



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*



16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 23RD JULY 2023

WE WELCOME FR JIM MCKAY AGAIN THIS WEEKEND TO OUR PARISH AND THANK HIM FOR CELEBRATING MASS WITH OUR COMMUNITIES. WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED YOUR STAY WITH US FR JIM, THANK YOU.

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples.

This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the disciples' cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the "weeds" prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. © Loyola Press

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

Michael "Mick" Casey

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Giuseppe Caruso, Rene Devereux, Helen Brown.
Colleen Nalder, Rosa Puglisi, Margaret Elliott
Fr Declan Duggan, Wendy Bennett-Teague
May Lewis, Anne Kelly

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 (22ND/23RD JULY)
16^H SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday **Funeral Mass** Gordon Murdoch 1.30pm

No weekday Masses

NEXT WEEKEND (29TH/30TH JULY)
17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5.7-12
Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30
Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

NOTICES



THANK YOU

Hello Holy Family Parish!

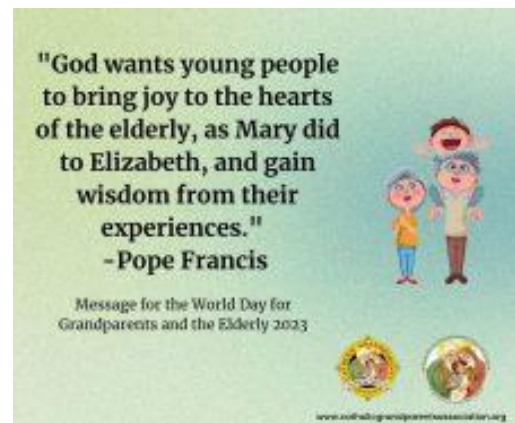
We would like to pray for members of our community whilst at WYD. So to do this we have placed a sheet at the back of the church to be filled in either anonymously or with your name and intention. We will collect these before we leave this Friday 28th July and we will take these to Lisbon with us and offer them on your behalf.

Once again thank you all so much for your support.

God bless,

Anna, Grace and Gerry

WYD Lisbon Pilgrims 2023



**WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY:
SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023**

"His mercy is from age to age" (Lk. 1:50) is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. We pray for all grandparents and the elderly and thank them for their gifts to families and to our parish communities

Grandparents have a unique vocation that must be fostered and cherished in the spirit of St. Joachim and St. Anne, the Grandparents of Jesus and parents of Mary.

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

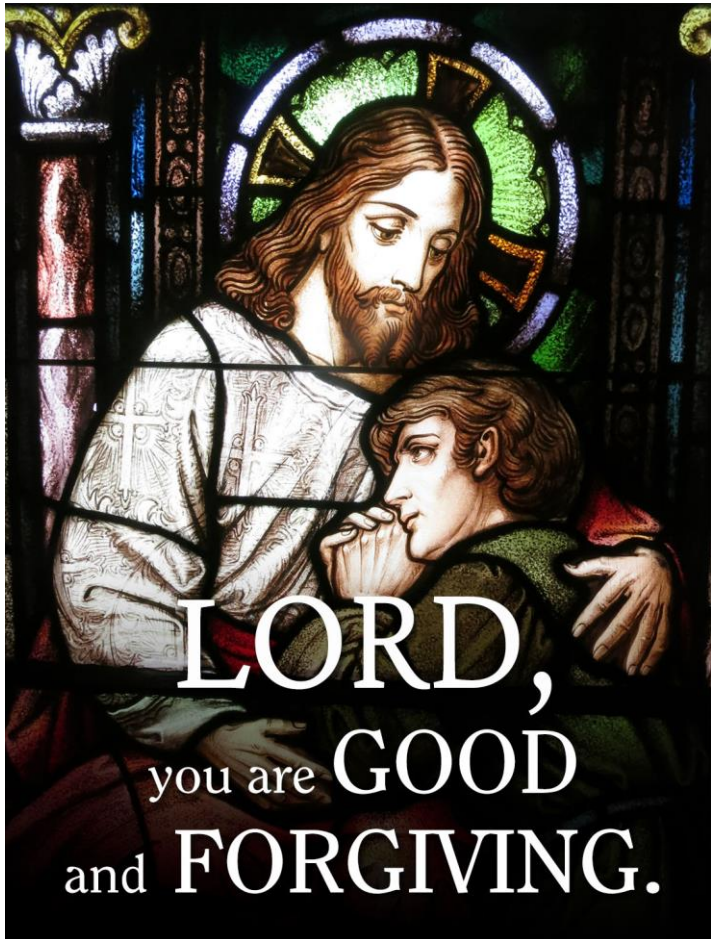
Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

CATHERINE O'CONNOR MEMORIAL MASS

A Memorial Mass for Catherine O'Connor (Kelly), who died at Willangie, July 27, 1923, will be offered at the Woomelang Cemetery on Saturday July 22 2023 followed by lunch at the Woomelang Memorial Hall.

Descendants, other O'Connor and Kelly relatives, friends of the families and any who wish to commemorate her life are welcome.

Please contact: aldous.julie.a@gmail.com



HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What purpose might the gospel writer have had in placing these three parables so close together?

What difference does it make to interpret the three parables together rather than individually?

In what ways do these parables challenge 'conventional wisdom' of the time?

What does this passage tell us about how we should try to bring about the kingdom today?

What new perspective/s have you gained about the three parables of today's gospel?

Why is this particular gospel writer keen to demonstrate Jesus as fulfilling prophecy?

What problems may arise from quoting a short gospel extract out of its intended context?

THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE

God of peace and justice,
who change the hardened heart and break the
power of violence,
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.
Protect them in this time of peril;
let them know not death but life, not slavery but
freedom.

You are Father of all;
we are brothers and sisters.
Give us the strength to live that truth in love,
choosing peace not war.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



PARISH OF SAINTS ANNE AND JOACHIM, SUNRAYSIA

Bishop Paul Bird CSSR decreed the establishment of a new parish in the diocese on July 1, 2023 – the Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia. The newly established parish will comprise the territory that belonged to the parishes of Merbein (est. 1965), Mildura (est. 1906) and Red Cliffs (est. 1953).

More information available from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/parish-of-saints-anne-and-joachim-sunraysia/>

Scriptural context – Matthew's explanation

In the gospel passage, following the presentation of the three parables, Jesus explains the parable of the wheat and darnel to his disciples. It is explained in terms of a final judgment. (Compare it with Matthew 25: 31-46.) The parable of the weeds, or darnel, and its explanation only appear in the gospel of Matthew – although the parable does occur in the non-canonical gospel of Thomas. The interpretation belongs to Matthew more than it belongs to Jesus. It is an unapologetic direction to his community that living a righteous life in the midst of wickedness will be rewarded.

FIRST READING Wisdom 12:13.16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom
In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
 full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
 and attend to the sound of my voice.

All the nations shall come to adore you
 and glorify your name, O Lord:
 for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
 you who alone are God.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
 slow to anger, O Lord,
 abounding in love and truth,
 turn and take pity on me.

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

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

Gospel Acclamation See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
 you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

