



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 50324144

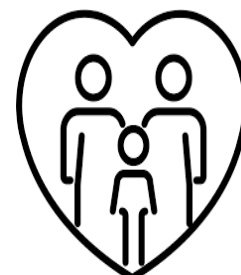
Website: northeastmallee.org.au

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



10TH SEPTEMBER 2023
23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

FR JAMES' ANNIVERSARY – 10 YEARS A PRIEST



Congratulations Fr James on your 10 Year Anniversary to the priesthood! Your chosen verse from your ordination was - 'This is my body, which is given for you.' (Luke 22:19), and we give thanks for your readiness to lay down your life to minister to us and bring God's love to us in the beautiful manner that you do. We greatly appreciate you and know how blessed we are to have you as our Parish Priest.

So, let's celebrate...

Following the Swan Hill 10:30am Sunday Mass, North East Holy Family Parish is celebrating Father James's milestone anniversary with a party in our Parish Function Centre. There will be drinks and speeches immediately after Mass, with lunch, dessert and music to follow. No booking is required & there is no cost however donations are accepted from anyone wishing to contribute. Again, there will be an opportunity to sign a card and contribute towards a gift after Masses this weekend.

Thank you to all our church centres for assisting with the various ministries at Sundays Mass

Welcomers: Brian & Helen Jobling (Lalbert), Joseph Chand & Robert Jager.

Readers Chris Hall (Nandaly) & Chris Sewell (Culgoa)

Responsorial Psalm sung by Geraldine Vytilingam

Prayer of the Faithful: Judy Cameron (Quambatook) & Jenny Newell (Sea Lake)

Offertory: Kerr Family A big thanks also

MC: Brian Wood. Photographer: Graeme Page. Music: Geraldine Vytilingam

A big thank you also to the many volunteers who have contributed in so many different ways to this special celebration.

Some sample reflections from our parishioners

"Thank you Fr James for being a great priest but you're not that great at cards. "

"We celebrate Fr James for his 10th year for being a priest and I've learned more about church because of you."

"Such a lovely, caring and genuine man and his priestly mission is tops."

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, 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

Jim Bookham
Leo Clarke

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Vi Power, John McNamara, Mary Casey
Ellen Olive Considine, Alice Ross, Ronald Shepherd
Mary Scarce, Les O'Halloran, Eileen Young, Joseph Case,
George William Ledwich, Thomas Nolan, Norma Meney
Guisseppina Mase, Denis Gallagher, Robert Ryan
Doreen Meney, Maggie Nolan, Jim Shepherd
Bruce McArthur, Ronald Ballantyne, Des Bourke

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 (9TH/10TH SEPTEMBER)

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Followed by Anniversary Celebration

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday Funeral Mass for Leo Clarke 1.30pm

Tuesday: 5.30pm

Wednesday 10am

Thursday: 5pm Confessions

5.30pm Mass, Adoration until 7pm

Friday: 11am Adoration, 11.30am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND (16TH/17TH SEPTEMBER)

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday: 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday: 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

SWAN HILL SHOW GATE VOLUNTEERS

On the weekend of Friday 6th and Saturday 7th of October the Show committee have asked for assistance from the local churches for people to work on the gates. We are looking for volunteers to help out. There will be a meeting for volunteers prior to the show to show you what is needed. Signup sheets with times slots are in the foyer. If you are able to assist by helping for even an hour it would be greatly appreciated as this is an event which supports the local community.

ST MICHAEL'S LALBERT

As announced last week, the Mass community of St Michael's Lalbert recently chose to cease gathering for Sunday Masses and to move to close the church building. In recognition of the faith and dedication of the many parishioners connected to St Michael's, we will celebrate a **final Mass of Thanksgiving in Lalbert on Sunday 15th October at 2:30pm.**

I'm sure many families with ties to Lalbert might like to be part of this- please pass the word around. If you are keen to help out on the day let us know. We would also appreciate any photos or memories that might be shared. The plan will be to share an afternoon tea after the Mass- more details to come.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP-

THANK YOU & WORD ON NEW ENVELOPES

Thank you for playing your part in supporting our Parish and making our parish family what it is.

Envelopes available at the back of the Church

If you have recently changed your method of giving, for example by signing up to CDF Pay, we may accidentally still put envelopes out in your name as they were ordered a few weeks ago. If you no longer need the envelopes, please just hand them back to Glenda or myself or leave them outside the Parish

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

Office with a note. And if you haven't already done so, please fill out one of the blue pledge cards so we can keep track of your planned giving.

Thank you for those who have already handed in their updated blue pledge sheets. Just to clarify- if you are happy with your current method and amount of giving, there is no need to do anything. Thank you for your ongoing contribution. But if you would like to update your giving amount, change your method of giving, or join the planned giving program, please complete the blue pledge sheet and return it to the parish (either directly to myself or Glenda or in an envelope placed in the collection baskets).

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What stops a person confronting a friend about a way in which the friend has hurt them?

How would you respond to a friend telling you that something you said had hurt them?

What are some of the ways you avoid dealing with a hurtful situation directly?

Why is it sometimes difficult to say 'sorry'?

What are some phrases you might use when talking to someone about how they hurt you?

In the final line of the gospel passage, Jesus assures us that when two or more come together in his name, he is there. How might that change the way you solve a problem with a friend?

Some More sample reflections from our parishioners

Great man shares himself around.

So good with those doing sacraments.

A gentle man, caring, committed selfless Priest.

Been going to Mass for over 50 years- best priest ever.

Great man shares himself around.

How blessed we are to have Fr James.

Thank you Fr James for being a good priest and helping me understand God and Jesus.

Thank you for helping me become a better person through church.

"Thank God Father James is human!"

You have been an amazing priest for me and for many other people that you have been a priest for at many other places and I thank you for giving me a special role in the church as an altar server and for many other people.

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel reading is taken from a chapter of Matthew's Gospel, which is sometimes called the "discourse on the Church" or the "church order" discourse. In this part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks more directly about matters of Church discipline and order. In today's reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word church in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew's record of Jesus' teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the "discourse on the Church" (Matthew 18:1-14), Matthew addresses the Christian community's concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the disciples' question about who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the kingdom of heaven must be like children, and he cautions those leaders who might lead these "little ones" astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those "little ones" who have strayed.

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved, the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church.

Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; he acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers his disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this teaching that the message of hope is found: Jesus is present with the community and will guide the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God's assistance.

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FIRST READING Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

**(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

**(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

SECOND READING Romans 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 2 Corinthians 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

*God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted
to us. Alleluia!*

GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
*If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won
that person back.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



READINGS NEXT WEEK:

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35