

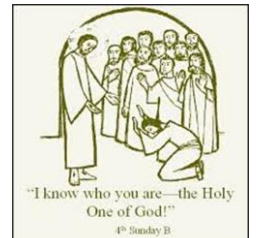


Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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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



28TH JANUARY 2024: 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

***"THE PEOPLE WERE SO ASTONISHED
THAT THEY STARTED ASKING EACH OTHER WHAT IT ALL MEANT."***



As quickly as Jesus begins his public ministry, the people begin to ask themselves 'who is this man?', 'what can this all mean?'. He is a teacher, yes, but more than a teacher; he speaks with an authority none other has yet claimed. He is a healer, yes, but more than a healer; no sickness, hurt or evil spirit can resist him. He is a prophet, yes, but more than a prophet. A prophet speaks for God and acts in his name. God is clearly with Jesus, and yet his name has its own authority and power as well. What can this all mean?

As we listen to the Gospels over the next few weeks, we follow Jesus from the beginning of his ministry all the way to its fulfilment in Jerusalem. As we follow him, we hear his words and see his works. What we see and hear should prompt that same question on our own lips; 'Who is this man?'; 'What can this all mean?'. That question is not merely an intellectual one; remaining on the level of knowledge. Even the unclean spirit is able to name Jesus for who he truly is. Rather, the question is on the level of faith and calls for our heartfelt response. If he is the Holy One of God, how does that change things? What response does that call for in my life? Could I grow to know him more nearly? Follow his words more closely? Trust him more deeply?

We spend our whole lives growing in each of those ways; relationships are inexhaustible. That's why the question is continually posed to us anew. 'What can this all mean?' The point is not to rush to the perfect answer, but to wrestle with the question so that we might continue to grow in love.

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+
 Mrs Margaret Barry (Nee Deveny)
 Thresiamma Joseph (India)

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Giuseppe 'Joe' Saraceno (1 mth)
 Colin Lawry, Vince Mobilio, Rita Stahl, Eugenio Aiello,
 Neil Meyer Des Byrne, Evaline, Bernard,
 William Wilkinson, Wilma Woodburn, Patrick Feeny,
 Bridget Suppl, Johanna Wise, Lucio Tieri, Mary Hall,
 Vince Iannucci, Audrey Walsh, Anne Patching,
 Kathleen McArthur, Adelina Buccheri

SICK LIST

Pat Croft, 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 (27TH/28TH JAN)
4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 5.30pm

Wednesday: 10am

Thurs: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5.30pm, Adoration

Friday: **No Swan Hill Mass- Funeral Quambatook**

Saturday: Confession 9.30am, Mass 10am,
 Rosary 10.30am

NEXT WEEKEND (4TH/5TH JAN)
PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

A SPECIAL BAPTISM WELCOME

This weekend we celebrate 4 special baptisms. On Saturday night Thi Thu Trang Nguyen (Jane) will be received into the Church as an adult, and will take the special name Teresa in baptism. We are very excited for Teresa and David. And then on Sunday in Swan Hill we will welcome three sisters Trinity, Dakota and Skylah Shelton. Our special prayers for the family.



NEXT WEEKEND:

**THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION
 & STAFF COMMISSIONING**

You may remember that for a couple of years now, we have been celebrating the Feast of the Presentation on the first Sunday in February. With the Bishop's permission, this acts as our new Parish Feast Day. The Feast commemorates Mary and Joseph presenting the infant Jesus at the Temple, where he is recognised by Simeon and Anna as the promised Saviour and 'Light to the Nations.'

A special part of this celebration is the blessing of candles as a symbol of our taking the Light of Christ with us into our lives and our homes. We encourage you to bring a candle for the blessing, to take away as a sign of our call to share the Light.

Aligned with the Feast of Presentation, on Sunday 4th February there will also be a commissioning of our school community staff (Swan Hill). We will invite those who wish to join us for a special blessing and commissioning in recognition of the important role they have in sharing the Light of Christ.

Followed by a CUPPA after the 10.30am Mass.

FORWARD NOTICE: 6PM MASS SAT 10TH FEB
LUNAR NEW YEAR (TÊT)

This year, Lunar New Year falls on Saturday 10th February. Our Vietnamese community have come

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

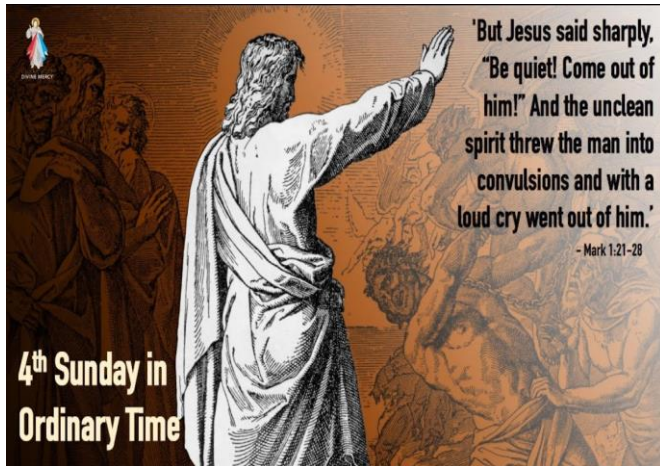
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

together to celebrate with Mass for a few years now. This year, as it falls on a Saturday, we thought it best to incorporate this celebration into the 6pm Parish Mass. Fr Paul Lu will travel from Finley to celebrate the Mass in Vietnamese.

This will be a special opportunity for us all to share in the Vietnamese culture. Even if you may not understand all the words, it is still easy to follow the Mass. We can all find a home in its familiar movements and rituals.



**NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY
BY MARY COLOE PBVM**

THE POWER OF EVIL HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

'Here is a teaching that is new.'

Archaeologists have done major excavations at Capernaum and visitors today see a large white Synagogue built upon the foundations of an earlier first century Synagogue. Capernaum was an important city situated on Lake Galilee and was the centre of Jesus' ministry more than his home town Nazareth which was a smaller inland village. What surprises people about Jesus is his manner of teaching. The normal pattern of teaching in those days would have been to quote the teaching of a former great rabbi – 'According to Rabbi Hillel . . .' or, 'As Rabbi Nathan said . . .'. But Jesus teaches from his own experience and knowledge of God. This gives his words an astounding authority – no wonder his reputation spread.

The episode in today's Gospel is the first miracle in Mark, and it is an exorcism where Jesus defeats the powers of evil. Mark is operating within a common understanding of the Jews of his time that this world is under the power of Satan. The Jews looked to God to put an end to this world and to usher in a new world of God's desires and God's authority.

In the Gospel this new world is called God's Kingdom. But before this new world can begin, the evil powers that currently are in control must first be overcome. It is not surprising then, that immediately after his Baptism Jesus goes into the wilderness to confront Satan and then publicly shows that Satan has been defeated in this first public miracle.

Notice that I use the past tense – Satan has been defeated. This may be hard to believe given the terrorist attacks and wars of recent years, but Christian faith proclaims that the the gracious love of God is now present in this world; God's Kingdom is in process. The Gospel will go on to speak of God's reign with images of seeds and yeast, in other words, small things that have life energy and can grow. Such small things may not make the news headlines and can be overlooked. This week, look around you. Look for the seeds; look for the signs of God already present in your life.

The letter to the Corinthians continues Paul's advice from last week. Again this is part of a long response to questions the Corinthians put to Paul. We only have the answers so we can only guess what they may have written *'Dear Paul, we know that Jesus will soon return to us but we have been waiting now a few years. Some of us are wondering whether we should marry or not. If Jesus is coming soon perhaps there is no point in marrying, but what do you advise?'*

Paul advises his community not to marry, but if his words are taken out of context they can be misinterpreted as suggesting he is against marriage. This is not the case. Within Judaism marriage and children are a great blessing and it would be very odd for Paul to advise against marrying – except that he is anticipating the return of Jesus very soon. His main concern is 'that you give your undivided attention to the Lord'. Notice that Paul offers the same advice to both men and women: 'an unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs . . . in the same way, an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs.' In this letter and in Paul's letter to the Romans we see quite clearly that women, as well as men, had significant roles within the Pauline Churches. Paul commends the woman deacon Phoebe and calls her a leader of the nearby port city of Cenchrea, a few kilometres from Corinth (Rom 16:1-2). The presence of the Risen Christ makes all other things, even marriage, relative.

© Mary Coloe

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'"

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9

(R.) If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;

hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

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

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to

make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matthew 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 1:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside. *The Gospel of the Lord.*

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

FEAST OF PRESENTATION

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

