



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



14TH JANUARY 2024: 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME *CALLED BY NAME*



When a family presents their child for baptism, the very first thing we ask them is 'What name have you given your child?' That's significant isn't it? It speaks to an essential truth of our faith, we might even say the *most* essential truth... that each and every one of us is known by God and called by name.

Our faith is something fundamentally personal- God calls us each by name, so that each and every one of us might enjoy a personal relationship with him. None of us are strangers to God, even if at times we might feel that way. He knows us deeply, more deeply than we know ourselves. He treasures and loves us dearly, more dearly than we love ourselves. And he calls each of us by name, so that we might call on him in turn.

This is not just a sentimental statement. We should take it literally. Think about it. We are here because we have been called by name. Maybe that call came a long time ago, maybe it has been more recent. Maybe that call came directly from God, something we felt as a tug on our heart, or even as a gentle voice, like Samuel heard in today's First Reading. Or maybe (and perhaps more likely), that call came through the lips of someone special in our lives, just like Andrew calls his brother Peter in the Gospel today. Our 'Andrew' might have been a friend or relation, a teacher, a neighbour or a colleague. Either way, the call was something real and personal, even if it came in the form of our parents yelling at us, "get in the car, it is time for Mass!"

Whichever way he worked it, God made sure we were called, because he wants us to call on him.

So two little take aways...

Firstly, may we never fail to heed that call. May we continue to respond to God in our lives, ready to risk it all just like the first disciples who followed Jesus. They didn't have all the answers. They couldn't see what was ahead. But they knew they wanted to follow Christ, and that was enough. They could work the rest out as they went! And secondly, may we never be afraid to be the 'Andrew' for the people we know in our lives. Okay, so maybe we don't want to pester or annoy them by saying 'come to Mass!' every-time we see them, but you will know the right moment when it comes. We all need God all the time, but at some times we are more aware of that need than others. And at those significant moments, our friend might only need some gentle words to point them in the right direction and help them along the way.

Maybe it is God's special plan for those words to come from our lips.

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+**

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

May Croft, Nyree Templeton, Mary Walsh
Peter Power, Mary Allen, Norah Gregor
Joe Clarke, Pauline Martin, Angela Shepherd
Pauline Nolan, Eddie Dalton, Bryan Hogan
Cameron Looney, Laurence Byrne
Margaret Walsh, Giuseppe 'Joe' Galluccio
Margaret Rogers, John (Jack) Quirk

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 (13TH/14TH JAN)
2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Nandaly

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tues: **Funeral Prayers Graham Gaylard 1:30pm**

No Weekday Masses

**NEXT WEEKEND (20/21ST JAN)
3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Culgoa

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

TEACHING VACANCY: MACKILLOP

St Mary MacKillop College is seeking a Teacher for 2024. The classes are in Years 7 to 9 and can be 4 or 5 days per week. This position would suit a Primary teacher looking for a change, or a student in their last year of study (Permission to Teach).

Anyone interested is encouraged to contact

Michelle Haeusler.

Ph: 5032 9771

principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

SOME GOOD SUMMER VIEWING ON

FORMED.org

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

Tired of flicking through the channels looking for something to watch? Maybe you could check out some of the latest programs on FORMED.org



Do you ever feel like it's almost impossible to raise holy kids who love God (and sit still in Mass!) in our modern world? You're not alone!

This six-episode series features real Catholic families like yours sharing their daily struggles and victories.

Created by the Augustine Institute and Catholic Sprouts, The Catholic Parent aims to encourage you as a mum or dad as you embrace your God-given role to form your family in the richness of the Catholic faith. Available from January 16th. See Preview here: watch.formed.org/the-catholic-parent/season:1



Rediscover the overwhelming significance of your own adoption as a child of God by watching *Reborn*.

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

Reborn explores the deeply personal power of Baptism, bringing to light the spiritual reality for parents and godparents and, most importantly, the child being baptized.

<https://watch.formed.org/reborn/season:1>

If you haven't yet signed up for FORMED, it is easy.

*Just go to **formed.org/signup** , Start typing*

Holy Family Parish North East Mallee 62 Splatt St...

*Click on our parish in the drop box, then **NEXT...***

*Then enter your **name and email address...***

SIGN UP, And you are done!

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

BY MARY COLOE PBVM

TAKING A RISK

1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20; John 1:35-42

'Where do you dwell?' 'Come and see.'

The Christmas season concludes with the Feast of the Epiphany and so the liturgical cycle returns to 'Ordinary Time'. In many ways this is a misnomer. It could be called 'Extraordinary Time', since nothing about God's presence and action in our world can be labelled 'ordinary'. Though the stories might be familiar, if we contemplate them afresh they can be filled with wonder. The Gospel today reveals the sense of wonder experienced by Jesus' disciples. They had been following John, a strange, rather wild prophet from the desert, but now John has pointed them towards Jesus. Thus their wonder begins.

Their question, 'Where do you dwell?' is the right question for disciples to ask. In John's Gospel Jesus dwells in the heart of the Father (John 1:18) and so if disciples want to draw close to God, they need to draw close to Jesus, to discover where he dwells. Dwelling with Jesus will lead disciples to also dwell in the heart of God. The Greek word used here is *menein*, which means to dwell or remain. As the Gospel unfolds this word takes on the rich theological sense of the divine mutual indwelling – God in us, and we in God. Unfortunately the rich meaning of the word is often missed when it is translated as 'live'.

In this passage Jesus is given a number of titles, 'Lamb of God', 'Rabbi' and 'Messiah'. One of the issues faced by people who met Jesus was the question, 'Who is he?' Is he a teacher like the Pharisees? Is he a prophet like the prophets of old? Is he the long awaited son of David who will establish a free and independent Kingdom? What is striking about the first disciples is that without having fully clear answers there was something about Jesus and his teaching that captivated them, leading them to follow him. They took an enormous risk in this.

In our world today there are many ways that people seem prepared to take a risk. Some try the stock market, others enjoy a bet, and many young people leave the country to work and travel abroad for a few years. Even our important commitments involve risk-taking. And yet, surrounded by so many risks, and unknown answers, I find some people want absolute certainty in religious matters. They want proof about God, or clear black and white answers to complex moral questions. Why should religious issues be any different from other aspects of normal human living?

Paul speaks to the Corinthians from this same theological insight of God's dwelling with and in the community. During the Old Testament time, the great symbol of God's dwelling with Israel was the Temple and so Paul speaks of Christians as a living temple. Paul's context is a community living in Greece who have taken enthusiastically to his teaching, but in their enthusiasm have over-spiritualised the Gospel.

From the time of Plato and the great philosophers there was a strong tendency to dualism in Greek thought – body/mind; spirit/matter. This community has so emphasised the gift of God's Spirit that they have overlooked the embodied reality of their lives. Some have come to the conclusion that since they have the gift of the Spirit then what they do with their bodies was no longer of ethical importance. Who we sleep with, does not matter. So Paul has to correct this over-spiritualising of the Gospel.

The body does matter. The Gospel is not some holy thought, or spirit filled interior disposition; since we are embodied persons the Gospel necessarily has an ethical and social dimension. How we live, our practical decisions, our relationships – these also need to be holy so that we are truly the Body of Christ. So Christianity avoids an excessive piety without social obligations, even as it recognises the importance of living Spirit-filled lives. Our God has become incarnate and the bodily resurrection of Jesus affirms the importance of really living an embodied existence in this world with the values of the Gospel.

© **Mary Coloe**

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5. 10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 3:3-10.19

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv. 8.9

(R.) Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord.

and he stooped down to me;

he heard my cry.

He put a new song into my mouth,

praise of our God.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.

Instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.

My God, I delight in your law

in the depth of my heart.

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;

you know it, O Lord. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20

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

Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 1:41. 17

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah:

Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:35-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

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

