



# 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*



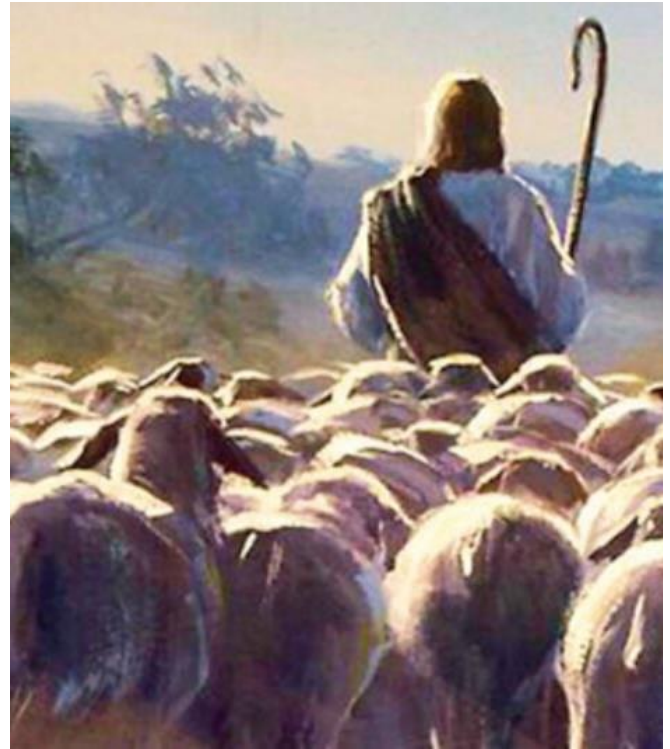
## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER: 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023

### GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

When we celebrated our First Reconciliations recently, we used the parable of the lost sheep from Luke's Gospel. You know the one; a shepherd has a hundred sheep but loses one, so he leaves the ninety-nine to seek out the one that is lost...

Jesus puts the parable as a question; 'Which one of you...?', so after we finished the story I asked the kids what they thought. Would they have left the ninety-nine to seek out the one? Without fail, they all shook their heads and answered quite honestly 'No'. And if I am honest, I would definitely hesitate as well. 'Cut your losses' as they say! But thank goodness God sees things differently, and so has sent us his Son to be our Shepherd, and what a Good, Good Shepherd he is!

Today we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. Christ *is* our Good Shepherd. There is so much to this image, so much in fact that Jesus returns to it several times throughout the Gospels and draws a different lesson each time. I want to just focus on three things today.



#### ***"THE SHEEP FOLLOW BECAUSE THEY KNOW HIS VOICE"***

It is not always easy to be a follower of Jesus. His teachings often challenge us. But we know we can trust him because he has proved his love for us. When we hear him call, we can confidently follow.

#### ***"FRESH AND GREEN ARE THE PASTURES"***

A Shepherd cares for his flock by leading them to good pasture. Jesus knows our deepest needs and will not leave us hungry. In a very special way, he continues to nourish us by his Word and by his Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. It truly is the Bread of Life, our Food for the Journey. Today we welcome the children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion, together with their families. What a special week to begin this time of preparation! The Eucharist is always here for you, so that you never need go hungry.

#### ***"I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL!"***

Not only does Jesus nourish us, he also protects us. A Shepherd has to carefully guide his flock as they move, so that they won't be hurt or go astray. As our Good Shepherd, Jesus guides us safely through all dangers, keeping us from sin by shining the light of Truth and strengthening us from temptation. As our Way, he leads us into fullness of Life. He will seek out and welcome back the shaggy and half-starved, but he doesn't want to leave us like that! He won't rest until we are healthy and strong.

He has come that we may have life, and have it to the full!

#### **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**

Rob Pook (24<sup>th</sup> April)  
Max Sewell, Mary Beilby, John Rohan,  
Matthew Patching, Victor Bryant  
Mervyn Bryant, Dot McGregor  
Francesco Miceli

**SICK LIST**

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

**THIS WEEKEND (29<sup>TH</sup>/30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL)**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

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

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday: 5.30pm  
Wednesday: 10am  
Thursday: Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm  
Friday: 11am Rosary & Adoration, 11.30am Mass  
Saturday: Confessions 9:30am, Mass 10am

**NEXT WEEKEND (6/7<sup>TH</sup> MAY)**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**COLLECTIONS:**

1<sup>st</sup> (Presbytery): \$ 835  
2<sup>nd</sup> (Parish): \$ 810

**NOTICES**



**PRAYERS FOR FIRST COMMUNIONS**

This week we welcome our candidates and their families as we begin final preparations for their First Holy Communion (first weekend in June). Please keep these children and their families in your prayers, and encourage them if you see them around the traps! Please also offer some prayers for all of us who are helping to prepare them as well, that we might faithfully and joyfully pass on the great treasure we have ourselves received.

**CUPPA AFTER MASS NEXT SUNDAY 7TH MAY**

**ROSARY IN THE CHURCH**

Saturday 13th May. 10am. All welcome



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**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**

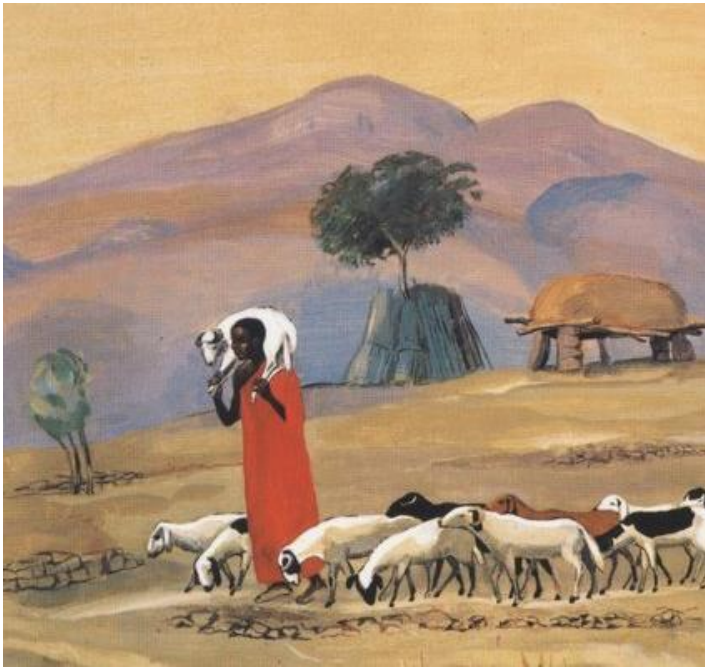
Principal: Kate Quin  
2 Murlong St Swan Hill  
Ph. 03 5033 2541

[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)



### **WORLD DAY OF VOCATIONS**

Known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). We remember young women and men throughout our country and diocese and pray they may be open to hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to marriage, the single life, the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

#### **VOCATIONS PRAYER**

Holy Spirit, stir within us the passion to promote vocations to the single and married life, consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, diocesan priesthood, and permanent diaconate.

Inspire us daily to respond to Your call with boundless compassion, abundant generosity, and radical availability.

Help us to remember our own baptismal call to rouse us to invite the next generation to hear and respond to Your call.

Inspire parents, families, and lay ecclesial ministers to begin a conversation with young Catholics to consider how they will live lives of holiness and sacred service.

Nudge inquirers and motivate discerners to learn more about vowed and associate commitment in apostolic life, cloistered life, evangelical life, lay ecclesial ministers, missionary life, monastic life, and societies of apostolic life.

Ignite our Church with the confident humility that there is an urgent need for all the baptized to live their vocation in solidarity with those who are poor, neglected, and marginalized.

### **REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA**

This is 'Good Shepherd Sunday' and a particular focus taken today is leadership. Which voices do we follow? Why do we follow these voices and not others? Authentic leadership is rooted in authority, and authentic authority is the ability to author or bring life to birth. Genuine authority cherishes, guards and encourages the best in life; it provides rest and refreshment; it guides our steps; it nourishes us; it leads us to God. Peter is an example of authentic authority: he proclaims the truth, even if others find it hard to hear; he denounces error, even when this places him in jeopardy; he calls for a change of heart, even when it makes great demands.

Authentic leadership is patterned after the leadership of Jesus. It is gentle and familiar, like the true shepherd; it has won the confidence of those who follow, as did the true shepherd; it is committed to the enhancement of the lives of others, as was Jesus. Authentic leadership is willing to forgo its own needs and to deny its own interests in favour of the needs and interests of others.

Heavy demands are placed on those who follow authentic leadership. Those who follow the Good Shepherd must follow him in the dark valleys as well as to the refreshing streams. They must be willing to relinquish some of their own plans and self-determination and entrust themselves to his leadership. They must never forget that they are following a shepherd who has paid the ultimate price on their behalf. © Dianne Bergant CSA

#### **HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

Why do these images of the sheep and the shepherd still have so much appeal today?

To whom might Jesus have been referring when describing the 'others' as thieves and brigands?

In what way does Jesus act as a gate?

What do you think it means to live life to the full?

Why might Jesus have used these images of himself as the gate and as the shepherd?

Why might the Jews have been attracted to an image of God as shepherd?

How can the concept of 'life to the full' be misunderstood or misused?

In what ways is the invitation to have life to the full also a challenge?

**FIRST READING** Acts 2:14. 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
*God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1

**(R)The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
 Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.  
 If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

**(R)The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Pt 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter  
*You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He

was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
 I know my sheep, and mine know me.  
 Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Jn 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,  
 I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come  
 are thieves and brigands;  
 but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:  
 he will go freely in and out  
 and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes  
 only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come  
 so that they may have life  
 and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**READINGS NEXT WEEK: 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Second Reading: 1 Pt 2:4-9

Gospel: Jn 14:1-12