

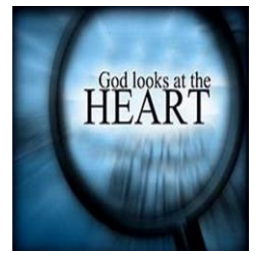


# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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*



**1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

**22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

***"IT IS THE THINGS THAT COME OUT OF A MAN THAT MAKE HIM UNCLEAN"***

Just a little background to what we hear in Mark today. You may have heard all this before, but just in case... the Pharisees were a renewal movement within the people of Israel. Their focus was to enforce strict observance of the Law. That of course started with the Law of Moses, which were all the rules and directions set down in the Torah the first five books of the Bible. But they aimed for more than just mediocrity. They demanded perfection as a means to Holiness in God's sight, and so they also tried to enforce strict observance of the 'tradition of the elders' as well. What was this? It was an accumulation of interpretations of and commentaries on the scriptural laws by prominent teachers (Rabbis).

Many of these traditions sought to deepen devotion by extending the laws beyond their original purpose. For example; the rules around the washing of hands before meals that we hear today. Where does this come from? Well, the Law of Moses sets out various rules around ritual purity. Some of these refer to how the Levitical priests have to wash before offering sacrifices in the Temple and before partaking of those sacrifices.

So, in its original purpose this law was limited and contained to priests and sacrifices. But a spiritual interpretation saw that as Israel was a priestly people, all members in some way were priests. And further to that, every meal was in itself a sharing in God's goodness and bounty, and so in a real way could be seen as sacrifice. And so, a tradition arose that the people should always wash before meals, just like the priests do before the sacrifice.

In itself there is nothing wrong with this tradition; if understood properly it can be a pious means of inviting the Holy into everyday life. Where it went wrong was when it became a cover or replacement of the true observance of the Law; when washing your hands became more important than purifying your heart. Outward appearances became more important than inward realities, true devotion to God's ways risked being supplanted by a formalism or false religiosity. Jesus challenges the hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees, and points us back to the more essential purity of the heart.

And here lies the New; Jesus now comes with power to purify our hearts.

The whole tension around purity laws is a constant theme in the Gospels because it was a huge concern for the people. They wanted to be right with God, to be perfectly holy. But in their brokenness, they simply couldn't achieve this on their own strength. So some would try and deceive themselves and others by perfecting outward practices. But the whole point behind the original purity laws was that only God was truly Holy, and that the people needed to learn to rely on his strength and his grace. As God here among us, Jesus now comes with that power. By his grace, our broken hearts can be purified and made whole. By our cooperation with that grace, he can make us truly holy. We have nothing to prove to him, nothing to prove to others, nothing to prove to ourselves. Holiness belongs to him, and him alone, and he is ready to freely share that with us and with all who turn to him with open hearts.

***AND FINALLY, A SPECIAL BLESSING FOR ALL OUR FATHER'S TODAY!  
THANK YOU FOR CONSTANT FAITHFULNESS, SACRIFICE AND EXAMPLE!***

**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+**  
Ruben Majur

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Mick & Mary Mangiameli,  
Barry Kelly, John Foley, Salvatore "Sam" Nastasi  
Ned Doyle, Doss Pearson, Nora Ritchie  
Jim Bookham, William Thomas Casey  
Margaret Stewart, Allan Mathews  
Lawrence McNamara, Rose Ann Hernon,  
Bernard Hubbard, Ida Nolen, Shirley Donahue,  
Joy Parsons, Ted Curran, Leo Clarke,  
Susan Coburn, Stella Dalton

**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 24/25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
21<sup>ST</sup> 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  
Thursday: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass, Adoration  
Friday: 11.30Mass

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

Sat 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill  
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

**NOTICES**



**MONTHLY MORNING TEA**

The monthly Swan Hill Sunday Morning Tea today  
Sunday 1st September, all welcome.

**BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND ANNUAL  
APPEAL – THIS WEEKEND**

The BCSF Collection for Retired Priests will be held  
THIS weekend. Seventeen retired priests are  
currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately,  
some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere,  
others live in supported accommodation. If you  
would like to contribute, simply take one of the  
special envelopes and put it onto the collection. A  
credit card facility is available for your convenience  
and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.  
Caring for those who cared for us - the Church  
community's responsibility.



**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

**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**

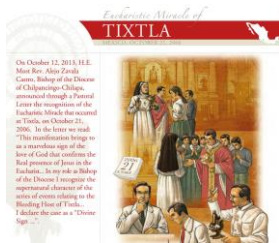
Principal: Kate Quin  
2 Murlong St Swan Hill  
Ph. 03 5033 2541

[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)



**EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES OF THE WORLD  
DISPLAY – DESIGNED AND CREATED  
BY BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS**

An awesome miracle occurs at every Catholic Mass- Jesus gives us his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist. For the most part, this awesome reality remains hidden from our physical senses- and trusting in Jesus and his words, we accept with the eyes of faith. But sometimes the veil into the invisible is lifted and we are given a glimpse of the hidden reality. These occasions may help to reaffirm and strengthen our faith in God’s great gift of love to us- Jesus in the Eucharist.

And so you are invited to read about some of these ‘Eucharistic Miracles’ on display at the front of the Swan Hill church. Designed and created by Blessed Carlo Acutis to share his great love for Jesus in the Eucharist, may they deepen your awe, faith and love of Jesus in the Eucharist and help you open your heart to encounter him more powerfully there.

You can also visit [miracolieucaistici.org](http://miracolieucaistici.org) for the full exhibition given in 19 different languages.

There are also some ‘Eucharistic Stations’ set up around the Church, praying with different moments of the biblical story that each bring something of the Mystery of the Eucharist to light. Perhaps you might also like to pray through these.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

Why was eating with unclean hands such an issue for the Pharisees?

What effect is achieved by Jesus answering the Pharisees with a quote from Isaiah?

What point was Jesus making to the crowd about the source of cleanliness and uncleanness?

What does this passage say about personal responsibility?

How is it possible to turn around or reduce the ‘things within’ that encourage wrong doing?

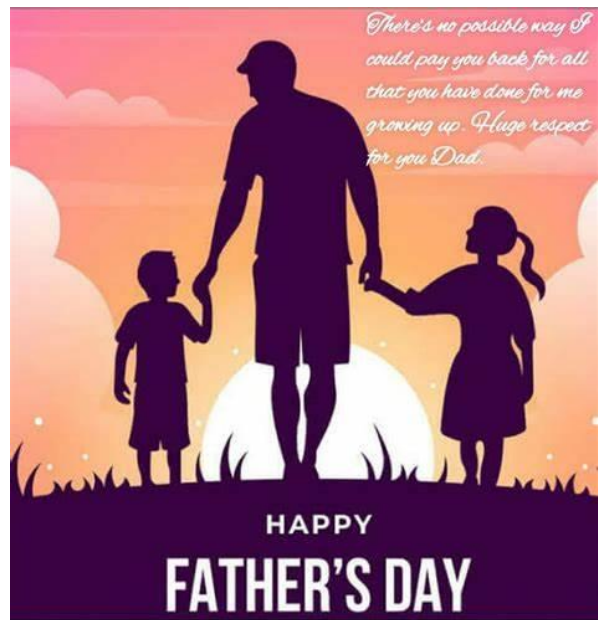
**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

23rd Sunday in Ordinary time

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

Second Reading: James 2:1-5

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37



**A FATHER'S DAY PRAYER**

Gracious God,

What a gift to celebrate the father figures in our lives. Today there are so many of us who are celebrating this day not only in honour of the fathers who are related to us by blood, but also those who have chosen us, and become our family. We thank You for the special gift that they are to us, and how they enrich our lives.

Thank You for the many ways in which our father figures have shown us love and support. We thank You for those who have been mentors, teachers, and role models in our lives. And for the joy that they have brought into our lives.

We ask that You bless them tenfold today. May they know that their presence is appreciated and that their place in our lives is irreplaceable. May they be filled with encouragement, and may they live in the midst of Your goodness.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

**GOSPEL FOCUS – THE THINGS WITHIN**

We live in a culture that is very quick to lay blame on external factors; some people are very reluctant to accept responsibility for their own actions and look for opportunities to distance themselves from feelings of guilt or even regret. Jesus makes it very clear that evil intentions – the things that make a person ‘unclean’ – actually come from within. He presents a confronting list of the things that come from within and we may be able to add others relevant to our own time. In our culture of no personal responsibility, Jesus challenges us to rethink just where the buck does stop.

**NEW ENVELOPES FOR PLANNED GIVING  
AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK**



**FIRST READING** Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

*A reading from the book of Deuteronomy*

*You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.*

Moses said to the people: ‘Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, “No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation.” And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?’

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

**(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;

he who acts with justice

and speaks the truth from his heart.

He who does no wrong to his brother,

who casts no slur on his neighbour,

who holds the godless in disdain,

but honours those who fear the Lord.

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;

who takes no interest on a loan

and accepts no bribes against the innocent.

Such a man will stand firm for ever. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

*A reading from the letter of St James*

*Be doers of the word.*

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

*You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.*

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?’ He answered, ‘It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.’

He called the people to him again and said, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men’s hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.’

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

