



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

Fifth Sunday of
Lent

One day at a time.

17TH MARCH 2024 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT SHALL FALL...



Every time a farmer sows a crop, they are taking a risk. There are many factors beyond their control that can diminish their return of investment—bad weather, pests, disease, low prices... even finding the labour to bring in the harvest. Now think about the risk for a farmer in Jesus' day. The seed they sowed was the same grain they relied on for food. If the season was a bad one, they risked going hungry. Once the grain is in the ground, you can't eat it anymore. But the risk had to be taken... if you stopped sowing, the grain pit would eventually run empty.

Christ took on a huge risk when he accepted his mission. He knew it would end in his death, just as the seed 'dies' when it is sown. Would the sacrifice be worth it? He gives us everything he has but will not force us to love him in return. Would we open our hearts to receive his gift? Or just like bad weather and disease, would pride or fear make for a poor harvest? But the risk would not deter him; the seed was sown.

And what about us? Will we follow where he has led? Will we take the risk of receiving his love, and respond by giving the gift of ourselves? Will we 'lose our life' in love so that we may keep it into eternity? After all, our days in this life are limited. Like the grain pit, if we refuse to sow, it will eventually run empty. I've heard it said that the phrase Jesus uses more than any other is 'Do not be afraid.' I like that, because I need to hear it a lot! Yes, there is a risk in following Christ, but what are we afraid of? Everything we have comes from him anyway, so in giving it back, we have nothing to lose.

"Are we not perhaps all afraid in some way? If we let Christ enter fully into our lives, if we open ourselves totally to him, are we not afraid to give up something significant, something unique, something that makes life so beautiful? Do we not then risk ending up diminished and deprived of our freedom? And once again the Pope (John Paul II) said: No! If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation. And so, today, with great strength and great conviction, on the basis of long personal experience of life, I say... Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ- and you will find true life. Amen."

Pope Benedict XVI at his inauguration- 24th April 2005

Parish Contact Details:

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Website: northeastmallee.org.au

Office Hrs: Tues, Thurs 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

Antonio, Vincenza & Frank Fazzalori,
Libby Dunstone, Teresa Prochilo, Francis Ledwich,
Catherine Leggitt, Margaret Nolan, John White,
Mary Meehan, Evelyn O'Brien, Sebastiano Costa,
Lavena Johnston, Maurice McNamara,
William Foley, Tony De Maio, Ivor McLean,
Valerie Irwin, Bryant (Wangie) Barry

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 (16TH/17TH MARCH)

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Culgoa

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tues: 5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10am Mass

Thurs: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5.30pm, Adoration

Friday: 11.30 Mass

5-6pm Confessions

6pm Stations of the Cross – Kid's and Family

Saturday: Confessions 10am

NEXT WEEKEND (23RD/24TH MARCH)

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

With Confessions in Vietnamese available afterwards

NO MASS QUAMBATOOK- (Lay-Lead this week)

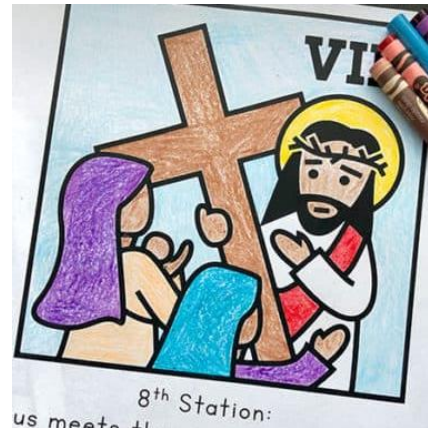
Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

SALE OF ST MICHAEL'S LALBERT

The contract of sale of St Michael's Lalbert was signed late last week, with a settlement period of 90 days. I would once again like to thank the Lalbert Church community for all their help, and for all the others too who have played a special role in caring for the property and preparing it for sale.

Of course, there is a sadness in saying goodbye to a building that holds so many memories. We continue to treasure those memories and carry them with us as we continue forward in this pilgrimage of faith.



**KIDS & FAMILY STATIONS OF THE CROSS
WITH FISH & CHIPS**

Next Friday 22nd March at 6pm we will celebrate a special Stations of the Cross in Swan Hill aimed at Kid's and families. We will have a couple of games and activities, a kid friendly Stations and some fish & chips for dinner. All families are welcome. Perhaps grandparents can pass the word on, or even bring some of their little ones?

RSVPs would be appreciated for catering purposes.

WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY

A special welcome to Olive, daughter of Kathryn & Jack O'Rourke, and Rudy, daughter of Sarah & Jayden Lonergan, who will be presented for Baptism this Sunday. Welcome into God's family!

VISIT FR PETER NGUYEN BUI QUOC KHANH

Fr Peter is visiting from Vietnam and will join us for Mass on Saturday 23rd March.

He will be available for Confession in Vietnamese after 6pm Mass.

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

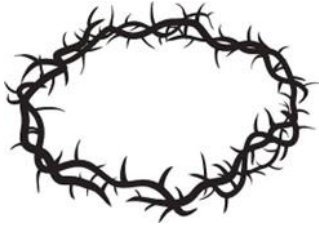
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

ROSTERS FOR EASTER

If you are able to help with the different ministries/roles for Holy Week and Easter in Swan Hill, the rosters are available in the Church to fill in. An extra job too- if anyone can help with the Easter fire let me know!



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

HOLY WEEK IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday Mass 10am

Children's First Confessions 5pm & 6:30pm

Wednesday Mass 10am, *with Anointing of the Sick*
Confessions 5-6pm

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper: Swan Hill 6pm

Followed by the Watch

GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross Swan Hill 10am

Followed by Confessions until 11:30am

Celebration of the Lord's Passion Swan Hill 3pm

Followed by Confessions until 5pm

Tenebrae Swan Hill 8pm (Praying with the Psalms)

HOLY SATURDAY & EASTER VIGIL

Confessions 10am

Easter Vigil Mass 6pm

EASTER SUNDAY

Mass Quambatook 8:30am *(With Anointing)*

Mass Swan Hill 10:30am

Followed by Easter Lunch



EASTER SUNDAY PARISH LUNCH

Easter is a special day of celebration and joy, but with distance and circumstance not everyone is able to join with family and friends for a special meal.

So that no-one need be alone, some parishioners have offered to host a special lunch on Easter Sunday after Mass, so that we can celebrate together as a parish family. Everyone is welcome!

If you would like help in any way, please let Jordan Wong or Helen Tuntar know.

FREE SCREENING: THE CHOSEN

Screenings continue with Episodes 5 & 6 on Tuesday at 7pm at Swan Hill Cinema. Series 1 will conclude with Episodes 6 & 8 next Tuesday.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND IS FOR YOU... "LIVE YOUR BEST MARRIED LIFE IN LOVE"

Date: **12-14 April, 2024** in Melbourne

Info/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au


Please check our website for more details

Website: wwme.org.au

RANDOM ACTIVITIES FOR LENT

- + Call or facetime a loved one who you won't be able to see at Easter.
- + Write a note to someone who has helped you grow in your faith to say thank you for their example.
- + Give up screen time for the entire day and do something fun as a family.
- + Listen to religious music while doing a task you have been putting off.
- + Go to a week day Mass.

Unless a grain
of wheat
falls to the
earth
and dies
It remains
just a
grain
of wheat



HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

How is the image of the grain of wheat relevant to Jesus' life and mission?

How do you think the disciples might have responded to what Jesus said in this gospel passage?

What are some of the 'trappings' or 'things' of this world that people find difficult to let go of?

Do you know anyone who has put other people's needs before their own comfort and status?

What do you need to 'let go of' in your life to really flourish and 'produce a harvest'?

READINGS NEXT WEEK: PALM SUNDAY

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1 – 15:47

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt.
and cleanse me from my sin.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;

and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL John 12:20-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,

it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

‘Now sentence is being passed on this world;

now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth,

I shall draw all men to myself.’

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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

