



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



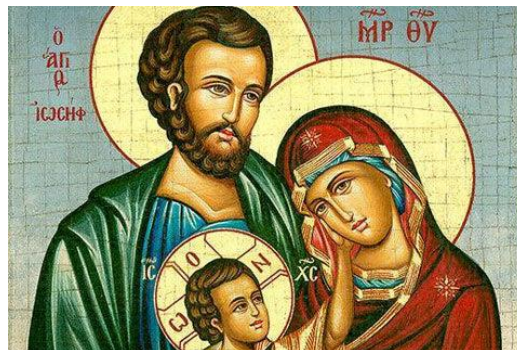
31ST DECEMBER 2023:

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Today's feast of the Holy Family, our parish patron, is about faithful love that looks after the most important people in our lives. We all know that fights and bitterness can wreck families for generations. If today's feast means anything it is not about romanticising how difficult family life can be these days. It is about naming that forgiveness, compassion and kindness are the blocks upon which Christian family life is built. Without these virtues family life crumbles.

The best way to honour today's feast is to do something about the faithful love it celebrates. I have often been with people on their deathbed when they speak about things they have left undone and would have liked to have achieved in their life. No one ever says that they wish they had spent more time at work. No one says they wish they had made more money. But many people say that they wish they had told those that they love, that they loved them. We shouldn't assume that our families know about our love for them if we haven't said it. If we show it, we should be able to say it. So write a letter, make a call or go and see them, but let's pluck up our courage and tell our families that we love them. It's too late once we're dead.

And the best news is that when we profess our love to our families we'll see that today's celebration is in fact a moveable feast.



The Liberation of Women

In today's Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was 'purified'. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy.

No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence.

This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God's plan for humankind by birthing us into the world.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church changes rules and structures which confine women in cages built from ideologies foreign to the Gospel, lest those rules become swords which pierce Mary's soul.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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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+**

Tony Caruana Chris Powell
Rex Delmenico Freda Livingston

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Maria Mirabito, Patricia Hinton, Marg Mason
Paul Dutto, Bill Croft, Margaret Johnston
Teresa Aiello, Dorothy Tuohey, John Maher
Ray Leschke, Marie Barry, Kenneth McManus
Margaret Foott, Lance Learmonth
Tom & Margaret Bookham, Michael Conlan

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 (30TH/31ST DEC)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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

NEW YEARS DAY: MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Monday: Swan Hill 10.00am

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 11.00am *Funeral Mass for*

Anthony Caruana

Wednesday 10am

Thurs: 1.30pm *Funeral Mass for Christopher Powell*

Confessions 5pm, **Mass 5:30pm**, Adoration

Friday: 11am Adoration, 11.30am Mass

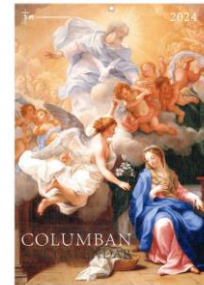
Saturday: (1st Month) Confessions 9am
Mass 10am

NEXT WEEKEND (6TH/7TH JAN)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake
Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

NOTICES



**STILL AVAILABLE: COLUMBAN CALENDARS,
GOD'S WORD**

Columban Calendars @ \$10 each

Gods Word 2024 \$20 each

All available from the office.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

How might Mary and Joseph have reacted to what Simeon said about Jesus?

What purpose is served by portraying Jesus as inspiring prophecy?

What can a modern family learn from the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus?

What does it mean to you to belong to a family?

What are the responsibilities that come with being a member of a family?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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

DECODE THE PROPHECY

Use the code below to decipher the prophet's message

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



JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

They escaped into Egypt

#12315-19-23

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

Try to find these words:

afraid
 angel
 dream
 Egypt
 Herod
 hurry
 Israel
 Judea
 Nazareth
 night
 prophet
 stay

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Draw the angel speaking to Joseph in his dream.



I love my family

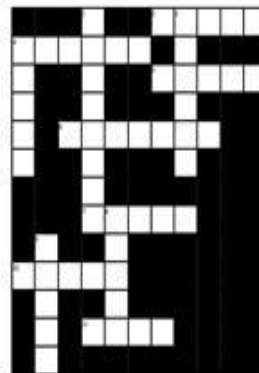
Joseph was willing to protect his family because he loved them and he loved God. Who are some of the members of your family and how can you show that you love them?



CROSSWORD

They escaped into Egypt

#12315-19-23



- Across
- the time when the moon and stars appear in the sky
 - scared
 - the angel appeared to Joseph in a _____
 - a p. _____ said that Jesus would be called a Nazarene
 - this king was looking for Jesus and wanted to harm him
 - to go quickly
 - to remain where you are
- Down
- after King Herod died Joseph took Mary and Jesus to live in this town
 - Joseph thought that it would be too dangerous to return to this place
 - an _____ appeared in Joseph's dream
 - the angel told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to this place
 - Herod's son Archelaus became the ruler of this place

How Fun! Year 111000488_2022_C100-01

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FIRST READING Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

*A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.*

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life! **(R.)**

SECOND READING Colossians 3:12-21

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians
Concerning the Christian life in the world.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Colossians 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

*'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;*

because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord. ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.