



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



3RD SEPTEMBER 2023 22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



'IF ANYONE WANTS TO BE A FOLLOWER OF MINE, LET HIM RENOUNCE HIMSELF AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME...'

Being a follower of Jesus is not easy. If we are really taking his words seriously, we are constantly challenged to go out of ourselves in love and to hold onto certain truths that are unpopular. This has never been easy but is perhaps more difficult given how high a value our contemporary society places on comfort. Setting down our Cross and giving up the fight has perhaps never seemed so attractive an alternative. And yet, here we are, because we know that would go against our deepest yearnings. We need something more than mere comfort. We can only be fulfilled by Truth and Love, and we firmly believe we find that in following Christ.

The prophet Jeremiah puts it so powerfully. In the face of insult and derision, he decides to shut his mouth, and no longer speak the words God is putting there. But then, "there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones." He just couldn't hold it in any longer. In order to be true to himself, he was ready suffer for the sake of God's ways. And that was some 500 years before Christ's Death and Resurrection. As we face our own trials, we have that awesome mystery to strengthen and encourage us.

Being faithful to Christ calls for sacrifice, even at times a readiness to face suffering- especially the suffering of rejection. But in whatever challenges we may find ourselves, no matter how high a cost love demands of us, we know that Christ has already gone before us and so will surely see us through. We are never on our own.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

I was chatting with a couple in preparation for the baptism of their first child and asked the dad if he had noticed how fatherhood had changed him. His face lit up and he said, yes, and in ways he had never expected. He had always loved staying for a drink with the boys after footy, but now it just didn't interest him. Instead, he just wanted to get home and spend time with his little champion. His little son had suddenly become the most important thing in his life. Nothing else could compare.

I know it isn't always so easy, but dads really are called to reset their whole lives around their family. Just like today's Gospel, often that means renouncing themselves and being ready to sacrifice. Our families need good dads. Our world needs loving fathers. We pray this weekend for all our dads.

Thank you for striving to put your children first.

Parish Contact Details:

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

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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

Barry Kelly, John Foley, Salvatore "Sam" Nastasi,
Ned Doyle, Doss Pearson, Nora Ritchie,
William Thomas Casey, Margaret Stewart,
Allan Mathews, Lawrence McNamara,
Rose Ann Herson, Bernard Hubbard, Ida Nolen,
Shirley Donahue, Joy Parsons, Ted Curran,
Susan Coburn, Stella Dalton, Mary Maher,
George Egan, Frank Grant, John Conlan,
Elizabeth Gertrude Byrne
Bernie Noble, Mary Mangiameli

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 (2ND/3RD SEPTEMBER)

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

***No Masses during the week-
Fr James is away on retreat***

NEXT WEEKEND (9TH/10TH SEPTEMBER)

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Followed by Anniversary Celebration

NOTICES



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

SWAN HILL SHOW GATE VOLUNTEERS

On the weekend of Friday 6th and Saturday 7th of
October the Show committee have asked for
assistance from the local churches for people to work
on the gates. We are looking for volunteers to help
out. There will be a meeting for volunteers prior to
the show to show you what is needed.
Sign up sheets with times slots are in the foyer. If you
are able to assist by helping for even an hour it would
be greatly appreciated as this is an event which
supports the local community.

ST MICHAEL'S LALBERT

As announced last week, the Mass community of St
Michael's Lalbert recently chose to cease gathering
for Sunday Masses and to move to close the church
building. In recognition of the faith and dedication of
the many parishioners connected to St Michael's, 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 STEWARDSHIP-

THANK YOU & WORD ON NEW ENVELOPES

Thank you for playing your part in supporting our
Parish and making our parish family what it is.

For those who use envelopes to give- the new
envelopes for the coming year will be distributed at
Masses from this weekend.

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

If you have recently changed your method of giving, for example by signing up to CDF Pay, we may accidentally still put envelopes out in your name as they were ordered a few weeks ago. If you no longer need the envelopes, please just hand them back to Glenda or myself or leave them outside the Parish Office with a note. And if you haven't already done so, please fill out one of the blue pledge cards so we can keep track of your planned giving.

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).



FR JAMES' ANNIVERSARY – 10 YEARS A PRIEST!
North East Holy Family Parish is 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. No booking is required & there is no cost however donations accepted for anyone wishing to contribute. There will be an opportunity to sign a card and contribute towards a gift on the day, or after Masses this weekend if you wish. Any queries to Teresa O'Brien (mob) 0437 440 971.



HAPPY FATHERS DAY! *To ALL OUR DADS, GRANDDADS, STEP DADS, AND FATHER FIGURES.*

PRAYER OF ST JOHN XXIII TO ST JOSEPH FOR FATHERS

St. Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary, you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty. You supported the holy family of Nazareth with the work of your hands.

Kindly protect all the fathers who trustingly come to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, their hopes. They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too knew trial, labour and weariness.

But amid the worries of material life your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with God's Son entrusted to you and with Mary, his tender Mother. Assure those you protect that they do not labour alone. Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over him faithfully as you have done.



*Love is patient,
love is kind, it
rejoices with the truth
and bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
For Father's, love
never ends.*

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

If you were Peter in this story, how would you have reacted to Jesus?

How might the disciples have reacted to Jesus' prediction of his death?

In what ways have you or someone you know had to 'take up their cross' – deal with a great difficulty – and still lived in a positive and hopeful way?

What makes it difficult at times for you to have faith?

What part of the gospel passage do you find most interesting / challenging? Why?

What are some of the challenges to being a follower of Jesus today?

FIRST READING Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;

you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,

I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,

I could not bear it.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;

for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you

like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

SECOND READING Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This

is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION See Ephesians 1:17-18

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 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



READINGS NEXT WEEK:

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20