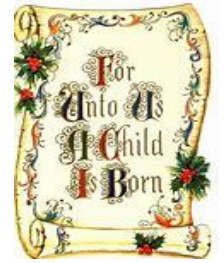




# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

Incorporating the Communities of

*St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Joseph's Nandaly,  
S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill as well as the  
Lake Boga Families & Faith Group*



## MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



### WISHING YOU EVERY JOY AND BLESSING THIS CHRISTMAS!

We wish you and all those you love every joy this Christmas. May Christ's peace fill your hearts and your homes! We all know the story, of how after he was born Jesus was laid in a manger, 'because there was no room for them in the inn'. Let's make room for Jesus in our lives today. He comes now to meet us, in all the busyness and stress of our lives. Let's open up our hearts and let him in, so that he may fill us with his light and his love, and that we might share the peace and joy we find in him with everyone we meet. In that way, Christ is truly born anew into the world, even today. Every home can be a little Bethlehem, and every heart a manger ready to receive Jesus. And here in the Eucharist is the perfect place to begin; the same Jesus born all those years ago in Bethlehem, the 'City of Bread', come to us in the Eucharist as our Bread of Life. He gives himself to us again today, so that we might be filled.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

#### Parish Contact Details

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St  
Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585  
Phone: 03 5032 4144

[northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

#### Office Hours

Tues, Wed, and Fri 10:30am -2pm

#### Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

#### Parish Admin Officers:

Glenda Klabbers

Mary Kennedy

#### Child Protection Officers:

Damian and Karen Kelly

#### Child Safe Church

Here in the Parish of Holy Family North East Mallee follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office.

### **ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Jim Romeo, Eileen Watson, George Livingston  
Margaret Cleary, Paul Peluso, Connie Isgro,  
Nicholas Bruton, John Capiello, Maria Mirabito,  
Patricia Hinton, Marg Mason, Paul Dutto,  
Alexander Irwin, Margaret Johnston

### **WISHING YOU A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND EVERY BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR!**

I will heading home this week to spend a few days with my family. The Office will be closed from Christmas Eve until Tuesday Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> with limited hours during January on Tuesday and Friday.

### **MASSES IN COMING DAYS** *No week day Masses*

#### **FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY**

30<sup>th</sup> /31<sup>st</sup> Dec

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

#### **NEW YEARS DAY: MARY MOTHER OF GOD**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 10am Swan Hill

### **ANNUAL BISHOP'S COLLECTION**

Each year at Christmas we take up a special collection across the Diocese that is then distributed to those in need, both locally and internationally. Last year the \$44,000 collected were distributed as follows: \$10,000 each given to the Appeal for Ukraine and Gaza \$5000 to each of Catholic Care Victoria , St Vincent de Paul, Nazareth House Ballarat, St Columban's Mission Peru, \$2000 each to Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans and to Aid to the Church on Need. This collection will be taken as you leave the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

Donations can now also be made directly via the "Parish Giving" link at the bottom of the Diocesan website home page, Click on Parish Giving, select your Parish, then from the drop down box " My Giving is For", select "Bishop's Christmas Appeal."

### **MORE 'THANK YOU'S...**

Last week I made a point of thanking all our many volunteers and indeed all the parishioner for your ongoing support, and for all you contribute to our community and God's Mission. If you missed that message, please accept this as our thank you!

This week I would like to take the opportunity to thanks some particular people with special roles.

We are very blessed to have such dedicated and professional leadership in our schools, so to Michelle Haeusler, Kate Quin and Kate Nunn... my sincere thanks for all you do. Our thanks also extends to all the staff of our schools.

I also would like to thank Glenda and Mary for their tremendous generosity in serving our parish. You both bring your full heart to your ministry. We are so blessed to have you. And to the Finance Committee and Naomi for your great support, thank you!

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

What words or phrases from the passage appear to be particularly significant? Why?

How might Mary and Joseph have felt about their situation for having their baby?

What message about Jesus is portrayed by his mother laying him in a manger – an animal feed trough?

Does a close reading of this passage change your picture of the birth of Jesus in any way?

Why do you think the different infancy stories have been commonly combined into one?

### **A CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

"Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

### **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.a](mailto:principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.a)

#### **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)



Draw a picture of the newly born Jesus lying in the manger.



JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Joy to the world! The Saviour is Born!

18/11/08

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | E | T | H | L | E | H | E | M | N | M | N | F | A |
| A | J | Z | P | S | A | V | I | O | U | R | J | J | L |
| D | E | D | S | K | U | Q | D | R | G | L | O | R | Y |
| V | S | L | N | E | Y | L | K | E | P | N | P | V | Y |
| W | U | G | D | V | C | U | N | S | P | A | X | S | J |
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| V | J | O | C | O | N | Q | V | G | C | R | L | H | O |
| G | U | B | B | M | A | P | M | P | G | L | S | D | C |
| X | Y | D | A | U | F | J | M | A | N | G | E | R | C |

Try to find these words:

- angels
- Bethlehem
- flocks
- glory
- Jesus
- Joseph
- manger
- Mary
- Nazareth
- peace
- shepherds
- saviour

**FIRST READING** *Is 9:1-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this. *The Word of the Lord* .

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 95:1-3, 11-13 R. Lk 2:11*

*(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth.

With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth.

*(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

**SECOND READING** *Ti 2:11-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. *The Word of the Lord*.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Lk 2:10-11*

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *Lk 2:1-14*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*