



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



5TH FEBRUARY 2023

CELEBRATED AS THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

We are going to be a little bit different and celebrate this weekend as the Feast of the Presentation (don't worry, we have permission from the Bishop!). Given so many of us are away for the actual Feast of the Holy Family, I'm hoping we can celebrate the Presentation as our special Parish Feast Day instead.

For one, it involves the Holy Family front and centre. Here are Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus, bringing him before the Father and entrusting the boy's future to his care. How often do we experience similar scenes here in our parish? We see it every time young parents present their children for baptism, asking for God's blessing for their lives going forward. And not just during baptisms; our parents continually place their trust in God's loving care. The story lives on.



But back to the Gospel, the story is not just about the young. Two important characters also emerge with very special roles to play; the priest Simeon and prophetess Anna. They are both 'well on in years', with deep wisdom and insight born of years of heartfelt prayer and faithful living. They have been waiting patiently for the coming of the Messiah. Their hearts are open and their eyes are sharp. Where so many others walk by God's presence in the little child, they immediately recognise Jesus for who he is and shout out in joy. Their witness gives hope to all who hear, and although their words to Mary and Joseph may be difficult, they help shed light on Jesus' future and the part the Holy Family has to play in God's plan of Salvation. Jesus is destined to be a Light to all the Nations, but not everyone will be ready to accept him. He will face rejection, and Mary will share in that suffering too, but through the struggle God will bring about his people's salvation.

Now back to our own Parish, aren't we also blessed with our own equivalents of Anna and Simeon? I for one greatly appreciate our 'faithful elders', those in our midst who have the deep wisdom and perspective only a life of faithful living can bring. Their patient perseverance through the ups and downs of life help fill us all with hope, and their very lives are an example to us all of what it means to live by the Light of Christ. And that is the beauty of living out our faith in a Parish setting; we are able to build each other up, sharing our joys and struggles, hopes and dreams, so that together we can persevere in hope.

Parish Contact Details:

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Phone: 03 5032 4144

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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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Audrey Walsh, Pasquale Milazzo, Marjorie Borman, Domenic Costa, Marianne Costa, John Francis Maher, Maria Peluso, Gavin Currie, Robert Burns, Kieran Brennan, Patrick Shepherd, Kevin Quinlan. Francesco & Concetta Marotta, Patrick Casey, James King, Beatrice Curran, Geoff Stephenson, Darren Mc Kenzie, Natale Pino, Aileen Meehan, James Elliott, Salvatore Buccheri

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 4/5TH FEBRUARY
FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday Mass 5.30pm
Tuesday Mass 5.30pm
Wednesday Mass 10am
Thursday 10am
Friday No Midday Mass

NEXT WEEKEND 11/12TH FEBRUARY 2023
6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

COLLECTIONS LAST TWO WEEKENDS

1st Collection (Presb ytery): \$1635
2nd Collection (Parish): \$1330

NOTICES

THE PRESENTATION & BLESSING OF CANDLES

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

Today, 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.



CUPPA AND CHAT after 10.30am Mass today in the Parish Function Centre. All welcome.

FR DENIS RYAN SUPPLY

Fr Denis Ryan will be visiting next weekend to help supply while I am down south for my sister's wedding. He is looking forward to catching up with some of his old friends from Sea Lake days.

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 your interest or contact Glenda at the office Tuesday and Fridays. Training will be provided for those who are interested.

ROSTER FOR ALL SWAN HILL MASS MINISTRIES

have been emailed and copies are also available at the back of the church.

ROSARY IN THE CHURCH: NEXT SATURDAY

All welcome to join in praying the Rosary next Saturday 11th at 10am, St Mary's Church Swan Hill.

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

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St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
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INTRODUCING

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

As a gift to you all to celebrate our feast day 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.



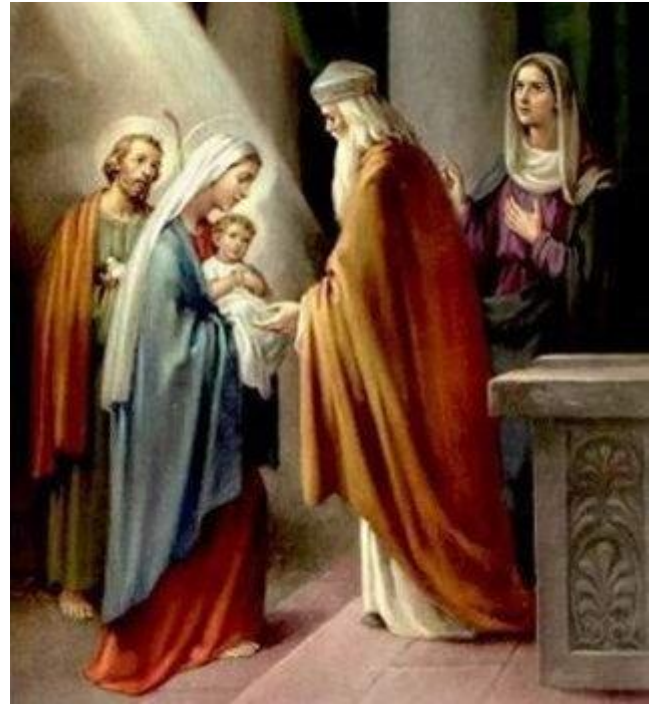
To sign up simply:

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 address and click Sign-Up.



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.

LENT begins on Wednesday 22nd February. Lenten Books are available from the Office. If there are any groups forming please give your details to the office.



HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why might the Church mark this presentation in the Temple event as a special feast day?

How might Simeon's predictions about their child have affected Joseph and Mary?

Why did the first-born son hold such a special place in ancient times?

In what ways do people 'offer their lives to God' today?

In what ways can you be like Simeon and Anna and proclaim the importance of Jesus?

In what way does Simeon suggest that the ministry of Jesus will reach beyond the Jews to Gentiles?

Why do many images of Mary and Joseph portray them in rich costumes and not their poorer status?

Why might the gospel writer have combined the two separate rituals into the one event?

How does this episode reflect the hopes and dreams that all new parents hold for their child?

Spend some time in prayerful reflection on what it is that you have to offer God.

READINGS NEXT WEEK

6th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Sir 15:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Cor 2:6-10

Gospel: Mt 5:17-37

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

FIRST READING Mal 3:1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 23:7-10. R. v.10

(R.) Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

O gates, lift up your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory? The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory? He, the Lord of armies, he is the king of glory. (R.)

(R.) Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

SECOND READING Heb 2:14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He had to be made like us in all things.

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

My eyes have seen your saving power.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ