



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

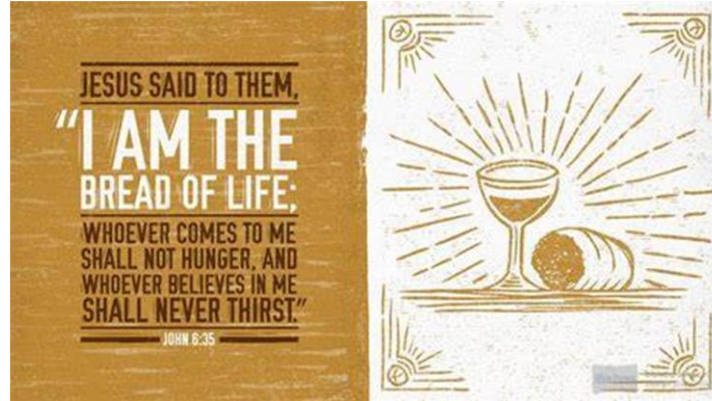
northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 50324144

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



18TH AUGUST 2024: 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"THE BREAD THAT I SHALL GIVE IS MY FLESH, FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD" **THE REAL AND LIVING PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST**

Without fail, whenever I spend any amount of time in our church, I always find that I am not alone. Someone else always seems to be in there when I enter, or else someone will pop in while I am there. Sometimes they are there to do cleaning, or to pick up a bulletin, or perhaps even for a little sticky beak... but for the most part they are there to spend a moment in prayer. Often it is someone I recognise- one of you, our parishioners, coming to 'pay a visit' to our Lord. But often enough it is someone I have never seen before; a visitor from out of town, or perhaps someone who is looking for some comfort and peace, and who have found themselves pulled into our church for a moment of prayer. Whoever it is, they too will find that they are never truly alone in the church; because Christ is already there, waiting for them in the Eucharist.

It is no accident that we find our churches such places of peace and calm. Yes, they are quiet spaces, and we find them decorated with beautiful images and statues and (at the right time of day) flooded with the coloured light streaming through the stained glass windows. Those elements all help lift our hearts. But above all of that, it is the little red flicker of the tabernacle lamp that points to the greatest reason we find comfort here. Here we find our peace, because here dwells the Prince of Peace. The same Christ who was able to calm the stormy sea, is truly present to us in the Eucharist today, ready to bring calm to our troubled hearts. The same Christ who fed the hungry crowds, is here with us today, ready to satisfy our deepest hunger.

Even though we cannot see him with our eyes, by faith we believe that the living Christ is really and truly present to us in the Eucharist. The same Jesus who taught the crowds 'I am the Living Bread come down from heaven', is our Living Bread today. He teaches us that his flesh is real food, and his blood is real drink. This is not an easy teaching, and indeed we will hear next week that many when they heard it found it too much, and simply walked away. But think about it, would Christ give us anything less than his whole self? Christ gave up his life completely, once and for all, on the Cross. In his Passion he handed over his whole self as pure gift, the perfect sacrifice. In an awesome Mystery, the Eucharist as Sacrament is our living share in that one and same gift. Everything Christ is, everything he has, he gives to us in the Eucharist.

Why? Quite simply, because he loves us.

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+

Avis Curthoys
Margaret O'Sullivan

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Michael O'Callaghan, Florence McDonald, Ellen Clohesy Leslie Clohesy, Douglas Scott, Beatrice McLean, Alice Hayes, Geraldine O'Loughlin, Donna Murchie, John O'Brien, James "Megs" McMahon, Thomas Good, Elise McInerney, Joan Blythman, Phonse Clohesy, Frank Bonanno, William Hill, Madi Kozma Colombo, Paul Castelli, Kali Fifita

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 17/18TH AUGUST
20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Culgoa
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday NO Mass (*Fr James away for a Conference*)
Wednesday: NO Mass
Thursday: NO Mass
Friday: NO Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 24TH/25TH AUGUST
21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

NOTICES



BAPTISM WELCOME

A special day on Saturday as we welcome another new member to God's family: Nikhita Fernando is being presented by her parents Anton and Nilanga, and of course big brother Nikhil! Special blessings and prayers for you all today! Thank you for sharing this special day with us, and welcome to God's family!

**NATURAL FERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK 2024
(AUGUST 19 – 25)**

Promotes an alternative, healthy option to family planning compared with chemical and other contraceptive devices. The theme this year is: "Trust your body's natural signs of fertility: Forget about drugs and devices."

You are invited to join the Billings LIFE free webinar on Monday 19th August 2024 at 7:30pm AEST where you can listen to the conversation about the basics of the Billings Ovulation Method® and its application, including during times of breastfeeding.

<https://events.humanitix.com/trust-your-body-s-natural-signals-of-fertility-free-webinar>

Further info @ ph: 1800 335 860 or website: www.billings.life/en/



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

LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE IN LOVE...

A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND IS FOR YOU!

Every married couple deserves this very special weekend. Time-out to nurture your most precious relationship away from daily distractions.

The two of you will come away from your weekend feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep the passion alive. No group sharing required.

The weekend is based around Catholic values.

Couples of all faiths are welcome.

Our next weekend is: **4 - 6 October 2024 at St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.**

Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm

Information/Bookings:

Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Website: wwme.org.au

**DIOCESAN SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
REFLECTION DAY –**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invite all to a Reflection Day, in celebration of the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2024-2025, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" on Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 10.00am - 2.30pm at St Michael and John's Horsham Parish Centre.

Facilitator for the day is writer and educator, Michael McGirr. Registration will be required to attend.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why might Jesus have used such physical imagery (flesh and blood) with his audience?

What message is Jesus trying to convey through this imagery?

Why is the reception of Eucharist such an important aspect of Christian tradition?

Why do you think this gospel text is critical to Catholic theology about Eucharist?

In what ways is 'bread' an appropriate image for Jesus?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

21st Sunday in Ordinary time

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18

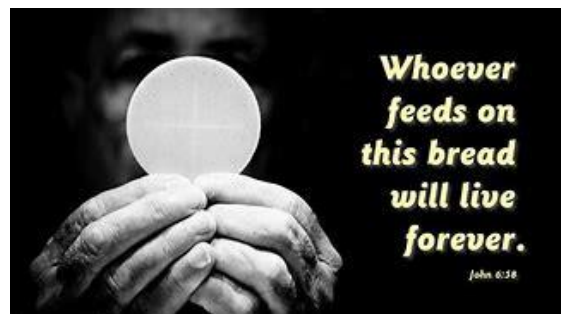
Second Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32

Gospel: John 6:60-69

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

On this Sunday, we continue to read from the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John. Today's Gospel elaborates further on the teaching that Jesus began in our liturgy last week. In that reading, the crowds wondered about how Jesus could say that he had come down from heaven because they knew Jesus to be the son of Joseph. In this Gospel, some have difficulty with Jesus' teaching that he is the living bread sent from God. Recall that Jesus had told them that just as God gave the Israelites manna to sustain them in the desert, so now God has sent new manna that will give eternal life. We hear the concluding verse of last week's Gospel repeated in today's reading: Jesus himself is the bread sent by God; Jesus' flesh is the bread that is given for the life of the world.

Among the stumbling blocks for those who heard but did not understand Jesus is the teaching that the bread that Jesus will give is his own flesh. In response to the people who quarreled over his words, Jesus teaches with even greater emphasis that salvation comes to those who eat his Body and Blood. Jesus doesn't seem to answer the question posed about how salvation will come about, perhaps because this reality can only be understood after his death and Resurrection. Instead, Jesus teaches about the life that he will give to the world.



To many ears, Jesus' words are jarring and difficult to hear. Many who heard Jesus could not accept what he said. Many today continue to struggle to accept these words. But they are important words because they reveal our intimate connection with Jesus.

This is the mystery that is at the heart of our eucharistic theology. In the elements of bread and wine, Jesus' Body and Blood are made truly present. When we share in the Body and Blood of Christ, Jesus himself comes to dwell within us. This communion with the Lord makes us one body, brings us eternal life, and sends us forth to be Christ's body for the life of the world.

FIRST READING Proverbs 9:1-6

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Come and eat my bread; drink the wine I have prepared.

Wisdom has built herself a house,
she has erected her seven pillars,
she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her wine,
she has laid her table.

She has despatched her maidservants
and proclaimed from the city's heights:
'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.'

To the fool she says,

'Come and eat my bread,
drink the wine I have prepared!

Leave your folly and you will live,
walk in the ways of perception.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 33:2-3. 10-15. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who revere him.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Come children, and hear me
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is he who longs for life
and many days, to enjoy his prosperity?

Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:15-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Be watchful that you may know the will of God.

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but your lives should redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the

Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 6:56

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who eat my flesh and drink my blood
live in me and I in them, says the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 6:51-58

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Jesus said to the crowd:

'I am the living bread

which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;

and the bread that I shall give

is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said.

Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,

if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man

and drink his blood,

you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood

has eternal life,

and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food

and my blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood

lives in me

and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father,

myself draw life from the Father,

so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven;

not like the bread our ancestors ate:

they are dead,

but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.