

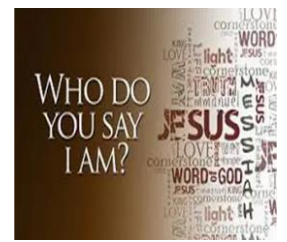


Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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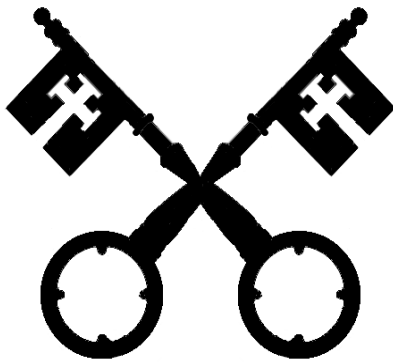
Website: northeastmallee.org.au

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



27TH AUGUST 2023 21ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

'I WILL GIVE YOU THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN...'



Our first reading from Isaiah gives us the key to understanding just what is going on in today's Gospel. Speaking through Isaiah, God dismisses the unfaithful steward Shebna, and in his place appoints Eliakim. The new Steward is to be dressed in Shebna's robes and invested with all the power and authority he had previously enjoyed. All the talk of robes, sashes and thrones sounds very kingly and royal... this is because when the King was absent, the Steward was himself entrusted with all the King's authority. He was to care for the King's people and was responsible for keeping order, justice and peace in his home. A special symbol of his office are the keys; "should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open."

The King himself was the 'Anointed One', a son of David. By the time of Jesus, Israel had long since lost its line of Anointed Kings, but the Scriptures promised a return and so the people looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, the Christ; the 'Anointed One'. Peter recognises that Jesus *is* that Anointed King. That is what he means when he calls him the Christ. Jesus in his turn appoints Peter as his Steward; he will give him the keys and invest him with the special role of watching over and caring for his new people, the Church. Did this automatically make Peter a saint? No, read on just a few more lines and you will see him stuff things up, and not for the last time. Did it mean he was beyond challenge? No, later on Paul would have to confront him over how he was treating the Gentile converts. But despite his own personal faults, he preached Christ faithfully and courageously and stood as a sign of unity for the Church- a peg driven into a firm place.

We hold that the office of Steward didn't end with Peter, but that it was handed on to his successor Linus, the second Bishop of Rome, and then to Cletus, then to Clement... all the way down to our own Pope Francis. The Popes continue to 'hold the keys of Peter'. They are entrusted as Stewards to watch over and care for Christ's Church. To be in communion with the successor of Peter is to remain in the Church that Christ founded.

ST MICHAEL'S LALBERT

The Mass community of St Michael's Lalbert recently chose to cease gathering for Sunday Masses and to move to close the church building. With so many memories attached to the church, there is of course some sadness in making this decision. But there is also much to celebrate and give thanks for. Replacing the original 1906 church, the current building was opened in 1954. It has therefore been a gathering place for the community that built it for almost 70 years. I think we should be proud that we have kept it going for so long, and I would like to thank and congratulate the dedicated parishioners who have made this possible.

We will celebrate a **final Mass of Thanksgiving in Lalbert on Sunday 15th October at 2:30pm**. I'm sure many families with ties to Lalbert might like to be part of this- please pass the word around. If you are keen to help out on the day let us know. We would also appreciate any photos or memories that might be shared. The plan will be to share an afternoon tea after the Mass- more details to come.

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Rosa Tarascio, Mary Grace Toledo, Barry Kelly,
Mick Mangiameli, Vincent Byrne, Rona Bookham,
Kevin McDonald, Rosaria Pastore, Bernie Magee,
Elizabeth Burns, Lila Moar, Salva Marotta,
Antonino Miceli, Thomas Barry, Cathy Charleson,
John Foley, Salvatore "Sam" Nastasi, Ned Doyle

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 (26TH/27TH AUGUST)
20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 5.30pm

Wednesday 10am

Thursday: 10am (*this week only- I have a meeting at usual Mass time sorry*)

Friday: 11am Adoration, 11.30am Mass

Saturday: 9.30am Confessions

10am Mass (1st Saturday) followed by **Rosary**.

NEXT WEEKEND (2ND/3RD SEPTEMBER)

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday: 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday: 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday: 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES



PARISH STEWARDSHIP- THANK YOU

I would just like to repeat my sincere thanks for your generous support of our parish community and mission, as well as your tremendous support of myself as your priest. Thank you for playing your part in making our parish family what it is. Each of us has our own individual gifts to share and capacity according to which we can contribute.

Thank you for those who have already handed in their updated blue pledge sheets. Just to clarify- if you are happy with your current method and amount of giving, there is no need to do anything. Thank you for your ongoing contribution.

But if you would like to update your giving amount, change your method of giving, or join the planned giving program, please complete the blue pledge sheet and return it to the parish (either directly to myself or Glenda or in an envelope placed in the collection baskets).

If you missed the talks last week- just to fill you in...

*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 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

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.

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 David and Victoria for presenting their children Bella and Harry Lovell for Baptism today. May God bless you today, and in all the days ahead.

Bella and Harry, welcome into God's family the Church!

NEXT SUNDAY: CUPPA AFTER 10:30AM MASS
Parish Function Centre. All welcome.

ONAM FESTIVAL

We wish our Malayali community every blessing and joy as they celebrate Onam this week. Thank you for the many gifts you bring to our region!



FR JAMES' ANNIVERSARY – 10 YEARS A PRIEST!
Mark your calendars! Holy Family Parish is looking forward to celebrating Father James' milestone anniversary with a party on **Sunday 10th September** in our Parish Function Centre after the 10.30am Mass in Swan Hill. 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?

If people thought that Jesus was another of the prophets, how might they have expected him to behave?

Why did Jesus order the disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah?

Why did Jesus give Simon Peter a 'new' name?

When are people today given a 'new' name?

How would you answer Jesus' question, 'Who do you say I am?'

Why was it significant that Peter's profession of faith took place outside Jewish territory?

What are different ways in which people answer Jesus' question?

In what ways have some people used a mistaken understanding of who they believed Jesus to be?

How would Jesus' confirmation of Peter's declaration have made a difference to the way the disciples saw Jesus?

FIRST READING Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;

he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

SECOND READING Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom
and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his
motives or understand his methods! Who could ever
know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his
counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him
anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and
for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**READINGS NEXT WEEK:
22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27