



# 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 Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill as well as the Lake Boga Families & Faith Group



## 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024: 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### ***'BUT YOU,' HE ASKED, 'WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?'***

The same question that Jesus asks his disciples, he also directs at us; *'Who do you say I am?'*

Now of course there is only one Jesus, so in a sense there is only one true answer possible, and Peter got it right the first time. So why then do we have to bother answering it for ourselves? Jesus asks each of us the same question, because we each need to own that answer for ourselves.

We need to answer it for ourselves because the true answer is fundamentally relational. To name Jesus as 'the Christ', is to recognise that he is the One sent to save us, to save you and me. Jesus hangs on our answer to his question, not because he needs us to help him figure out who he is, but because he wants us to personally and individually respond to his invitation. The great works that Jesus does and the words that he speaks show us in so many ways that he is surely the Christ that has come into the world, the anointed one sent by the Father. He is much more than just another prophet or teacher; he is the Christ. He comes to win our freedom; conquering death and defeating sin on our behalf... but for us to actually experience the freedom and fullness of life that Jesus offers, we need to personally respond in faith. We are never forced or coerced into relationship with Christ; we are invited to freely respond.

In the end, we have to make that leap of faith for ourselves. And in that sense, our individual response to his question is truly unique and irreplaceable. No-one else can speak for us. We can be influenced, helped and encouraged by the people around us, but in the end Jesus awaits our personal answer. We need to respond for ourselves, and that response is lived out in the decisions we make each and every day. It means entering into a relationship with Jesus, and that is something that will grow and deepen over time. And it means coming to truly know Christ for ourselves, which we can only do by following him. And to follow him means to freely take up our cross. No-one else can force us to do this, no-one else can do it for us, it requires our personal response. Jesus awaits our answer.

#### **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:**

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**

Denis Gallagher, Robert Ryan, Doreen Meney  
Maggie Nolan, Jim Shepherd, Bruce McArthur  
Ronald Ballantyne, Des Bourke, Bridget & Sean Walsh  
Mary Jane Phyland, Jack Cleary, Pierce Derham  
Martino Raco, Irene Drummond, James Francis Kiley  
Patsy Taverna, Michael Considine, Nance McNamara

Gina Colombo (1 Month Anniversary Friday)

**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 7/8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

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

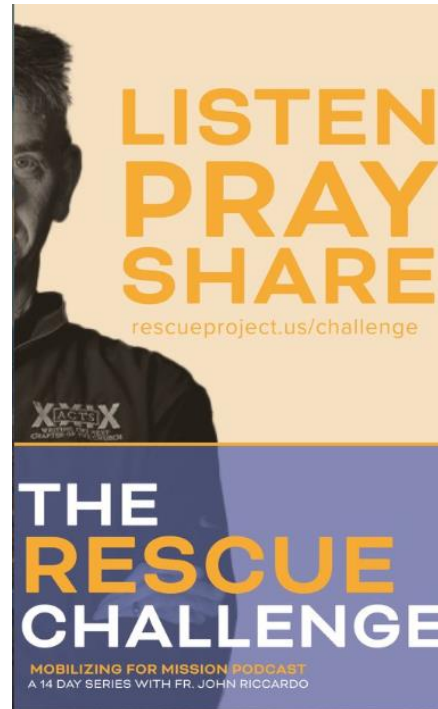
**NEXT WEEKEND 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER  
24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

**NOTICES**

**BAPTISM WELCOME!**

A very special welcome to Arch and Kyhla who are presenting their children Landon, Travis, Elizabeth, Alison & Josephine for Baptism. Special blessings for you all today and always. Welcome to God's family!



**MEET THE CHALLENGE!**

Join us on The Rescue Project Challenge as Fr. John Riccardo leads us on a 14-day journey that brings the true hope that comes from knowing The Story, and meeting the One Who makes all the difference in life!

Hear the Good News as you've never heard it before, around 4 summary words- Created, Captured, Rescued, Response. Hope for our world in desperate need of it.

Visit [rescueproject.us/challenge](http://rescueproject.us/challenge) for more details, or search for the podcasts on your favourite streaming service.

With 14 episodes, each running for about 15 minutes, this is a very easy challenge! Listen anytime it suits!

**BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND**

Many thanks for your support of this appeal. This will be the final weekend for contributions to this year's appeal. If you would still like to contribute,

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au)

envelopes can be placed in basket at the collection. We will count the offerings this week and forward on to Ballarat. Once again, many thanks for your continuing generosity!

### NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES AND THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

With the quarterly and yearly envelopes also now ready, all the new planned giving envelopes are now available, and will be distributed across our churches over the next couple of weeks. If there are any mistakes or you missed out on envelopes you were expecting, please let us know.

Once again, many thanks for your ongoing support of our Parish and its mission. Your regular giving towards the Second (Parish) collection is our main source of steady income. Whether your giving is via the envelopes, online, via direct debit or simply via cash on the second collection, we simply wouldn't be able to do what we do without your constant support. Once the September quarter is finalised, we will give an update on the full year's parish income.

### HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why might people have thought Jesus was John the Baptist or Elijah reincarnated?

Why does Jesus want the disciples to admit what they believe about him?

Why do you think Jesus was so abrupt with Peter, saying, 'Get behind me, Satan'?

What are the 'crosses' that followers of Jesus today are called to take up?

Is there a particular 'cross' or burden that you can bear in order to better follow Jesus?

### BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Today's reading is the turning point in Mark's Gospel. In the presentation of the life and ministry of Jesus found in the Gospel of Mark, the deeds of Jesus have shown Jesus to be the Son of God. Yet many, including Jesus' disciples, have not yet realized his identity. In today's Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples for a field report by asking what others say about him. He then turns the question directly to the disciples and asks what they believe. Peter speaks for all of them when he announces that they believe Jesus to be the Christ.

The word Christ is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for Messiah, which means "the anointed one." At the time of Jesus, the image of the Messiah was laden with popular expectations, most of which looked for a political leader who would free the Jewish people from Roman occupation. Jesus does not appear to have used this term for himself. As we see in today's reading, Jesus refers to himself instead as the Son of Man, a term derived from the Jewish Scriptures, found in the Book of Daniel and in other apocryphal writings. Many scholars suggest that the phrase Son of Man is best understood to mean "human being."

Now that the disciples have acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he will be rejected, must suffer and die, and will rise after three days. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely. The image of Christ that Jesus is giving is not the image of the Messiah that Peter was expecting. Jesus then teaches the crowd and the disciples about the path of discipleship: To be Christ's disciple is to follow in the way of the cross.

We can easily miss the fear that Jesus' words must have evoked in his disciples. Death by crucifixion was all too familiar as a method of execution in Roman-occupied territories. It was also an omnipresent danger to the Christian community for whom Mark wrote. The path that Jesus was inviting his disciples to share meant tremendous suffering and death. This is the kind of radical commitment and sacrifice that Jesus calls us to adopt for the sake of the Gospel.

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**FIRST READING** *Isaiah 50:5-9*

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
I gave my body to those who struck me.*

The Lord has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.  
My vindicator is here at hand.  
Does anyone start proceedings against me?  
Then let us go to court together.  
Who thinks he has a case against me?  
Let him approach me.  
The Lord is coming to my help,  
who dare condemn me?  
*The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9*

**(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord,  
in the land of the living.**

I love the Lord for he has heard  
the cry of my appeal;  
for he turned his ear to me  
in the day when I called him.  
They surrounded me, the snares of death,  
with anguish of the tomb;  
they caught me, sorrow and distress.  
I called on the Lord's name.  
O Lord my God, deliver me!  
How gracious is the Lord, and just;  
our God has compassion.  
The Lord protects the simple hearts;  
I was helpless so he saved me.  
He has kept my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears  
and my feet from stumbling.  
I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** *James 2:14-18*

*A reading from the letter of St James  
Faith without good works is dead.*

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep

yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead. This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'  
*The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Galatians 6:14*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *Mark 8:27-35*

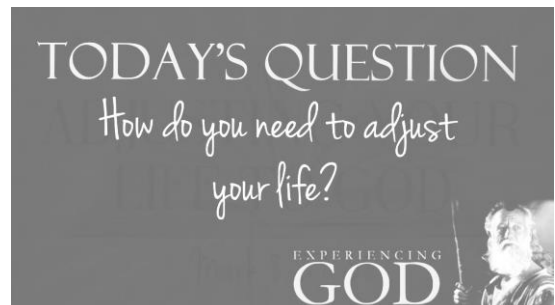
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.*

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

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



**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

*25th Sunday in Ordinary time*

*First Reading: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20*

*Second Reading: James 3:16 – 4:3*

*Gospel: Mark 9:30-37*