



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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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



15TH OCTOBER 2023: 28TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"I HAVE MY BANQUET ALL PREPARED... EVERYTHING IS READY. COME TO THE WEDDING"



I bet you have seen these coins before; specially minted to celebrate the weddings of Prince Charles to Dianna, and later his son William to Kate (thankfully that marriage seems to be going a bit better!). Both weddings were massive public occasions. Seemingly everyone was talking about them. Millions watched them on TV. Maybe your family even threw a special party in the royal couples honour, and invited some friends to join them! But I am pretty confident *none*

of you got an invite to the actual event. But that is alright, we got to watch it on TV. We could collect a special coin. And besides... as if we would ever be invited to a Royal Wedding! We aren't noble or rich or famous enough for that...

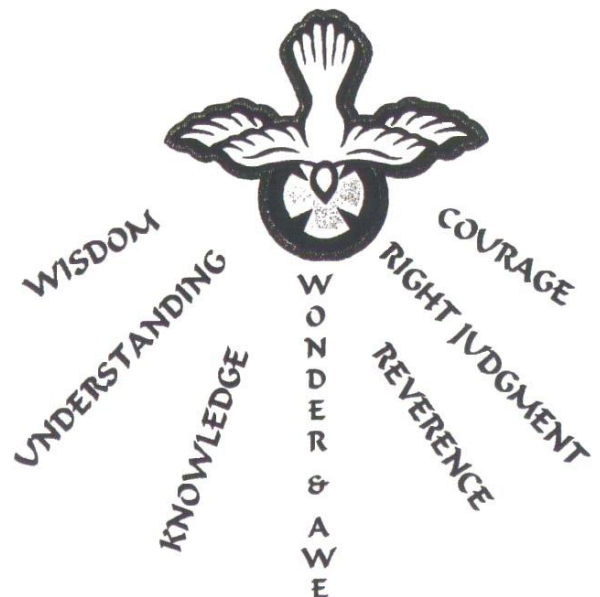


Well, we might have missed out on an invite to Will and Kate's wedding, but we have been invited to the most important wedding banquet of all. Just think of that for a moment; God is inviting *you* to his Son's great Feast. How truly awesome is that. There will be lots of parties going on this weekend, and you didn't get invited to them... but you have been invited to the greatest party of all! So the question is, are you going to accept God's invitation? Are you going to hear and embrace his call? Will you allow him to clothe you with his love and grace and satisfy your deepest needs? Or are you waiting for a better offer?

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR CHILDREN PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

We are delighted to welcome all the children who today begin their preparation for Confirmation. We also welcome their families who will play such a crucial role in supporting them on their Sacramental journey.

That journey began at Baptism, when the Father called you by name and clothed you with his grace. In taking this next step, you are accepting his special invitation to you. Through Confirmation you will be filled with his Holy Spirit. This will strengthen you to follow Jesus and walk in his ways, and help prepare you for the next step (and greatest gift of all); to join him at the table of the Eucharist. Big moments require preparation. We will be praying for you as you begin this special journey. We hope this time of preparation will help you to grow and learn how much Jesus loves you, and that you might come to know him as a friend!



Parish Contact Details:

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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**

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Peter Fosdick, Antonia Giampaola, Patrick O'Loughlin, Anthony "John" Burns, Peter Gallo, Mary Ann Byrne, Philomena Walsh, Edith Jordan, Josephine Mary Bull, Michael Conidi, Eileen Doyle, Kathleen Hooper, Lila Proctor, Joy Noble, Greta Sherlock, Ellen Real, John O'Sullivan, Nance Power, Catherine Patching, Lee Power, Christina Donnelly, Frank Capone

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 (14TH/15TH OCT)
28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday: 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday: 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 2.30pm Final Mass of Thanksgiving Lalbert

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday: 5:30pm

Tuesday: 5.30pm

Wednesday: 10am

Thursday: 5pm Confessions

5.30pm Mass, Adoration until 7pm

Friday: 11am Adoration, 11.30am Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND (21ST/22ND OCT)
29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

Presbytery (First): \$1092

Parish (Second): \$1762

NOTICES



FINAL MASS LALBERT

We will celebrate a **final Mass of Thanksgiving in Lalbert this Sunday 15th 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. Please bring a plate to share.

NOTICE FROM "WRAPS WITH LOVE"

We picked up your delivery on Friday, please pass on our thanks to your group. We will be packing them to go to Ukraine. Regards: Gillian- wrapwithlove.org
"Warming the World with Love."

TOOLEYBUC HARVEST FESTIVAL

21st October, Mensforth Park Tooleybuc, 12-6pm.

Free Entry. Live Music, Food Trucks, Kids Activities & Community Market.



2023 PUBLIC ROSARY: THIS SATURDAY

Join us for a nation-wide rosary chain at

Riverside Park 10am this Saturday 14th Oct.

All Welcome: Just BYO Chair if you will need one.

THE HOLY ROSARY & PRAYERS FOR PEACE

We might naturally think of the Rosary as a private prayer- wrapped up in our warm memories of grandma and her favourite beads. But through its

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake

Principal: Kate Nunn

47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake

Ph: 03 5070 1272

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St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin

2 Murlong St Swan Hill

Ph. 03 5033 2541

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St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

history the Rosary has also been a very public thing; the faithful united across the world to prayer for a special purpose. The story of Fatima is one such example, and a special intention there was for peace.

As we see more regions of the world descend into conflict and violence, perhaps we too might take up that same prayer- for peace in our world. The lasting peace that only Christ can bring.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM MY FAMILY

Father James' family were blown away by the amazing celebrations for his 10th year anniversary of Ordination. The support and gratitude of the Parish of St Mary's was so evident and we are still smiling. It is great for us to know that Fr James has been accepted and is respected. It is his job to let God do His good works through him but at special times like this it is so lovely and appropriate to celebrate James' commitment and faithfulness.

The decorations, speeches, funny stories, music, power point presentation and amazing food were all a very pleasant surprise and involved a lot of work from a lot of people. Even the group photos were a lovely touch. Thank you to all! And thank you for embracing Fr James and for making this anniversary a very special celebration.

May God bless you,
Francine and Mick and family

RAFFLE: ST PATRICK'S PYRAMID HILL

Thank you for your support of the raffle. The response was tremendous.

I safely delivered the ticket stubs and takings to Fr Dean ready for the draw, but as it turns out there is now a change in plan. Fr Dean puts it thus; *"Originally, the raffle draw was scheduled for 14 October 2023. However, due to unforeseen circumstances and logistical challenges, we have found it necessary to reschedule the raffle draw to 23 December 2023. We understand that this change may cause inconvenience, and for that, we sincerely apologise. Please be assured that this adjustment is not taken lightly, and we have explored all alternatives. Our primary goal is to ensure that all participants have an equal and fair opportunity to participate in the raffle and that no purchase of tickets goes to waste."*

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1.4-6

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

As incredible as it may seem, some people turn down the invitation to the eschatological banquet. This is the case, both in the parable and in our world today. This invitation seems much less interesting than a sports event, the latest movie, or some social affair. So much of our time and energy is spent either climbing the economic ladder or just trying to keep our heads above water. Even if we are interested in the banquet, we do not seem able to afford the time and energy that it might require. And so we send our regrets: I cannot come. What a shame! We seem to have forgotten that everything is tending toward the end; all of our plans, interests and distractions will cease. Only the banquet will remain. All God asks of us is that we receive the blessings that have been prepared for us. We need not work for them. In fact, we cannot work for them on our own. All we can do is enjoy them. Enjoyment of the eschatological time of fulfilment is open to all, but guaranteed to none.

One theme seems to connect all of the readings for this Sunday, our total dependence on God. God spreads the banquet table and invites the guests; God punishes those who are indifferent to or antagonistic toward the eschatological banquet; God supplies whatever we need in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. We do not have to bargain with God, or make reservations. All we have to do is accept what God has to offer.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

When have you ever excused yourself from an invitation because it was 'inconvenient'?

What message was Jesus trying to convey to the Chief Priests and elders through this parable?

What is the message of this parable for a modern audience?

Today, who would be the equivalent of the people brought in to the banquet from the roads?

What does the expulsion of the ill-dressed guest tell us about responsibilities?

FIRST READING *Isaiah 25:6-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.

On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;

the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice

that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 22. R. v.6*

**(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *See John 15:15*

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 22:1-14*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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