



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



19TH NOVEMBER 2023:

FEAST OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

KING OF THE UNIVERSE

***"I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK;
I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU MADE ME WELCOME; NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME,
SICK AND YOU VISITED ME, IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO SEE ME."***

According to today's parable, so will the Son of Man sort out one from another at the final judgement. But let's take a step back for a second. Today is the Feast of Christ our King; he has the whole of Creation and History in his hands. He is our Good, *Good* Shepherd. He has shown us time and time again that his Kingship is one of humble service; he does not claim honours or privilege but rather lays down his life for our sake.

Jesus is our Good King. Consider the categories we hear in the parable, and compare them to what we hear in the Gospels. We hear that Jesus fed the hungry, that he welcomed the stranger, that he visited the sick and brought them healing... he set the example by doing the very things we are asked to do. And more than just in a physical way, Jesus also fulfilled those words spiritually or in the order of grace. As the Bread of Life, he feeds the soul as well as the body. He is the Fount of Living Water that satisfies our deepest thirst. Because of his sacrifice, we are no longer strangers to God, but are reconciled and brought into communion, clothed again with the white garment of God's love and saving grace. He heals the wounds of our heart and sets us free from the imprisonment of sin and shame. And he does all of that because he is our Good King.

But as our Good King, it is still not enough for him to 'reach out' to us in our need; he cannot remain at arm's length, but goes further to join us in our brokenness. Pity and sympathy is not enough; he firmly identifies with those who suffer and looks to take their place. Consider the Gospel stories once again... Jesus suffered all the needs and hurts the parable lists. He went hungry. He was rejected and treated like a stranger and outsider. Before he was arrested, he suffered the crippling anguish of heart and mind, and then was beaten low and wounded for our sake. He spent the last night of his life in a prison, before finally being stripped naked on the Cross, where he cried out 'I thirst' in his final agony. He was ready to suffer all of those things out of love for us. He was ready to endure it all because he is our Good King, and as our Good King he knew he had to meet us in our most desperate need. And I say '*our*' need deliberately, because *all of us* experience that need in our own way. When Christ identifies with the broken and needy, he doesn't just identify with some vague group 'out there'- he identifies with us, with you. Wherever we most feel that need, wherever we are at our weakest- he is there.

And so, we are called to follow our Good King's example... Feed the hungry. Give the thirsty drink. Welcome the stranger. Clothe the naked. Visit the sick and imprisoned... And remember those works of mercy are not just limited to the physical or corporal sense; we are also called to attend to the *spiritual* needs of our brothers and sisters as well. In doing so we are acting as Christ's hands and voice in the world, participating in his kingship of humble service. And in serving with him by reaching out to the needy, in a mysterious way we are also serving him too, "insofar as you did this to one of the least of mine, you did it to me."

And so Christ is both *within* us and *before* us, so that he is *with* us in all things.

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
 Elizabeth (Liz) O'Sullivan

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Mary Bryent, James Stahl, Trevor Wright
 Antonio Tarascio, Brian Templeton
 Mary O'Connor, Michael Considine
 Cade Hickey, Carmela Capone, Mary Considine
 Frank Richardson, Frederick Ledwick, Owen Rogers
 Stan Smith, Deanne Ryan, John Billing,
 Caterina Siciliano, Emilio Tuntar

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,

THIS WEEKEND (25TH/26TH NOV)

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

Saturday: 6:00pm Swan Hill

Family Fun Night with Gen Bryant & Band
Music, Games & Food after Mass

Sunday: 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday: 10:30am Swan Hill

Followed by 'Feast of Nations' in PFC

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 5.30pm

Wednesday 10am

Thurs: **NO MASS** Swan Hill-

Lake Boga Faith & Family Gathering

Friday: 11am Adoration, 11.30am Mass

Saturday: Conf 9:30am, Mass 10am, Rosary 10.30am

NEXT WEEKEND (2ND/3RD DEC)

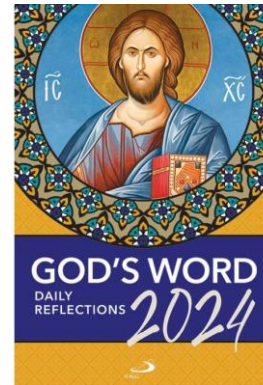
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES



**NOW AVAILABLE: COLUMBAN CALENDARS,
 GOD'S WORD & CHRISTMAS CARDS**

This weekend brings us to the end of the Liturgical Year. Advent starts next weekend, and with it the new Liturgical Year (Year B- with the Gospel of Mark as the focus). This also means Christmas is only a few short weeks away!

Looking for that something extra special?

We have for sale

Religious Christmas Cards @ \$10 pk

Columban Calendars @\$10 each

Gods Word 2024 \$20 each

All available from the office.

LAKE BOGA FAITH & FAMILY GROUP

Will meet again this coming Thursday 30th November for Mass and shared dinner at Teresa O'Brien's house.

As usual, we have put out invites to those we think would be interested. If you would like to also join, you are very welcome and catch Fr James or Teresa for more details.



DECEMBER ROSARY

NEXT SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER SWAN HILL

Mass will be celebrated at 10am followed by the Rosary at 10.30am with light refreshments to follow in the Parish Function Centre. All welcome.

SUNDAY CUPPA AFTER MASS

Next Sunday 3rd December after 10.30am Mass.

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

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St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

The Reverse Advent Calendar Drive is back. Boxes are available from the office and after Masses next weekend. You can participate by taking a box and filling it with suggested items (list available), donation of goods. Or if you don't have the time, you can also donate money which will be used to help fill the boxes with any missing items.

Unlike a regular Advent Calendar where the focus is on receiving a treat every day the Reverse Advent Calendar takes the focus off receiving and places the focus on giving to others.

A Reverse Advent Calendar begins as an empty box. Each day during December you place one item (non-perishable food, toiletries, Christmas treat food) into the box. After 20 days your filled Reverse Advent Calendar is returned to the parish office where it is will distributed through the Good Kitchen and St Vincent de Paul.

Some of the suggested items for the box are canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned tuna, baked beans, soups, long life milk, juice, coffee, tea and milo, spreads such as vegemite, peanut butter or jam. Rice, pasta and noodles, cereal, muesli bars, toiletries, Christmas treat food. Regular everyday items.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why do you think Jesus used the image of sheep and goats to represent the virtuous and the neglectful?

Why does Jesus banish the people who say they didn't recognise him in need?

When have you helped someone in need? What happened and how did it make you feel?

When have you ever failed to help someone in need? Why did you not help?

Compare this reading with Luke 4:16-21. What message is evident in both readings?

What message or challenge emerges from the gospel passage for you?

Which groups are the hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked and imprisoned today?

How might the Church better respond to the face of Jesus in the needy today?

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL

Today's Gospel passage is the conclusion of Jesus' discourse with his disciples. It is about the end of time, the coming of the Son of Man, and the final judgment. We hear this description of the final judgment at the conclusion of our liturgical year, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. In the context of Matthew's Gospel, this passage might also be read as a conclusion of Matthew's report on Jesus' life and ministry; the remaining chapters report the events of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes to his disciples the scene of the judgment of the Son of Man. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep and goats upon their return from the pasture. The judgments made by the Son of Man will be based upon the acts of mercy shown to the least ones—the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. Indeed, Jesus, who suffered on the Cross, identifies himself with the least ones.



Recall that last week's parable of the talents taught us that the gifts that we have been given are intended to be used for the service of others, especially the least among us. Our judgment before God will be based not only on how we have used these gifts and talents, but also on how we have extended ourselves in service to these least ones. Indeed, Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have served Christ himself.

When we read today's Gospel in the context of the chapters that follow in Matthew's Gospel, we learn the extent to which Jesus identifies with the least ones. In accepting death on the cross, Jesus shows himself to be one of the hungry, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. To accept Jesus is to accept him who suffered and died on the Cross as one of the least ones. © Loyola Press

FIRST READING Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22:1-3, 5-6, R. see v.1

**(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last

of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mark 11:9-10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise and glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37