

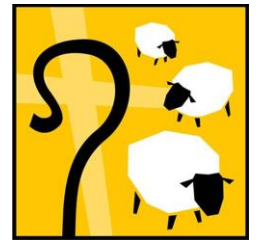


Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 50324144

Website: northeastmallee.org.au

Incorporating the Communities of St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill as well as the Lake Boga Families & Faith Group



21ST APRIL 2024 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



***"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD; I KNOW MY OWN AND MY OWN KNOW ME...
AND I LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR MY SHEEP."***

I have been speaking a lot these last few weeks about going *out*; we are sent *out* to share the light, to be messengers of peace, to be witnesses to the power of the Cross and the hope of the Resurrection. And that is important to remember, because Christ does indeed send us out. But let's be honest, we don't always feel ready to go out. No matter how strong we become, we will always need help. We need a courageous defender to help us through times of fear. We need a faithful friend by our side as we face all life's worries. We need a wise guide to lead us on the right path. We need nourishment to keep us strong. And of course, we need to find rest when we are weary.

The good news is, Christ is all those things. He is our Good Shepherd, and will stop at nothing to keep us safe and to bring us the help we need. We won't always understand his methods or his plan, but we can trust in him. In so many ways he has shown us his Goodness. He lays down his life, valuing our life more than his own. *That* is the mark of the Good Shepherd. And because he is ready to lay it all down for us, we know that we can entrust our lives and all we love to his care.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR SACRAMENTAL FAMILIES

This weekend in Swan Hill we begin our preparations for First Communions.

We welcome all the children and their families in a special way.

Please be assured of our prayers.



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, 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

Matthew O'Brien, Irene Cattran
Danny Lavey, James O'Brien, Bernard Walsh
Tony Massara , Catherine Ledwich
Catherine McEwan, Trevor Hogan, Angela McKay
Giuseppe Raco, Teresa Kelly, Michael Walsh

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 20TH/21ST APRIL

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Culgoa

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 5.30pm Mass

Wednesday: 10am Mass

Thurs: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass, Adoration

Friday: 11.30am Mass

Also 6pm Mass- Baptism of Lewis Van Dao Nguyen

NEXT WEEKEND 27TH/28TH APRIL

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

"I KNOW MY OWN, AND MY OWN KNOW ME"

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Good Shepherd Sunday is a special time for us to pray for vocations. Christ calls each of us by name. May all our young people come to know the special plan Christ has for them in life, and may we all continue to persevere in our own vocation.

We might also pray in a special way for our seminarians Deacon Cay, Simon and Channa.

*" I was
sick and
you visited
me ..."*

Matthew 25:36

VISITATIONS TO THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

An important part of our Parish Mission is to reach out to the sick and housebound. I am always delighted when a parishioner reaches out to their neighbour or helps an old friend come to Mass. Well done and keep up the good work!

Some parishioners have been ministering in this way for years, but have now come to a point where they can no longer manage it, or are themselves in need of a little help. We could always do with new helpers.

Perhaps you would also like to be involved in this ministry but don't quite know where to start?

This might mean picking someone up for Mass, taking them Holy Communion, dropping off the bulletin or even just calling up to check in and say g'day.

If you know a friend, relative or neighbour who is sick or can no longer make it to church on their own, please let us know by bringing a note with their contact details and we can have a chat about how we might best reach out to them. Such feedback is greatly appreciated and we really do rely on it. After all, we can only respond to what we see and know.

And recognising the very human reality that forgetfulness and distraction by other worries affect even younger people (like me)- a follow up and gentle reminder never go astray.

Ultimately our outreach is a shared ministry; each of us has our part to play.

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



FLORES DE MAYO – 26TH MAY

I have been chatting with one of our new parishioners about starting a celebration for Flores de Mayo in Swan Hill. Meaning 'Flowers of May', this is a special devotion in honour of Mother Mary. I thought it might be a fitting way for us to mark the month of May, and also a special way for our Filippino community within the parish to come together and share their beautiful faith and devotion. If you are interested in being involved, we will have a meeting after 10:30am Mass next Sunday 28th April.



GOSPEL REFLECTION: MARY COLOE PBVM I LAY DOWN MY LIFE...

'The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.'

The image of the good shepherd expresses Jesus' utterly free gift of himself for us. Later in Gethsemane, there will be armed soldiers and he will be arrested, and from then on it could appear that Jesus is a victim of Jewish and Roman law. Today's Gospel makes it clear that Jesus' death is an act of loving self-surrender. He is the shepherd who places his own life at risk to defend his flock. He is the shepherd who will even die if that will enable his flock to live. This is a difficult image to transpose to our Australian culture. Perhaps we need to look at life-savers or firemen/women, who go into danger for others. Jesus is a volunteer. This then raises two questions – what does Jesus save us from? What does Jesus save us for?

In this brief space, I can only say that Jesus saves us from the evil of ignorance of God, as Jesus knows God. The God Jesus reveals is one who loves this world and calls us to be beloved sons and daughters. In making this God known, Jesus drew down the wrath of those whose god was too small and restrictive. Faced with their opposition Jesus could have withdrawn and saved his life, but instead he chose to continue teaching and revealing his God, knowing that his choice would lead to death. So that we would know the depths of God's love, Jesus laid down his life. He is the shepherd who dies that we may be truly alive.

When Jesus confronts the Jerusalem leaders, he draws upon an Old Testament image of leadership, that of the good shepherd. This image recalls that David, Israel's great king, was once a shepherd. The Prophet Ezekiel, at the time of the Exile in Babylon (587 BCE), criticised the leaders of Judah and called them false shepherds. Because these leaders had not cared for the people, Ezekiel declares that God will be the true shepherd of Israel. 'Thus says the Lord God, "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep. I will seek the lost, I will bring back the strayed, I will bind up the crippled and I will strengthen the weak."' (Ezek 34:15-16) In his dispute with the leaders of Jerusalem, Jesus draws on this image to speak of himself: 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.' (10:11) Where the one who is hired has no real care and flees when threatened, the Good Shepherd knows his sheep and is prepared to give his life for them.

Throughout the Gospel, some of the people have looked to Jesus as the long awaited Jewish Messiah, the one expected at the end of time to bring about the reign of God in peace and justice. Frequently the people want a political Messiah like David, a warrior who will liberate them from Rome. Jesus refuses to accept these messianic images. The one image he will accept is that of the messianic good shepherd, prepared to lay down his life.

During the Easter ceremonies, this image of the good shepherd willing to lay down his life was symbolised in the Washing of the Feet where these same words are used to describe Jesus 'laying aside' his outer garments, and then 'taking them up'. What was expressed in symbol and imagery has now been accomplished in Jesus giving over of his life on the Cross and taking it up again in the Resurrection.

© Mary Coloe PBVM

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22

(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:

it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John

We shall see God as he is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been
revealed;

all we know is, that when it is revealed

we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 10:11-18

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.*

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd is one

who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd

and the sheep do not belong to him,

abandons the sheep and runs away

as soon as he sees a wolf coming,

and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;

this is because he is only a hired man

and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;

I know my own

and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me

and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have

that are not of this fold,

and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice,

and there will be only one flock

and one shepherd.

The Father loves me,

because I lay down my life

in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me;

I lay it down of my own free will,

and as it is in my power to lay it down,

so it is in my power to take it up again;

and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

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

READINGS NEXT WEEK: 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

Second Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

Gospel: John 15:1-8