speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute
you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my
account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be
great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

