



# 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*



## 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023

WELCOME BACK FR JAMES WE HOPE YOU HAD A GREAT HOLIDAY.

### BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the kingdom of heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of his teachings for the disciples. In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables.

The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

The third parable that Jesus proposes in today's Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week's Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated.

Today's Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the kingdom of heaven. Here a metaphor is offered: this scribe is like the head of a household who "brings from his storeroom both the new and the old." The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus' "new" teaching. Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light.



#### **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**

Guiseppe "Joey" Michael Pellegrino  
Bob Stanton

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Salvatore Castelli, Ian Thomson, Veronica Butler,  
Concetta Castelli, Jack Menev, Veronica Deagan  
Gavin Polinelli, Allan Irvine, Ethel Sullivan, Noel Hickey  
John Phyland, Nell Frazer, Antonietta Agosta,  
Richard Pippin, Matthew Noone

**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 (29/30<sup>TH</sup> JULY)**  
**17<sup>H</sup> SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

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

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

**Tuesday:** 5.30pm

**Wednesday** 10am

**Thursday:** 5pm Confessions

5.30pm Mass, Adoration until 7pm

**Friday:** 11am Adoration, 11.30am Mass

**Saturday:** 9.30am Confessions  
10am Mass (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday) followed by **Rosary**.

**NEXT WEEKEND (5<sup>TH</sup>/6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST)**

**TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**

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

**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10. 13-14

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9


**NOTICES**

**ROSARY**



Rosary in the Church next Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August after  
10am Mass.



Cuppa after 10.30am Mass  next  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August. All welcome.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

What evidence suggests that the parables of the treasure  
and the pearl were always intended as a couplet?

Why might Jesus have given dozens of different  
descriptions of what the kingdom is 'like'?

In what ways can we get 'glimpses' of the kingdom?

In what ways can you be a 'glimpse of the kingdom' for  
others?

Why did the man who found the treasure in the field have  
to hide it again rather than keep it?

What argument might be made that the explanation of the  
third parable is an editorial addition?

How does this passage speak to our modern reality that  
not everyone accepts the message of Jesus?

Who do you know who has discovered the 'great treasure'  
and done all they could to gain it?

**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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au)



## **WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023: AUGUST 1-6, 2023**

More than 3000 Australian pilgrims will attend World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. We pray for the five people from the Diocese of Ballarat attending:

Grace Doherty and Anna Whiting (St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill students);

Gerry Vytilingam (St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill staff member);

John-Paul Walker (Linton & Sebastopol Parishes);

Laura Bruty (Linton Parish & Australian Catholic University Ballarat Campus).



## **THE OFFICIAL PRAYER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023**

Our Lady of the Visitation, you who left in haste towards the mountain to meet Elizabeth, lead us also to meet all those who await us to deliver them the living Gospel: Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord!

We will go in a hurry, with no distraction or delay, but with readiness and joy.

We will go peacefully, because those who take Christ take peace, and wellbeing is the best wellbeing.

Our Lady of the Visitation, with your inspiration, this World Youth Day will be the mutual celebration of the Christ we take, as You once did.

Make it a time of testimony and sharing fraternization, and giving thanks, each of us looking for the others who always wait. With you, we will continue on this path of gathering, so that our world will gather as well, in fraternity, justice and peace.

Help us, Our Lady of the Visitation, to bring Christ to everyone, obeying the Father, in the love of the Spirit!

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION**

### **THE PRICELESS KINGDOM**

In this week's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples about the kingdom of heaven using parables. He compares the kingdom to a hidden treasure in a field. If someone finds it, they would be so happy that they would sell everything they have just to buy that field and keep the treasure. Jesus also compares the kingdom to a merchant who is searching for valuable pearls. When the merchant finds a pearl that is worth a lot, he sells everything he owns to buy it.

These parables teach us important lessons about the kingdom of heaven. They show us that the kingdom is like a precious treasure or a valuable pearl. It is something so special and important that we should be willing to give up everything we have to be a part of it. Jesus wants us to understand that the kingdom of heaven is worth more than any material possessions we may have.

He also tells us that those who are knowledgeable about the kingdom should be like wise leaders, who bring out both new and old teachings and share them with others. These parables remind us to value the kingdom of heaven above all else and to keep growing in our understanding of it.

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### **HOW DO THE READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY CONNECT TO EACH OTHER THEMATICALLY?**

The readings on this Sunday highlight themes of wisdom, seeking God's law, God's providence, and the value of the Kingdom of Heaven. Solomon's request for wisdom in the first reading resonates with the psalmist's love for God's law in the responsorial psalm. The second reading assures believers of God's providential care and His redemptive plan. The gospel parables emphasize the worth and commitment required for the Kingdom of Heaven. Together, these readings invite us to seek God's wisdom, treasure His teachings, trust in His providence, and prioritize the Kingdom of Heaven in our lives.

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**THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS THE OPPOSITE OF THE SUPERFLUOUS THINGS THE WORLD OFFERS, THE OPPOSITE OF A DULL LIFE: IT IS A TREASURE THAT RENEWS EVERYDAY LIFE AND LEADS IT TO EXTEND TOWARDS WIDER HORIZONS.**

—  
Pope Francis



**FIRST READING** 1 Kings 3:5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings  
*You have asked for wisdom.*

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97**(R.) Lord, I love your commands.**

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,  
 is to obey your word.

The law from your mouth means more to me than silver  
 and gold.

Let your love be ready to console me  
 by your promise to your servant.  
 Let your love come to me and I shall live  
 for your law is my delight.

That is why I love your commands  
 more than finest gold.  
 That is why I rule my life by your precepts:  
 I hate false ways.

Your will is wonderful indeed;  
 therefore I obey it.  
 The unfolding of your word gives light  
 and teaches the simple.

**(R.) Lord, I love your commands.****SECOND READING** Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
*He predestined us to become true images of his Son.*

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he

intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*He sells everything he owns and buys the field.*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord:

*ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

