



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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



## 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023: 32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

### RECEIVE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST!

We have six children being baptised this weekend in our Parish, which is very special. After being baptised with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, the Rite is completed with four extra signs. They will be anointed with the perfumed Oil of Chrism, clothed in a white garment, blessed over their ears and lips, and entrusted with the Light of Christ from the Easter Candle. I always love the candle bit, and the children always do too! Even if they have protested the water and thrown off the stole, they always

love the candle! Their godparents will hold it for them for the time being (safety first!), but that little flame is a symbol of the gift of faith that is been given to them. Their parents and godparents will have a special role in nurturing that faith, but eventually the children will be called to take on the light of Christ for themselves.



The words of the Rite say it so succinctly and well. When we hand over the candle we pray;

*Receive the light of Christ!*

*Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly.*

*These children of yours have been enlightened by Christ.*

*They are to walk always as children of the light.*

*May they keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts.*

*When the Lord comes, may they go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.*

Do you notice something about the prayer? It makes it very clear that the job isn't over yet. In fact the real task is just beginning. They are receiving the Light of Christ. This Light will always be there to guide them and push aside the darkness that can overcome us, but it has to be kept alive. It has to be fed in order to shine brightly. As the baptised, we are also tasked with the mission of sharing Christ's Light with everyone we meet.

But again, if our light isn't to be exhausted, it has to be refueled and fed. And it is good for us who were baptised a long time ago to hear these words again; because they remind us that this is a lifelong mission. Our work is far from complete. The journey begins for our little children today, but all of us should hear the same call; Keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts! That way, we will be ready to meet the Lord when he comes.

Now, little flames kept burning brightly, ready to meet the Lord when he comes... does that sound a little familiar? It is just like this Sunday's Gospel isn't it, and the parable of the ten bridesmaids. The five wise ones kept their lamps trimmed and their oil jars full, and so they were ready to meet the Bridegroom when he came.

Both the Parable and the Baptism Rite then are reminding us of the same thing; be ready, keep the flame alive! And how do we do that? The answer is really very simple; through prayer, the Sacraments and through our everyday acts of love. Simple enough for even the smallest child!

#### **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**  
 Pasquale Carpinteri

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Roma Mannix, Gerard Meehan, Dennis Cox  
 George Power, Joseph Boulton, Daisie Byrne  
 William Kelly, Lindsay Gidding, Peter Craig  
 John Hayes, John Sheldon, Ivy Sewell  
 Brian O'Bryan, Marion Derbas, Phil Milano  
 Cliff Hinton, Bernie Maher, Michael Nolan,  
 Gavan O'Brien (1 year)

**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 (11<sup>TH</sup>/12<sup>TH</sup> NOV)**  
**32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday: 6:00pm Swan Hill  
 Sunday: 8.30am Quambatook  
 Sunday: 10:30am Swan Hill  
 Sunday: 5pm Nandaly

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**  
**Tuesday NO MASS**

**Wednesday NB 5.30pm Mass**  
 Thursday 5pm Confessions  
 5.30pm Mass, Adoration until 7pm  
**Friday: Funeral Mass 10.30am**  
 Pasquale Carpinteri

**NEXT WEEKEND (19/20<sup>TH</sup> NOV)**  
**33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill *with Confirmations*  
**Sunday 8.30am Culgoa**  
 Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill *with Confirmations*  
**Sunday 6pm Swan Hill Vietnamese Mass**

**NOTICES**



**BAPTISM WELCOME**

This week we are blessed to receive 6 children into God's family through Baptism.  
 On Saturday night, Emma and Troy are presenting their children Quinn and Koah Bonazza, and Ryan and Tessa their children Tali and Mia Billing.  
 On Sunday Brianna and Tyson will present their son James Taverna, and Samantha and Lincoln their daughter Reeva Frost.  
 We wish all these children every blessing today, and for their lives ahead. May they carry the Light of Christ with them wherever they go!

**CHANGE TO CULGOA MASS TIME**

With the closure of St Michael's Lalbert, Mass will now be celebrated at **Culgoa on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 8.30am, starting next Sunday.**

**BISHOP PAULS VISIT.**

Bishop Paul will be visiting Swan Hill next weekend for our Confirmations and weekend Masses.



**CONFIRMATION**

Our parish children are now finishing preparations for their Confirmations which will be celebrated at masses in Swan Hill next weekend. Please keep them in your prayers.

**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)

**VIETNAMESE MASS:  
SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

The Vietnamese Catholic community in Swan Hill are blessed to have Fr. Phu's visit and celebrated mass in Vietnamese at 6:00 PM. He also planned to help the Vietnamese prepare for the upcoming Advent and Christmas via Confessions at 4:30 PM. You are most welcome to attend the mass with us.



**CHÚA NHẬT 33 THƯỜNG NIÊN 19.11.2023**

Cộng đoàn Anh Chị Em Công giáo Việt Nam tại khu vực Swan Hill rất hân hạnh được chào đón Linh mục Phaolô Lư Văn Phú ghé thăm và cử hành Thánh lễ vào lúc 18h (6:00 PM).

Ngài cũng sẽ giúp Anh Chị Em chuẩn bị tâm hồn cho mùa Vọng và mùa Giáng sinh sắp tới qua Bí tích Hoà giải vào lúc 16:30 (4:30 PM).

Sau Thánh lễ xin mời Anh Chị Em cùng tham dự buổi họp mặt thân mật với Cha sở và Cha Phú.

Trân trọng

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

- Why would Jesus have used a story about bridesmaids waiting for a groom?
- Why wouldn't the wise bridesmaids give their spare oil to the others?
- How do you think the bride might have reacted to the events of the story?
- In what ways is this story a parable of the Kingdom of God?
- What message comes out of this gospel for a modern audience?
- How can we properly prepare for the coming of the Kingdom?
- In what ways are some Christians today like the foolish bridesmaids?



**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE**

Reflecting on this Gospel passage, Pope Francis affirms that 'Jesus wants to tell us that we must be prepared for the encounter with him'. Jesus gives a pretty blunt message of preparedness, after all: 'stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour'.

But the Pope reminds us that this readiness of which Jesus speaks is not meant to be just for 'the final encounter'. Jesus wants us to be ready, as the Pope puts it, 'for the everyday great and small encounters'. Jesus wants us to be prepared by being wakeful. That means being alert and active.

As Pope Francis further reminds us, the lamps symbolise faith and the oil symbolises charity. We might therefore ask ourselves whether and how we prepare our lamps of faith to shine? Do we see Jesus in the poor, the sick, the lonely, the forgotten peoples of this world, and act accordingly? Or do we sleepily wander through life fixated only on the final encounter, slowly letting the oil of charity run dry and the lamp of faith grow dim? © Nick Brodie

*Nick Brodie is an Australian historian and writer who is currently Dean of Academic Studies of Jane Franklin Hall in Hobart. He is the author of several books on Australian history and numerous essays on historical, political, and religious topics. In 2017 he was awarded the Bruce Mansfield Prize for the best article in the Journal of Religious History. He is currently studying Theology.*

**FIRST READING** *Wisdom 6:12-16*

*A reading from the book of Wisdom  
Wisdom is found by those who look for it.*

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.  
By those who love her she is readily seen, and found  
by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those  
who desire her, she makes herself known to them.  
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you  
will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about  
her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for  
her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself  
walks about looking for those who are worthy of her  
and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in  
every thought of theirs coming to meet them.  
*The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2*

**(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.  
On you I muse through the night  
for you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

*From the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians:  
Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life  
with Jesus.*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about  
those who have died, to make sure that you do not  
grieve about them, like the other people who have  
no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again,  
and that it will be the same for those who have died  
in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell  
you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us  
who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not  
have any advantage over those who have died. At

the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call  
out the command and the Lord himself will come down  
from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the  
first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will  
be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet  
the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for  
ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort  
one another.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Matthew 24:42. 44*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:  
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *Matthew 25:1-13*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.*

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of  
heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their  
lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them  
were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish  
ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil,  
whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as  
their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew  
drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry,  
"The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this,  
all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps,  
and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us  
some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they  
replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you;  
you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for  
yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the  
bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with  
him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The  
other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said,  
"open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you  
solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because  
you do not know either the day or the hour.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-15. 19-21