



# 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*



## 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023 19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

### ***'COURAGE, IT IS I! DO NOT BE AFRAID!'***

Both the First Reading and the Gospel today really lend themselves to focusing on prayer. What is prayer? Quite simply, it is turning our eyes and hearts to God. We can do this in lots of ways, and of course there may be lots of things we want to say and hear, but essentially it comes down to time spent on the relationship. Now, I don't talk about prayer enough, and to be honest that is probably down to a little embarrassment on my part. I could be much better at it myself, and hardly hold myself up as a model to follow. But, hey, just as the man who has sliced his thumb might have something to say about knife safety, so I suppose even in my stumbling efforts at prayer I can still share some things I have learnt!

### ***THERE CAME A GENTLE BREEZE...***

So, what can the First Reading tell us? God can be found in stillness and gentle quiet. Do you find it hard to set apart moments of stillness and quiet? Life can be noisy. We have to be a bit deliberate, but the moments are perhaps easier to find than we realise. In the car? Try turning off the radio. Waiting to meet someone? Leave the phone in your pocket and sit still for a minute. Having breakie? Turn off the TV. Going for a walk? Maybe leave the earphones behind. Unless you are listening to Bible in the year... Look, I know it is difficult. We are so primed to fill every moment of our day with some form of noise, it is hard to break the habit. But God is far greater than our distractions or our weaknesses; give him even just a minute or two and you might be amazed at what he can do.

### ***'LORD, SAVE ME!'***

The Gospel is a perfect one to sit with and try imaginative pray. This is when you picture yourself in the story. Close your eyes and imagine the scene in the boat. The storm is raging, and the wind and waves are knocking the boat about. You are a fishermen, this isn't your first storm, but you are finding the going tough and perhaps wonder how much longer you can push on. Now consider for yourself, what are some of the headwinds you face in life? What are you struggling with or finding just too hard? Sit with that for a while. Now you look out and see Jesus coming towards you across the water. You are overcome with fear and dread. Are you seeing a ghost? Pause again, and ask yourself what fears are you wrestling with at the moment. Are you anxious about tomorrow and what it will bring? Are you afraid you might not be good enough for the task in front of you, that you might let everyone down? Or are you worried about what people might think of you? Are you afraid of losing someone you love? Or that you might lose someone's love? Let Jesus show you what is on your heart. Hold those fears up to him, and then, in the midst of the raging storm, hear his words directed straight at you... 'Courage, it is I. Do not be afraid!' Let those words echo in your heart, let them touch each of the fears that are weighing you down. Are you ready to step out of the boat? Be honest with yourself. Don't feel you have to feign courage or strength. Life can be overwhelming at times. Perhaps it is all too much, and you feel yourself sinking under the waves. Don't lose heart! Perhaps all you can manage is to cry out 'Lord, help me! Save me!' But that is enough. Feel his hand taking yours. Feel him lifting you up and holding you. And then look into his eyes, and open your heart to what he wants to say.

#### **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**

Malcolm Kanizay

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Bill Woodhouse, Mark McMahon, Lawrence Cloonan  
Robert Barry, Jim Meehan, Therese Barry  
Eileen Conlan, Patricia O'Brien, Michael O'Callaghan  
Florence McDonald, Ellen Clohesy, Leslie Clohesy  
Douglas Scott, Beatrice McLean

**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 (12<sup>TH</sup>/13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST)**  
**19<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

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

**Monday: 5:30pm Mass** (*Vigil of Assumption*)

**Tuesday: 5.30pm** (*Feast of Assumption of Mary*)

**Wednesday** 10am

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

**Friday: 10am** Funeral Prayers Malcolm Kanizay

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

Saturday: 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday: 8.30am Lalbert

Sunday: 10:30am Swan Hill

**NOTICES**



**FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

This Tuesday is the Feast of Mary's Assumption into Heaven, body and soul. It was formerly the patronal Feast of the Sea Lake and Swan Hill Parishes, and is still the special Feast day of our two St Mary's Primary Schools. So to Kate and Kate and all you students and staff, Happy Feast Day!

St Mary's Swan Hill will be celebrating with Mass at the school at 10am, with some fun activities later in the day. St Mary's Sea Lake will be having a special Fish and Chip Lunch with a Liturgy in the afternoon.

I will offer a special Mass on Monday evening as a Vigil for anyone who can't make the Tuesday evening Mass. Both will be at 5:30pm.

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND**  
**"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**

Information/Bookings:

Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au)

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

***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)



### **BAPTISM WELCOME**

We thank Jack and Nancy for presenting their daughter Avianna Gervasi for Baptism today. May God bless you today, and in all the days ahead. And Avianna, welcome into God's family the Church!

**ROSTERS FOR READING, COMMUNION AND OFFERTORY** have been emailed out and also available from the back of the church. Thank you to all who assist with these ministries. We are also looking for more families to assist, if you have thought you can do one or more of the above please contact Glenda at the office on Tuesdays or Fridays.



### **WELCOME HOME GERRY, ANNA & GRACE!**

We welcome home our World Youth Day Pilgrims. We pray that your trip was a truly blessed time, and we look forward to hearing all about it!

### **HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

Why might Jesus have sent the disciples on ahead of him?

Why is the disciples' first reaction one of fear rather than relief at seeing Jesus?

Which emotions might Peter have experienced throughout this episode?

What is it that prompts the disciples to make their declaration of faith?

What message for your own life do you take from this passage?

In what way would the command to walk on water have been a confirmation of Jesus' identity for Peter?

How do you imagine the other disciples reacted to Peter stepping out of the boat?

In what ways would describing the message of this story as 'have faith' be inadequate?

When have you ever felt separated from Jesus as the disciples were when the storm engulfed them?

### **BACKGROUND ON TODAY'S GOSPEL READING**

Today's Gospel directly follows last week's account of Jesus feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. For the sake of the crowds, Jesus had postponed his time of solitude. Now, at last, Jesus finds some time for quiet and prayer. He sends his disciples ahead of him by boat, dismisses the crowds, and then withdraws to the mountain to pray.

The disciples do not fare well. They struggle to weather the wind and waves, making little progress in their journey. We are reminded of a previous story in Chapter 8 of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus calms the seas. This time, however, Jesus does not calm the seas, and the disciples do not express fear until they see Jesus walking toward them on the water. In this story it is not the storm that is feared but the sight of Jesus before them, whom they mistake for a ghost.

Clues like these suggest that this story is about the disciples' growing understanding of the identity of Jesus. In continuity with last week's Gospel about the feeding of the multitude, today's Gospel is also about what the disciples' faith in Jesus will enable them to do. In last week's Gospel, when the disciples see the crowds, they ask Jesus to send the crowds away. Jesus turns the situation around, telling the disciples to feed the crowd with the provisions that they have. Both of these Gospels tell us much about ministry.

Jesus calls to the disciples and calms their fears. He is not a ghost. The impulsive Peter seeks proof that the person is indeed Jesus. He asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and Jesus grants this request. Peter's fear and doubt overtake him, however, once he is walking on the water. Jesus reaches out to Peter and saves him. When Jesus and Peter enter the boat, Matthew reports that the wind ceases, and the disciples confess that Jesus is the Son of God.

Faith in Jesus will enable the disciples to do the work that Jesus has done. Peter walks on water. The five loaves and two fish feed a multitude of people. The disciples can and will participate in the work of the kingdom of heaven. When Peter fears and doubts the person of Jesus, however, he falters. Peter's example teaches us that true Christian ministry emerges from the faith that Jesus is the Messiah, God's only Son. © Loyola Press

**FIRST READING** 1 Kings 19:9.11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings  
*Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.*

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. The Word of the Lord. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

**(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
 a voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him  
 and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
 justice and peace have embraced.  
 Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
 and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper  
 and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
 Justice shall march before him  
 and peace shall follow his steps.

**(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.**

**SECOND READING** Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
*I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.*

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Psalm 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*Command me to come to you over the water.*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord. *ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

**READINGS NEXT WEEK:****20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1.6-7

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28