



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

*Have a Blessed Sunday.
May your day be
Beautiful, Peaceful,
Happy, Healthy,
Abundant, and filled
with Love.*

7TH JULY 2024: 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GIVE GOD THE PERMISSION...

Right at the start of the baptism rite, we ask the parents 'what do you ask of God's Church for your child?' It isn't meant as a trick question- the simple answer is baptism- but behind that request are the hopes and dreams the parents hold for their child and their desire to invite God in. When we meet with families at our welcome sessions before baptism, we like to ask them to share what some of those hopes and dreams are.

Every family has a unique answer, but some of the common themes are that their child will be happy and healthy, that they will be kept safe and protected by God, and that they will grow up with good values and know to turn to God when they need his light and help. Other common themes are that the children will know that they are loved, and that they will always find welcome and support in the larger circle of their Church family. It really is an encouraging exercise, and we never grow tired of asking the question. And the point is this; that by bringing those hopes and desires before God and presenting their child for baptism, the parents are giving God the permission to enter their lives and to bless them with his love.

We need to give God that permission. God will never force his love on us. He seeks our 'yes' in faith, he waits for us to open our hearts to let him in.



Sadly, we see something of the opposite in today's Gospel. Jesus returns to his home town, and just imagine how deeply he must have wished to bring God's healing and comfort to people he knew and loved. And yet, instead of openness and faith, he encounters an almost impenetrable wall of cynicism and pride. And because of their lack of faith, they close themselves off to the wonders God is ready to work through Jesus, "and he could work no miracle there." Well almost, there must have been at least some who were open, as we hear he cured a few people who were sick. It is interesting isn't it? It was only those who were aware of their weakness

and need who were able to open their hearts in faith. And in the same way, we too continue to come before the Lord with our own needs and our own hopes. Our faith, as imperfect as it may be, becomes the door through which God can enter our lives. We need to keep giving God the permission.

Oh, and just to finish, there was one last hope that a mum shared. When I asked her what she wanted for her child, her honest response was simply 'That he won't be a rat!'. And you can't argue with that!

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:

Tony and Joelle Whiting

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

Bill Maher, Tom Barry, Lila O'Meara
Ossie Coughlan, William D Kelly, Valma Main
John Joseph Bell, Joan Blore, Louisa Aiello
Gennaro "Jim" De Gregorio, Paul McNamara
Rosa Mobilio, John Dunstan, Gordon Murdoch
Iris Pye

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, Peter Amezdroz

**THIS WEEKEND 6TH/7TH JULY
14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 5.30pm
Wednesday: 10am Mass
Thursday: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass
Friday: 11.30am Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 13TH/14TH JULY
15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sat 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

No Mass Nandaly This Month

NOTICES



ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE POPE

Each year, around the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, the Church around the whole world takes up a collection in support of the Pope and his mission. This is both of practical importance (as one of the main sources of income for the Holy Father and the Vatican) as well as a concrete expression of our communion with Pope Francis and the Church around the world. If you wish to contribute to the collection, this will be done after Mass as a leaving collection.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Just to follow up from Glenis Smith's talk last weekend, we encourage anyone who may be interested in volunteering at the Swan Hill Vinnies Store to speak to shop manager Katrina, Monday – Friday between business hours 9.30am-3pm. The shop is located on 140 Curlewis St, opposite the Big Cod, or otherwise you can call (03) 5032 2632. As Glenis said, rostering can be flexible according to what you can commit to. Volunteers will need to complete a Police Check. For more information you can also visit www.vinnies.org.au/vic/vinnies-shops/volunteer

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

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What might the townspeople have thought when they saw Jesus teaching in their synagogue?

How might the disciples have reacted when they saw the reception Jesus was given?

Why is it difficult to acknowledge the achievements of someone we've grown up with?

What lesson for your own life can you take from this scripture passage?

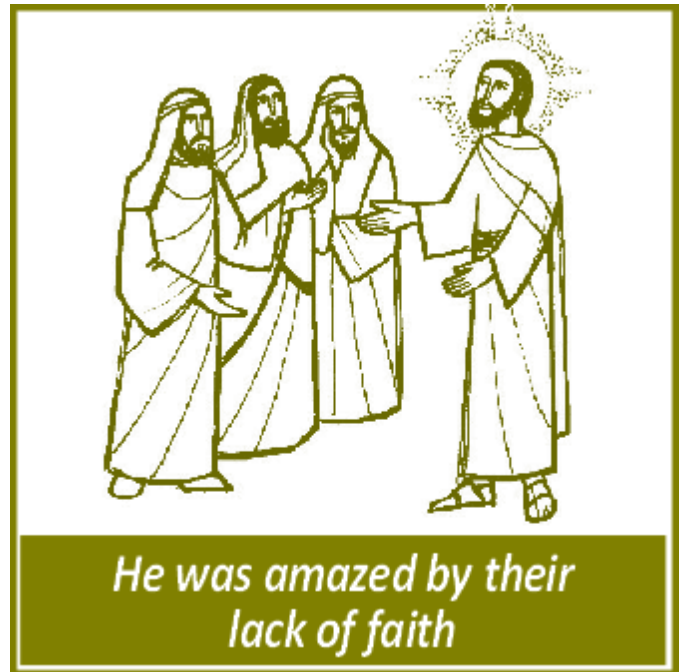
Have you ever learnt something from an unexpected source?

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT – LACK OF FAITH

The final sentence of today's gospel tells us that Jesus was amazed at the lack of faith displayed by his home town. It is a feature of the Gospel of Mark that the accomplishment of miracles is associated with the faith of those involved. The section of the gospel that surrounds this passage deals with the lack of faith and understanding displayed by the disciples. The home town experience is a lesson to the disciples that in the absence of faith, the ministry of Jesus and those who follow him will falter. Only those who truly believe can participate in this ministry and share in the miraculous works of Jesus.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT? BROTHERS OF JESUS

The reference to the brothers of Jesus has caused a lot of controversy in the past and continues to do so. One opinion, now regarded as heresy, was that these brothers were the younger children of Mary and Joseph. Another argument, grounded in the apocryphal gospels of Peter and James, maintains that they were Joseph's sons by an earlier marriage. The view generally held is that they were actually cousins of Jesus. The problem appears to arise because of a problem in translation from one language to another. The original Aramaic word was translated into a Greek word for brothers, or brethren.



REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

It is not easy to recognise a true prophet. Frequently those with prophetic insight are treated without honour. The people to whom Ezekiel was sent were hard of face, obstinate of heart, a rebellious house. The Galileans who heard Jesus' words were no better. They questioned his authenticity because they thought he was no better than they were and, therefore, he had no right to act superior. We so often resent people who can do what we cannot. This resentment can be magnified when the person is someone with whom we have grown up, a member of the family or of the community.

True believers recognise and admit their human frailty. They also know that genuine weakness does not impede the saving action of God. In fact, God seems to prefer to act where pride and self-satisfaction do not prevail, for such attitudes are obstacles to personal transformation. However, when we open ourselves in humility and honest piety, the power of God can flood our minds and our hearts and shine forth from us to all around. When this happens, there will be no doubt in any mind as to the origin of this wondrous reality. It will be very clear that though it comes through us, it comes from God. The receptivity of Paul in this matter is in sharp contrast to the rebellion of the people at the time of Ezekiel and the resistance of those who thought that they knew Jesus so well.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

EZEKIEL 2:2-5

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The people are rebellious; they shall know there will be a prophet in their midst.

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 122. R. v.2

(R.) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens:
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords.

Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of his mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he shows us his mercy.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
I will glory in my infirmities so that the power of Christ
may dwell in me.*

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION See Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 6:1-6

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
A prophet is despised only in his own country.*

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

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



READINGS NEXT WEEK:

15th Sunday in Ordinary time

First Reading: Amos 7:12-15

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel: Mark 6:7-13