



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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*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*



## 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2023: 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

*...BUT AFTERWARDS THOUGHT BETTER OF IT AND WENT...*

If I was to pull out a single message from this week's Scriptures, it would be this; with God, change for the better is always possible. An initial 'No' can turn into a conscious 'Yes'. True conversion and repentance can happen. So if you are ever left feeling 'stuck' in bad habits, or 'bogged' and unable to move forward into healthy ones, don't despair- God still holds out hope for conversion and change, even if you are struggling to.

Of course, the possibility for change has a flip side as well - we can also lapse and fall out of grace. That is why we should pray for perseverance and keep our eyes fixed on the Lord. God's patience and mercy must not be taken for granted. But we should never stop hoping in his mercy either. We are never beyond God's help, even if we find that hard to believe. No matter how long we may have put off a particular act of love, or struggled with a particular sin, he can still bring about that change in our life.

No matter how far we have fallen, God has the power to lift us up. And not only does he have the power to lift us up, he has shown us through his Son that there is nothing he desires more. I think it is worth taking today's Second Reading from Philippians and sitting with them in prayer. They are powerful. They tell us how the Son "did not cling to his equality with God, but emptied himself..." He did not remain aloof from our struggles, but humbled himself and came down to meet us at our weakest and most desperate. He descended even to death, and that a shameful death on the Cross. In doing so he proved himself to be our truest friend, refusing to abandon us in our need, and acting purely out of love for us. And then, because he was ready to come down, he opened the way for us to be lifted up alongside him. Because he was ready to empty himself, we are able to be filled with his life and grace.

Christ makes change possible in our lives. We will each experience that power as we move through life, as Christ brings growth and healing according to our own particular needs. It is good to name some of those changes for ourselves, to strengthen our hope that his power is working in us. Maybe nothing comes to mind straight away, but if you search your memory you will find something. Perhaps you will find that some acts of love that used to be a real challenge now come easily. Or maybe you will recognise how you have grown in compassion or understanding. Or maybe you don't gossip as much any more, or are less judgemental. Or maybe you just waste less time in front of a screen! You will find something true for you.

But there is one constant change we all share in, and that is the miracle of the Eucharist. We bring forward simple bread and wine, and with them we offer our lives and all our efforts to follow the Lord. They are placed in Christ's blessing hands, and there they are changed. The bread and wine become his Body and Blood, and our lives become his as we touch the awesome Mystery of his Dying and Rising for us. The change to the bread and wine is instantaneous. Perhaps the change in our life is more gradual, and sometimes hardly perceptible. But it is no less real or true. With God, change for the better is always possible.

### **Parish Contact Details:**

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Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://northeastmallee.org.au)

**Office Hrs:** Tues, Wed 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**

Mary Bell  
Fr Donald Gunn (Balranald)

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Immacolata Marsilino, Doreen Greenham, Ellen Kelly  
Dick Balsarini, Mary Louisa Boulton, Frances Mineo  
Margaret McLoughlin, Stephen Walsh, Bill O'Loughlin  
Carmel Kelly, Thomas Patrick Bell, Alma Cameron  
Maurice Foley, William Kelly, John Considine,  
John Tuohey, Margaret Barry, Ada & Gordon Dwyer

**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,

**THIS WEEKEND (30<sup>TH</sup> SEPT/1<sup>ST</sup> OCT)  
26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

**Monday:** 5:30pm

**Tuesday: Funeral Mass Mary Bell 1pm**

**Wednesday:** 10am

**Thursday:** 5pm Confessions  
5.30pm Mass, Adoration until 7pm

**Friday:** 11am Adoration, 11.30am Mass

**Saturday:** 9.30am Confession: 10am Mass  
Followed by Rosary at 10.30am

**NEXT WEEKEND (7<sup>TH</sup>/8<sup>TH</sup> OCT)  
27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Friday 5pm Culgoa

Saturday: 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8:30am Quambatook

Sunday: 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Nandaly

**NOTICES**



**FINAL MASS LALBERT**

The date for St Michael's final Mass is now fast approaching! As previously advertised, we will celebrate a **final Mass of Thanksgiving in Lalbert on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 2:30pm.**

Mass will be followed by afternoon tea at the Lalbert Community Centre and a chance to catch up with some old friends and share a few yarns. Please bring a plate to share. I'm sure many families with ties to Lalbert might like to be part of this- please pass the word around. We would also appreciate any photos or memories that might be shared- the idea is to set up a display table at the centre.

**WELCOME TO LOTTIE & MYA**

We thank Braidon and Brooke who are presenting their daughters Lottie and Mya for Baptism. We welcome Lottie and Mya into God's family the Church and pray that God will bless them today and always.

**CUPPA AFTER MASS TODAY: ALL WELCOME**



**RAFFLE: ST PATRICK'S PYRAMID HILL**

Fr Dean Bongat has asked if we might help support a raffle being run by St Patrick's Pyramid Hill. The proceeds will go towards constructing a new accessible toilet for the Parish. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize is \$1500, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$1000, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$500. The raffle will be drawn on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> of October in Pyramid Hill, and winners will be notified via text message, call or email.

**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)

Tickets are \$2 each and will be available after Masses this weekend and next, or through the Parish Office. You are welcome to take a booklet or two away to sell outside the Parish- just return by Sun Oct 8th.



### **OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY**

Our Lady of the Rosary has its origins in the 1571 victory of Lepanto, Greece, when the combined Christian fleet defeated the Turks, so preventing their occupation of Europe. Pope Pius V attributed this to the recitation of the Holy Rosary. October 7<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Our Lady of the Rosary.

### **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER IS FOR YOU!**

#### **“LIVE YOUR BEST MARRIED LIFE IN LOVE”**

Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This weekend gives married couples time to nurture your relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. Every married couple deserves a Marriage Encounter weekend!!

The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. Please check our website for more details.

**Date: 3-5 November 2023 in Melbourne**

**BOOK NOW: ONLY FIVE PLACES LEFT!**

Information/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409

183 676 or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Website: wwme.org.au

### **HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

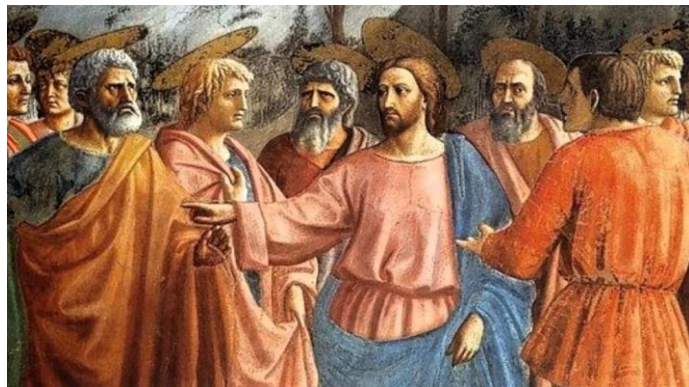
Which character in the gospel story do you relate to? Why?

In what ways have you ever said ‘Yes’ with your words but ‘No’ with your actions?

In what ways do people say ‘Yes’ to God but fail to follow through on their commitment?

What message for your life do you take from this week’s gospel?

### **BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**



The context for today’s Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers’ tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today’s Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that “actions speak louder than words” and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father’s will.

Jesus’ conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John’s message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent—tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God. © Loyola press

**FIRST READING** Ezekiel 18:25-28

*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

*The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The Word Of the Lord:

All: Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

**(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:

for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,

and the love you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth.

In your love remember me,

because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,

he guides the humble in the right path;

he teaches his way to the poor.

**(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

**SECOND READING** Philippians 2:1-11

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

*In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,

yet he did not cling

to his equality with God

but emptied himself

to assume the condition of a slave,

and became as men are;

and being as all men are,

he was humbler yet,

even to accepting death,

death on a cross.

But God raised him high

and gave him the name

which is above all other names

so that all beings

in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,

should bend the knee at the name of Jesus

and that every tongue should acclaim

Jesus Christ as Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;

I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Matthew 21:28-32

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

*He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people,

'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today."

He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better

of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to

the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go.

Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said.

Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and

prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God

before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true

righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax

collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you

refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43