



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



20TH AUGUST 2023
20TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



GOD'S NEW FAMILY: THE CHURCH

So what is going on in today's Gospel? Why does it seem to take Jesus some convincing to reach out and help the Canaanite woman? Of course, we can't read Jesus' mind, but we can know the background and context. And that background is really key to understanding the whole Gospel story.

Jesus belonged to the house of Israel. This was God's Chosen People. Beginning with their father Abraham, he had called them out from darkness and patiently raised them up. Through Moses and the many prophets sent after him, God had taught Israel his ways and formed them to be his Holy Nation, his Royal and Priestly People, a people set apart to be his own. He formed a covenant with them, a special bond. He would be with his People to guide, nurture and protect them. And they, in their turn, would keep his commandments and worship him alone. Belonging to this Family was an

awesome privilege, but with the awesome privilege also came great responsibility. And Israel didn't always live up to that. Their history was one of stumbles and falls. Time and again they failed in their trust and turned to the false gods of their neighbours (like the Canaanites). Time and again God forgave them and lifted them up. Even when they went astray and were lost, God never forgot them. He searched for them and called them back. And slowly and patiently God worked on a new plan; not just to save this small family of Israel once again, but through them, to save the whole world.

With the coming of Jesus comes the fulfilment of this new plan. God is going to establish a new family, and a new People. This one will not be based on ties of blood and kinship. You won't have to be born into it. Rather, the door to this new family will be **faith**. The Canaanite woman shows great faith. And her great faith demonstrates that the time of this new family had finally arrived. We ourselves are now part of that same family of faith, that new family, because that new family of faith is the Church.

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

Mick & Mary Mangiameli,
Alice Hayes, Geraldine O'Loughlin, Donna Murchie
John O'Brien, James "Megs" McMahon,
Thomas Good, Elise McInerney, Joan Blythman,
Phonse Clohesy, Frank Bonanno, William Hill,
Madi Kozma Colombo, Paul Castelli, Kali Fifita,
Catherine Feeny, Raymond Mortensen, Luigi Dutto,
Brian "Megs" O'Sullivan, Bruce McDonald

SICK LIST

Jim Bookham, 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 (19TH/20TH AUGUST)

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Lalbert

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

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 (26TH/27TH AUGUST)

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday: 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday: 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday: 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES



PARISH STEWARDSHIP

As you will hear, we are taking the opportunity this week to renew and strengthen our sense of stewardship of our parish. I would like to sincerely thank you for your generous support of our parish community and mission, as well as your tremendous support of myself as your parish priest.

Your financial contribution in the **First Collection** goes towards supporting me as your **priest**: covering living costs, stipend, car and travel costs, and other general living expenses. The excess from this collection also goes to help support other priests in smaller parishes across the Diocese who can't afford to support a priest on their own.

Your financial contribution in the **Second Collection** helps fund the mission and administration of the **Parish**. This includes staff, pastoral programmes, maintenance of our churches and other facilities, utilities and insurance. Your contribution to this collection remains the main source of income for our Parish. By pledging to give regularly, you help to secure our Parish's mission today and into the future.

Our Parish took the Holy Family as patrons when it was re-established in 2018. Our Church is just that- a Family. As a family, we look to grow in love and care for each other day by day. Families support one other and attend to each other's needs. Everyone has their part to play, no matter how small that may be. In the same way, as the baptised people of the Church, we are all responsible for supporting the Church's Mission to proclaim the Gospel to all peoples.

Our giving is also an expression of our gratitude to God for all the many ways he has blessed us. Of course, we express this gratitude in many ways, but in a very special way our thanks to God is lived in and through the Eucharist. The Parish is where we come together for this great act of Thanksgiving. By supporting the parish we help ensure the Eucharist will remain readily accessible.

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

I invite you to prayerfully consider what contribution God may be calling you to pledge, according to your capacity and situation in life.

I also invite you to consider giving to the parish through direct debit or by setting up regular credit card transactions. 'Electronic' giving over 'cash' giving helps the parish greatly. It reduces time spent handling cash and the risk of theft. It also guarantees your contribution whenever you may be travelling.

Whatever method and however much you choose to give, please do make a pledge. Pledging is an intentional commitment that makes giving more personal and purposeful and it helps the parish budget for the year.

Thank you for your continued support of our Parish,
May God bless you and all your loved ones.

Fr James Kerr & Parish Finance Committee



BAPTISM WELCOME

We thank Courtney and Ruth for presenting their son Harvey Dalton, Tim and Stacey for presenting their son Ed Hanns and James and Marie for presenting their daughter Juliette Tierney-Costa for Baptism today. May God bless you today, and in all the days ahead. Harvey, Ed and Juliette, welcome into God's family the Church!



FATHER JAMES ANNIVERSARY – 10 YEARS A PRIEST!

Mark your calendars! North East Holy Family Parish is looking forward to celebrating Father James's milestone anniversary with a party in our Parish Function Centre after the 10.30am Mass in Swan Hill, on Sunday 10th September. All parishioners across Holy Family North East Mallee are welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be drinks and speeches immediately after Mass, with lunch, dessert and music to follow.

In order to ensure we are able to appropriately celebrate this joyous occasion, your support is most welcomed. We invite you to forward any photos or words of 'Why we love Father James', or other short snippets or reflections (or any queries or offers to contribute/help) to Teresa O'Brien by the end of August: teresaobrien0409@gmail.com; or (mob) 0437 440 971. There will be an opportunity to sign a card on the day, or after Masses the weekend before, and to contribute towards a gift if you would like.

Have You Thought?

Why do you think Jesus first responded to the woman in the way he did?

What turned Jesus' attitude around?

What do you think the woman was thinking/feeling as she approached Jesus?

What message would the followers of Jesus have taken from this event?

What is the message of this Gospel passage for us today?

By inference, Jesus describes the Canaanites as 'dogs'. Who are the 'dogs' (the unworthy) in today's society?

What motivated this Canaanite woman to approach Jesus, a Jew?

In what ways have you ever turned to an unlikely source for help?

The woman risked herself on her daughter's behalf. Who would you risk your reputation for?

In what way/s does this story challenge you?

THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL READING

My dear friends you'd have to admire the tenacity of the woman in our Gospel. Being a Canaanite, that of a different culture and religion to Jesus, didn't stop her getting what she wanted. She got over any inhibitions she might have had in approaching Jesus and his disciples (her humility).

When first referring to Jesus as, "Sir, son of David" didn't solicit any response she called him "Lord". We can see her faith being drawn out as to who she believed Jesus was, just a man, "sir" or God and hence "Lord", someone who was able to heal her daughter. When he said to her he had come to the lost sheep of the House of Israel she persisted, that others can also have faith and share in God's blessing (achieving this with the help of her humour). The result is she acquired healing for her daughter.

My friends the woman in this Gospel story teaches us the importance of several values:

firstly, the essential requirement of perseverance and persistence:

secondly, the need for humility;

thirdly, the value of humour; and

fourthly, the necessity of faith.

Having an abundance of these four values in our lives are essential for good healthy and life-giving relationships at home, at work and with our God.

© Fr Patrick

FIRST READING Isaiah 56:1.6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

SECOND READING Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind. The Word of the Lord. *ALL: Thanks be to God*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



READINGS NEXT WEEK:

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20