



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*



12TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 25TH JUNE 2023

"DO NOT BE AFRAID!"

If I started the sentence "I am worried about the future because..."

...would you find it hard to finish it for me?

I doubt it. We have so many worries thrust upon us. There is the big picture stuff; concerns about our world, our environment, our society, its culture, our political scene, the economy, the rising cost of living... the exact focus of our worries will vary from person to person and from week to week, but the anxiety is almost universal.

And that is just the outside noise. Even if we cut ourselves off from all media, we would still face the very real concerns we all face in our day-to-day life; worries about our health, about the bills we have to pay, about work or our businesses, and most of all our worries about the people we love.

All these fears are based in something real. We may overblow them at times, and make them bigger than they actually are, but they are not imaginary. Some of them we can address directly- by finding that help we need or having that conversation we've been putting off- but most of the time we just have to find a way to live with them. We can't just wish our problems out of existence. We can try and ignore them for a while, but that doesn't make them disappear.

And after a time the worry will come back to us.

The question then is, when faced with our fears, where do we turn? Or rather, to whom do we turn? Clearly, Jesus knew our reality when he spoke the words we hear in today's Gospel. He faced fears just as we do. In fact, he felt them even more deeply than we do, because he felt them not just for himself, but for all of us. "And his sweat became like great drops of blood" was not an exaggeration. When he tells us 'Do not be afraid', he is not simply being naïve, pretending we can just bury our problems. No. He never shied away from his, "Not my will, but yours..." Jesus is not denying the very real worries we face. He is instead pointing us to the even greater reality that above all of our troubles, we are always held securely in God's care.

More powerful than any fear, God's love will defend us. His protection will outlast any attack. His strength can lift any burden that weighs us down. His peace can abide through the fiercest of storms. He is the Creator of all that is, the source of all life, the font of all justice, the healer of all hurts, ... while also the one who embraced and shared in our vulnerability on the Cross. "But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero!" With God by our side, we can endure any worry the world will throw at us.

Parish Contact Details:

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

Betty Day
Giuseppe Sapuppo 'Joe'
Margaret Ritchie

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Thomas Considine, Frank Powell
Brian O'Bree, Des Rinaldi
Mary Kelly, Sarah O'Halloran, John Hayes
Luke O'Bryan, Noel Storer
Margaret Fitzgerald.

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 (24TH/25TH JUNE)

12TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday: 10:30am Funeral Mass Betty Day

Tuesday: 5.30pm Mass

Wednesday: 10:30am Funeral Mass Joe Sapuppo

Thursday: 5pm Confessions,
5:30pm Mass, Adoration until 7pm

Friday: 11am Adoration, 11.30am Mass

Saturday: 9:30am Confessions
10am Mass (1st Saturday), **Followed by Rosary**

NEXT WEEKEND (1ST/2ND JULY)

13TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY

This week Ben and Demi are presenting their son
Baux James Hallam for Baptism.

We wish Baux every blessing this day and always.
May he always be held in God's loving care, with his
Light to guide him. And blessings for his parents and
godparents too!

FORWARD NOTICE: ANNUAL LEAVE

I will soon be heading off on annual leave from
Monday 3rd July until Saturday 29th July.

Fr Peter Hudson will return to supply for the first
weekend I'm away (8th and 9th). Fr Jim McKay will
then cover the next two.

MONTHLY SATURDAY ROSARY

The Monthly Saturday Rosary will now be held on the
First Saturdays of the month, rather than the second
as previously. This way it can be held after with the
10am Swan Hill Mass on First Saturdays- a two-for-
one special if you like!

So that means Monthly Rosary will be next Saturday,
1st July, in the Swan Hill Church. All welcome.



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!

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



SOME WORDS OF INSPIRATION FROM ST MARY MACKILLOP

“Whatever your troubles may be before you, accept them cheerfully, remembering whom you are trying to follow. **Do not be afraid.** Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you in all your life.” Mary MacKillop 12/1/1909

“See the protecting ... hand of God in all that is happening.” Mary MacKillop 1885

“Cling to God’s love and grace.” Mary MacKillop 1890

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why do you think ‘Do not be afraid’ is so frequently repeated in the Bible?

Why might this passage be titled in some versions of the Bible as ‘Bold Confession’?

In what ways can this message to the disciples be interpreted in a modern context?

What are some of the obstacles that make it hard to proclaim what you believe ‘from the house-tops’?

What message is meant to be conveyed by the imagery about the sparrows?

How might a message to ‘fear God’ be misunderstood and misused?

Who is someone you admire because they are not afraid to live their faith?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:
13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 First Reading: 2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16
 Second Reading: Rom 6:3-4. 8-11
 Gospel: Mt 10:37-42

GOSPEL REFLECTION

We read today’s Gospel in the context of last week’s Gospel in which Jesus sent the twelve disciples to proclaim the kingdom of heaven. In between last week’s reading and today’s reading, Jesus has predicted that the disciples will face difficulties in their mission. Many people will not receive them well, even within the land of Israel. Even family members will turn away from the disciples because of the disciples’ commitment to Jesus and the kingdom. Today’s Gospel offers the disciples consolation against this difficult truth.

This section of Matthew’s Gospel should be read in the context of Matthew’s intended audience, a Jewish-Christian community. The Gospel alludes to the dangers and persecutions that this community has most likely already faced and will continue to face. To reassure this community, Matthew recalls for them the encouraging words of Jesus that we read today.

In this Gospel passage, Jesus might be understood as putting suffering in perspective. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to keep their focus on God. Those who can harm the body do not have ultimate power; God does. Still persecution and suffering can not be avoided or prevented. But Jesus reassures his disciples that God knows and cares about what happens to his children.

We might not face the same type of persecution, but we do experience difficulties as we endeavor to live a Christian life. Sometimes we let the opinions of others prevent us from doing what we know to be right. We need the reminder that what God thinks about us is more important. We are reassured by the promise that God cares for us and protects us.

© Loyola Press



FIRST READING Jer 20:10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

Jeremiah said:

'I hear so many disparaging me,

"Terror from every side!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall,

"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.

Then we will master him and take our revenge!"

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;

my opponents will stumble, mastered,

confounded by their failure;

everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,

who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the

vengeance you will take on them, for I have

committed my cause to you.

Sing to the Lord,

praise the Lord,

for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the

hands of evil men.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me.

This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour.

In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind;

in your compassion, turn towards me.

The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the

needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains.

Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures.

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

SECOND READING Rom 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the

whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 15:26. 27

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 10:26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.' The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

