



# 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*



## 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



### ***THE WOMAN AT THE WELL: OUR YEARNING MEETS AN EVEN DEEPER THIRST***

It is a long Gospel today, so I will keep this short. We hear of this life changing encounter by a well. Both the woman and Jesus are thirsty in the ordinary sense of the word; that is why they are there by the well. But a conversation about satisfying physical thirst soon opens up into a discussion about a deeper, spiritual longing.

Jesus opens up for the woman her spiritual thirst for God's love and grace. It has been there all along, she perhaps just hasn't yet recognised it for what it is. It is a deep, deep longing that is in all of us. We are made for relationship with God. We will thirst and thirst until we can drink of his love. It is like we are left feeling incomplete, or unfulfilled, waiting on an answer to our longing. We search here and there. We might confuse that yearning for lesser desires and seek to satisfy it in comforts or worldly ambitions, but we will still be left thirsting. Only the living water Christ offers us will truly satisfy.

But our thirst, as deep as it may be, is nothing compared to the even deeper thirst in Christ. He longs to share his life with us. He longs to fill our hearts to the brim with his love. He will never tire of seeking us out. There is a hunger in Christ that will be satisfied by only one thing; our joy and peace in finding him.

#### **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**

Frank Howley, Ian Giddings, Helen Harris  
Antonio Fazzalori, Nina Taverna  
Margaret Mudge, Dorothy Burgess  
Libby Dunstone, Teresa Prochilo, Francis Ledwich  
Mary Foley, Leonard Patching, Mary Ellen Irwin,

**SICK LIST**

Elizabeth Williamson, Paul Donohue, Jayden  
Williams, Margaret Foott, Jarrod Crimmins,  
Michael Bourke, Jack Donohue,  
Jude Lewis, Susan, Yvonne Annan,  
Bridget Phyland, Carmel Ryan

**THIS WEEKEND 11<sup>TH</sup>/12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

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

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Monday: 10am Mass  
Tuesday: 5.30pm Mass  
Wednesday: 10am Mass followed by Stations.  
Thursday: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass  
Adoration until 7pm  
Friday: 11am Rosary & Adoration, 11:30am Mass  
Confessions 5:30, Stations of the Cross 6pm  
Saturday: Confessions 9:30am, Mass 10am

**NEXT WEEKEND 18/19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Lalbert  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill  
Sunday 5pm Sea Lake

**NOTICES**

**ST PATS RACES SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

Tickets and raffle tickets available again after Masses this weekend. A fun filled day for families with free activities for the children, there is everything from face painting, foot races, kick the footy in the ute, the jumping castle and pony rides, not to mention the actual races. Tickets are \$10 pp, children free Proceeds go to St Mary's Primary School and MacKillop College.

**WRAPS WITH LOVE**

News from headquarters in Sydney. We have been able to send 3,750 wraps o earthquake victims in Turkey. Now we have 5,000 ready to be picked up by the Syrian Association of Victoria, to be sent to Syria. Good news and we are proud to be part of this mission, Many thanks to all you wonderful knitters and crocheters.

*From the Josephite Associates.*



**PROJECT COMPASSION**

We still haven't received any materials from Caritas for the annual Project Compassion. I am guessing this means they won't arrive. We had made contact last year to try and streamline the excessive amount of material we received (always a lot of wastage) and it seems they accidentally dropped us off the list altogether. But all is not lost! If you are ready to give electronically, you can use their website [caritas.org.au](http://caritas.org.au), or if you want to donate by cheque we have a few postage paid envelopes left over from last year that you could use. If you would like to contribute by cash, simply put your donation in an envelope marked 'Project Compassion' and put it in the collection. We can still collect as usual and forward it on through the Diocese.

Hope that makes sense!

**LENTEN PAPER CHAIN**

If you would like to start returning your 'chain-links', we will leave out a stapler so we can begin to assemble the chain!

***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.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)

## LIVING THE GOSPEL – PERSONAL ENCOUNTER

The Samaritan woman's personal encounter with Jesus compels her to start spreading the good news about the amazing man she has met. She meets Jesus face to face and feels compelled to act on what she has felt. Lent is a time for each of us to again – or for the first time – seek out a face-to-face encounter with Jesus. Through prayer, contemplation on scripture or reflection on encountering Jesus in the face of others, we build a one-to-one relationship with Jesus. When we acknowledge this relationship, like the Samaritan woman, we are compelled to act on it.

### HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

How does an understanding of the social and cultural context of scripture aid interpretation?

Which aspects of this encounter do you find most intriguing or interesting?

To what was Jesus alluding when he spoke of giving the woman 'living water'?

How might the woman and the rest of the town have been changed by this incident?

What message do you take from this gospel for the Lenten season?

What is it about her encounter with Jesus that prompts the woman to speak about Jesus in the town?

How are we able to come 'face to face' with Jesus today as did the woman at the well?



### RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOR LENT

Ask for forgiveness from someone that you have wronged.

Not just Friday, have an additional meatless day one week during Lent.

Send a card or note of encouragement to a priest or a member of a religious community.

Pray for those who have lost their jobs and need support.

Show your appreciation by doing a household chore that your partner/parent normally does.

### READINGS NEXT WEEK: 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

Second Reading: Eph 5:8-14

Gospel: Jn 9:1-41

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews.

But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work.

Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together.

For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**FIRST READING** Ex 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

*Give us water to drink.*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?' The Word of the Lord. *ALL Thanks be to God*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

**(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

**(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

**SECOND READING** Rom 5:1-2. 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were

still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. The Word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** See Jn 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL** Jn 4:5-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.*

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.'

'I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: