



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



11TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

18TH JUNE 2023

SENT OUT TO SHARE WHAT WE OURSELVES HAVE RECEIVED

When we pray the Nicene Creed (the longer one), we say 'I believe in one, holy, catholic and **apostolic** Church.' So what do we mean by the 'apostolic' bit? Today's Gospel can help us.

Jesus called twelve men forward out of his followers for a special mission. They would be commissioned to go out in his name and with his authority. Later, after Pentecost, they would go out with the strength of the Holy Spirit to give witness to Christ's victory over death and sin, thus laying the foundations for the Church.

So what does that mean for us? Firstly it means this- the Church they founded is the same Church we are part of today. You can trace an unbroken line of apostolic succession right back to this first commissioning. The special mission of the twelve was taken up by their successors the bishops, who by the laying on of hands have passed that mission down to our days. Not all have been good shepherds, many have failed dismally (Judas was only the first to do so), but despite the weakness and sin of particular men, Christ has continued to be faithful to his Church and has never abandoned her. And because he is faithful, the Church has never completely lost access to his grace, his life and his truth. Even in its darkest moments, Christ has still been with his Church, holding her firmly in his love. And where Christ is, we too should remain.

The Church has faced many dark moments. There has always been a temptation, especially in such hard times, to want to cut ties with the Church as we have received it and to start again. Surely, we would do better if we cast off such and such a burden of our history, or if we left aside such and such a part of our tradition in order to fit more easily into the world around us? Surely we could do so much better if we structured things differently, or only associated with the right type of people, and left behind that other lot who is dragging us down? But no matter how appealing our attempted solutions might appear, we have to ask ourselves again and again- where is Christ, and where is he calling us to be? He is with his Church, and that is where he wants us. No matter how huge a mess we make of it, no matter how great a job we think we could do in starting again... this is where he wants us to be. Because this is the same Church he founded, and the faith and tradition we share is the same faith that he handed onto his apostles, and they in turn have handed down to us. True, the Church is always in need of renewal, because we are always in need of conversion, but that renewal and conversion always has to be rooted in the tradition we have received. Otherwise, it risks cutting ties with what Christ has intended for us. That tradition itself is organic- it grows in the process of being handed down- but always in continuity with what has come before. Otherwise, it would be a different Gospel than the one Christ preached. And so we do our best to trust in his plan.

If we can hold that trust, that Christ is with his Church, this very Church that we are a part of, then in the midst of frustration and disappointments a new hope-filled perspective opens up for us. We too are right at the heart of that long story. We see and hear what the first disciples saw and heard. We work alongside every saint of the Church's history, sharing the same mission. We too share in that task of handing on what we ourselves have received. Just like the first apostles, we too are sent out to share the Good News.

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

Catherine Curran

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Margaret Jirik, Mary Flannery
Des O'Sullivan, Isabella Rinaldi,
Margaret Cloonan, Edna Parson,
Veronica Gleeson, Ellen Giddings,
Mavis O'Halloran, Immacolata Capone,
Anne Walsh, Francis Loughran,
Leo McLoughlan, Martin Egan

SICK LIST

Yvonne Richardson, 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 (17/18TH JUNE)

11TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Lalbert

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

No Mass Sea Lake 5pm- See notice

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tues: Funeral Mass Catherine Curran 11am

Also Mass 5.30pm

Wednesday: 10am

Thursday: 5:30pm

Friday: 11am Adoration, 11.30am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND (24TH/25TH JUNE)

12TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES



FESTA DELLA MADONNA DEL MONTE CARMELO

The Annual Festa will be celebrated again this year on Sunday 16th July with Mass at 10:30am followed by a Pasta Lunch and Raffle in the Parish Function Centre.

All are welcome!

CHANGE OF MASS TIMES: SEA LAKE

REPEATED FROM LAST WEEK'S BULLETIN

After a chat at Sea Lake on the 4th June, we agreed to drop the 5pm Evening Mass on the 3rd Sundays. The consensus was that Mass once a month on the 1st

Sunday at 8:30am was enough for the needs and circumstances of the Church Community. There will still be the occasional extra Masses for the special School Celebrations (Beginning of Year, Feast Day and End of Year) as well as Christmas Eve Mass.

'A GOOD KITCHEN' IN THE NEWS!

ABC News Online ran a great article this week on A Good Kitchen and the great work they do.

You might like to check it out- just go to abc.net.au/news and then search for 'A Good Kitchen' and it should pop right up. Well done once again to all the volunteers and donors who support this important mission. We are lucky to have such a service running here in our region.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

1st Coll (Supporting our Priests): \$ 805

2nd Coll (Supporting our Parish): \$ 905

Thank you for your contribution!

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



TESTING THE WATERS- MEN ALIVE

I've been meaning to put this out for a while now, I would like to get a feel for interest in running a 'Men Alive' retreat here in our Parish.

'Men Alive' is an Australian initiative. It is open to all men, young or old, working or retired, married or single, and is aimed at encouraging and empowering men to become the best version of themselves by providing a platform to come together, share their experiences and build each other up. We aren't always the best at providing such a platform in the average parish in Australia- 'Men Alive' is aimed at filling that important gap. Perhaps it would be helpful for us here in Holy Family Parish too?

My hope would be to find a core group of 4-5 men who are interested and keen, who can come together to help host and promote a retreat weekend. There is a team that comes in to help run the retreat, but they need boots on the ground to build up the momentum and make it successful.

I will put this invite out again once I am back from my annual leave next month, but for now I would encourage any man who is interested to do a little research. Start by having a look at menalive.org.au If you are keen to know more, let me know and I can share some other materials I have, and even help put you in touch with the Echuca group so you can get a feel for what it looks like in practice.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Q. What does Jesus mean by 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few'?

Q. What are the apostles commissioned by Jesus to do?

Q. Why might Matthew's gospel have Jesus sending the apostles only to the Jews at first?

Q. Why might this passage be used to talk about vocations to the priesthood and religious life?

Q. What message can you take from this passage for your own life?

Q. Why has the gospel writer included the description of the crowds before the sending out of the Twelve?

Q. What might it mean that the apostles were to 'proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'?

Q. In what way does this commissioning apply to you today? What are you 'sent' to do?

Q. How do you understand the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

REFLECTION BY FR MICHAEL TATE

Guts in a Knot

When Jesus saw the crowds 'he felt sorry for them'.

The Greek original actually says 'his guts were in a knot'. When Jesus saw a desperate need he found it stomach-churning stuff.

Our bodies often tell us what we should pray for. Another good signal is tears, not only of sadness but also of joy. Body-felt impulse and prayer go together, whether celebrating good things or confronting bad things. This is what our Lord wants and, where possible, leading to effective action... labourers in the harvest.

So, when our body gives us the signal – stomach in a knot, or tremendous joy flooding into our lives – follow the body's signals. Pray for the person or the situation concerned. You can be sure that your prayer will be authentic.

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HAVE YOU THOUGHT? – *The labourers are few.*

This passage is often used as the basis for sermons, conversations or even marketing about vocations – vocations to religious life as well as lay vocations. The image of a rich harvest with not enough labourers to reap the harvest is a powerful one. In the Western world in particular today it is very true of priestly and religious vocations. However, it is equally true of lay vocations. Too few people are prepared to 'own' their faith and live the message of the gospel in their day-to-day work and interactions with others. In what way are you a labourer in the harvest?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jer 20:10-13

Second Reading: Rom 5:12-15

Gospel: Mt 10:26-33

FIRST READING Ex 19:2-6

A reading from the book of Exodus
You will be a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.'" The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 99:2-3. 5. R. v.3

(R.) We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

Cry with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age.

(R.) We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

SECOND READING Rom 5:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
We have been reconciled to God through the death of his Son; we are saved by his life.

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. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we

are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation. The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mk 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near.

repent and believe the Good News! Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 9:36 – 10:8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
He summoned his twelve disciples and sent them out.

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.' He summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

