



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

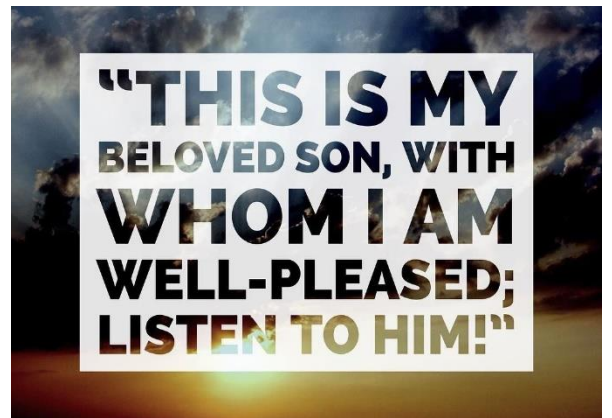


5TH MARCH 2023 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

'THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED; HE ENJOYS MY FAVOUR. LISTEN TO HIM.'

Jesus takes Peter, James and John with him up the mountain. While there, he is transfigured in their presence; 'His face shone like the Sun and his clothes became as white as light.' While the three disciples are still trying to make sense of what they are seeing, a cloud overshadows them and they hear a Voice, 'This is my Son... Listen to Him.' They fall on their faces in fear until Jesus encourages them, 'Stand up, do not be afraid.' And then they look up and see only Jesus.

So what is going on? What does it all mean? Well, there is a lot, lot more to it all than I can dish out in half a page, but for the moment let's just focus on what the disciples see and what they hear. They see Jesus in all his glory, 'transfigured.' I keep finding myself wanting to simplify this by saying 'They see Jesus for who he truly is,' but that is not quite accurate. The Jesus they have seen walking alongside them all this time is just as true and real, as will be the sight of Jesus crucified on the Cross. Their eyes haven't been deceiving them thus far, but in the Transfiguration they are given a glimpse of



something that has so far been veiled or hidden from their sight; the presence of the Divine. They then hear the voice which confirms and explains what they have just seen; Jesus is the Beloved Son of the Father. They can trust in him. They should listen to him and follow his way, because that is the true and only Way to the Father. The disciples hear this now to strengthen them for the road ahead- it is not going to be an easy one.

The same is also true for us. We need to continually reaffirm our faith that Jesus *is* the Beloved Son of the Father. We can indeed trust in him. We can most certainly rely on him. When we hear his voice, we hear the Father's voice calling us to fullness of life. That voice often challenges us. Sometimes it asks us to leave behind behaviours that hurt us (sin). Sometimes it asks us to leave aside certain comforts or indulgences that are weighing us down. Sometimes it asks us take up our own Cross, persevering through times of suffering and trial. But at all times we know we can trust that voice, and at all times it calls us forth into new life.

'Stand up. Do not be afraid.'

SPECIAL WELCOME: RECONCILIATION FAMILIES (SWAN HILL)

A special welcome to the children and their families who are with us this weekend to begin their preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We thank our families for supporting their children on this journey, and look forward to seeing you at our enrolment sessions straight after Mass today.

Parish Contact Details:

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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

Francesco Salvo (Frank), Norah Walsh,
Mary Eleanor Ryan, Sarina & Giovanni Edera
Frank Dillon, Charles Healy, Kath Daniels
Ron Noble, Linton Ryan, Nella Bellofiore,
Kath Clohesy, Rosaria Fedele, Rhodesia
McNamara, Kevin Mikes. Frank Fazzalori,
Daniel Wright

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 4TH/5TH MARCH

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 5.30pm Mass
Wednesday: 10am Mass followed by Stations
Thursday: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass
Adoration until 7pm
Friday: 11am Adoration, 11:30am Mass
Mass Culgoa 5pm
Saturday: Confessions 9:30am, Mass 10am

NEXT WEEKEND 11/12TH MARCH 2023

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

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

NOTICES

CHANGE TO FRIDAY MASS TIME SWAN HILL

We've moved the weekly Friday Mass forward to 11:30am. Adoration will still begin at 11am, together with the Rosary. The Angelus will now follow Mass at 12pm. This change has been made to avoid conflicting with the St Mary's Primary (Swan Hill) Assembly time, so that I and a few parents and grandparents are now able to attend both without a mad rush.



CUPPA THIS SUNDAY

The monthly cuppa and chat will be offered again this Sunday 5th March after the 10:30am Mass in Swan Hill.

ST PATS RACES SUNDAY 19TH MARCH

Tickets and raffle tickets available after Masses this weekend and next 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.



LENTEN PAPER CHAIN

You perhaps already have chosen a few little ways you are looking to observe Lent this year, but if you are after a few more ideas, how about being part of our Parish's Lenten Paper Chain?
Each 'chain-link' suggests an activity we might take up and offer as a gift, for example one is 'Write down 20 things you are thankful for'. If you aren't keen on the suggested activity, feel free to write your own on the back and bring that in instead. We will then link up all the individual activities in a single 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

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

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER DURING LENT- STATIONS AND CONFESSIONS

It will vary slightly from week to week, depending on circumstances, but I am planning to offer some times to pray the Stations of the Cross in Swan Hill. This coming week it will be Friday at 6pm, which will continue through Lent if there is interest, and after next week there will also be an opportunity on Wednesdays after the 10am Mass.

I will also be offering extra opportunities for Confession on Friday evenings from 5:30-6pm (unless I am due for Mass in Culgoa like this coming week) and Saturday mornings from 9:30-10am.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING DURING LENT- REMEMBERING THE POOR

Many of you have a great tradition of supporting Caritas' Project Compassion Program each year. The envelopes and boxes will hopefully have arrived by next week, but in the meantime you can also donate via their website caritas.org.au. Perhaps you might also like to consider some of the other many charities offering aid throughout the world? For example, Aid to the Church in Need aidtochurch.org, Catholic Mission catholicmission.org.au and Salesian Missions salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au are all worthy bodies with strong connections to the communities they serve, and each are currently running special appeals for the victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

The opportunities for charity and almsgiving are endless, but thankfully so too is the great store of God's love freely offered to us each and every day.



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOR LENT

- Pray for good things for some one who has been unkind to you.
- Free yourself of one sinful action, such as greed, envy or pride.
- Some wounds won't heal. Ask for consolation.
- Pray the Rosary for specific people.
- Give someone you love a hug.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The blessings upon which we meditate today are undeserved gifts from God. They were not earned. The graciousness of God transforms us in such a way as to effect new beginnings. It can be seen in the promises made to Abram. He leaves the past behind and moves into a new future. It can be seen in the psalm response. The Lord delivers us from death and inspires us to look to the future. It can be seen in the reading from 2 Timothy. Through Christ Jesus we are called to a new life of holiness; we escape the fetters of death and are brought into the freedom of the resurrection. We see it in the gospel, a glimpse into the future glory of Jesus which, through grace, we will be able to share. Lent is a time of new beginnings which find their origin in the abundant blessings of God.

The ultimate blessing of God is Jesus himself. As Abram was called to be the source of blessing for all others, as Peter, James and John were chosen to witness the transfiguration of Jesus, so today we too are invited to look to Jesus for inspiration during this holy season. Paul speaks of the salvation that Jesus brings as having come, not because of any works of righteousness that we might have performed, but because of the grace of God. Once again the Lenten readings focus on the merciful action of God in our lives, and in the end they point to Jesus.

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HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why might Jesus have only taken three of his disciples up the mountain with him?

Why were the disciples frightened by what they saw?

Why might Jesus have warned the disciples to tell no one what they had seen?

Can you recall other biblical events in which mountaintops feature at special moments?

Why was it important for Jesus and the disciples to go back down the mountain?

What message did the Transfiguration hold for the three disciples who witnessed it?

What message does the event hold for us today?

Have you ever had the experience of not wanting to 'go back down the mountain'?

Why is this reading chosen for use in the season of Lent?

FIRST READING Gen 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth

shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

SECOND READING 2 Tm 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News. The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Mt 17:1-9

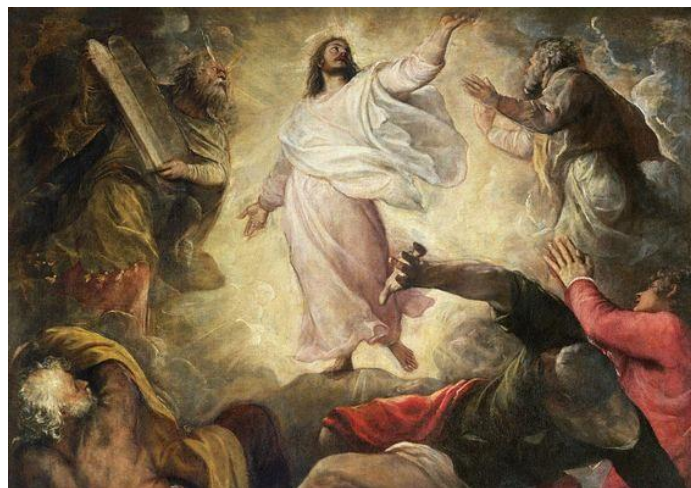
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**READINGS NEXT WEEK: 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT**

First Reading: Ex 17:3-7

Second Reading: Rom 5:1-2. 5-8

Gospel: Jn 4:5-42