



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



21ST JANUARY 2024: 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU INTO FISHERS OF MEN"

So here is Jesus, at the very beginning of his public ministry. After announcing the Good News that God's time has come and calling people to repentance (that is, a change of heart), what is the very first thing he does? He finds some fishermen, and calls them to join him in his Mission.

From the very get-go, Jesus begins to form a community around him. This new family is the beginnings of his Church. Communion and Mission belong together. When Jesus calls us to repentance and conversion, we are not just called to individual reform for its own sake. Repentance frees us to enter into relationship and communion; communion with God and communion with each other.

Last week we welcomed Simon and Channa, two of our seminarians who are in formation to serve as priests in our Diocese. Please pray for all our seminarians. They will have a special role in building up and serving the Church, the community Christ founded when he called his first disciples. But it was not only the apostles who brought people to Christ. All of his disciples helped win people to him, each in their own special way. And the same is true for us. It is not only bishops and priests, religious and missionaries who are called to be 'fishers of people.' Each and every one of us is called through our baptism to share Christ with the people around us, and so help bring them into relationship with him. That is how the Church grows; we Christ's followers invite others to join us on the way. We don't have to have all the answers, just a simple trust in the one we follow.

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+**
Mick Egan (Warrnambool)

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Giuseppe 'Joe' Galluccio (1 yr), Mary Fogarty,
Brian "Pud" Walsh, Loughlin Curran, Bill Magee,
Concetta Caruso, Alf Wilson, Tom & Jo Murphy,
Carmelo Carpenteri, Laurel Kelly, Norah McGown,
Eve Ledwich, Catherine Willson, Julia Wilson,
Bill McCartney, Dick Barratt, Brian Byrne,
Agnes Joyce O'Loughlin, Matthew O'Neill, Ken Jillard,
David "Tige" Bonney, Elizabeth (Betty) O'Brien

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

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Culgoa
Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

No Weekday Masses until
Friday 26th 6pm (Australia Day)

**NEXT WEEKEND (27TH/28TH JAN)
4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

WELCOME FR PETER!

We welcome Fr Peter Hudson back this weekend to cover while Fr James is away. Thank you Fr Peter!

**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*.

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.

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

*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!*



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

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY BY MARY COLOE PBVM

COME AND JOIN ME

Mark 1:14-20

Follow me and I will make you fishers of people.

Today we hear the call of the first disciples from Mark's Gospel, which is quite different to how we heard it last Sunday in John's Gospel – a further reminder that the Gospels are theological reflections on the meaning of Jesus' life, rather than biographies or histories.

It is false to imagine these disciples as poor, simple, lower-class men and women. As this Gospel shows, four of them are involved in a major industry in Israel – fishing. Fish was a staple part of the diet in a land unable to sustain large flocks of sheep or herds of cattle. James and John are part of their father's industry that is profitable enough to hire others. In our terms these disciples would be middle-class. Their leaving all behind is therefore quite costly.

Mark's Gospel emphasises discipleship. He writes for his own community struggling to be faithful in a time of persecution and fear. In this scene we see what discipleship costs, namely to be prepared to leave your livelihood and your family. This was a reality within the early church when becoming a follower of Jesus meant leaving the religious traditions and social network of your family's Jewish faith. Once this step was made the past was closed to you. Discipleship costs for the followers of Jesus, as it does for disciples of all time.

Our struggles are different but true discipleship still costs. For some it may be integrity in the work place; bearing the ridicule of others for a particular ethical or religious stance, even within the family. Hear in these difficult moments Jesus' call to be his companion.

The focus of Jesus' preaching is that the reign of God is at hand and this is Good News. Throughout the Old Testament the people of Israel had great faith in God's promises even through long periods of loss and Exile. Just before the time of Jesus, the people experienced a long period of oppression from a Greek Empire and then the Roman Empire. During these final centuries a new type of hope emerged. This hope understood the world as a place dominated by the powers of Evil, what they called the reign of Satan. God's reign would only come when God was able to overcome the power of Evil and establish a reign of peace and justice on earth. This is the hope that lies behind Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom. God has entered into the definitive final struggle against the powers of Satan and God's own reign is already beginning. The many exorcisms and miracles in Mark are the signs of God's victory over Satan. This is truly good news.

The word 'Repent' really means a 'change of heart'. For people who have adjusted to living within the values of this world under the dominion of Evil, then to live within the values of God's reign will require a change of heart. It is simply not possible to live within two different world-views and their opposing values. Jesus announces the reign of God and invites hearers to the change of heart necessary to embrace God's desires. This is invitation and the disciples are the first we see who respond. The dramatic leaving behind of boats and families symbolises the totality of the shift required to change one's heart.

As a New Year begins many people take time to reflect on their manner of living and to make resolutions to change aspects of their life. While making resolutions for the New Year can be trivialised, the custom does reflect what the Gospel is describing – make a change in your life. If you desire the path of God, then reconfigure the road-map of your life.

© **Mary Coloe**

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

FIRST READING *Jonah 3:1-5. 10*

A reading from the prophet Jonah
The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4*

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor **(R.)**

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 7:29-31*

*A reading from the first letter of
St Paul to the Corinthians
The world as we know it is passing away.*

Brothers, our time is growing short.

Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it.

I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Mark 1:15*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near:

believe the Good News!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Mark 1:14-20*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Repent, and believe the Good News.*

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

