



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



22ND SEPTEMBER 2024: 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



'IF ANYONE WANTS TO BE FIRST, HE MUST MAKE HIMSELF LAST OF ALL AND SERVANT OF ALL.'

Jesus and his disciples are now slowly making their way to Jerusalem, and now for the second time Jesus tells his friends quite openly about what is awaiting him there. He will be handed over to his persecutors, who will have him killed. But after three days, he will rise again. His suffering and death will be very real, but ultimately death will not be able to hold him. The disciples don't understand but are too afraid to ask more.

They continue along the way, and then begins their ridiculous and heartless argument: they start arguing about who is the greatest. Face palm! It's like they haven't listened to a word Jesus has been telling them. They are still expecting a victorious entry into Jerusalem; they think that Jesus, the Messiah, will simply storm in and take control, and they will be right there to rule alongside him. Just think, how much must this have hurt Jesus? These are his closest friends, and they have seemingly ignored everything he has been trying to tell them. And let's get this clear: it is not like the message they have missed is inconsequential or unimportant. Jesus has shared that he is going to suffer and die. That is huge news. You would hope his friends would be just a little sensitive, even if they were too stupid to understand what was going on. And yet, what do they do? Argue about who is the greatest.

We hear that Jesus doesn't address them about it until they arrive at their destination, a house in Capernaum. Could this perhaps be because he was simply too hurt to bring it up earlier? Could you blame Jesus if he has dropped back from the group and wept just a little? After all, these are his closest friends. How lonely must he have felt in that moment. And yet, what is his response in the end? Does he blast away, all guns firing? Does he tear them apart or condemn them for their ignorance and heartlessness? No. That is not the way he chooses. In his response, he forgets himself, and whatever hurt he may have felt. He puts his needs aside, and instead he seeks only to gently correct their flawed understanding. There is no room for envy. They should not lust for power or prestige. If they are to wrestle anyone for a position, it should be that of humble service.

'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.'

Parish Contact Details:

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Phone: 03 5032 4144

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Website: northeastmallee.org.au

Office Hrs: Tues, Wed and Fri 10:30 -1.30

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+**

William "Pat" Power

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Colin Gregor, Millie Grant, Francis John Conlan
John Nolan, Mary O'Loughlin, William McInerney
Chris Pupillo, Mary Bell, Mary Cecilia Kelly
Mary "Josie" Johnston, Br Pat Stanley. Leo Deola
Rema O'Sullivan, David Burns, Leo Phyland
Giovanna & Lorenzo Colombo,
Catherine Hilda McInerney
1 Month Vincenzo Massara

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 21ST/22ND SEPTEMBER
25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

NO MASS Quambatook, 9am Lay Led Instead

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday: Funeral Mass Pat Power 11am

Tuesday: 10am (please note change)

Wednesday: 10am

Thursday: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass, Adoration

Friday: 11.30 Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 28TH/29TH SEPTEMBER
26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sat 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES



**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION, SWAN HILL
YEAR 3 AND ABOVE**

Next term we will start our program in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation for the children in Swan Hill and surrounds. This is open to any baptised Catholic children in year 3 or above. After Baptism, Confirmation is the next step in the sacramental journey. The program begins with attending an enrolment sessions in week 2 of next term. This journey then continues with the celebrations of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. We look forward to welcoming any families who wish to be part of our program. Invitations have been sent through St Mary's Swan Hill, and also through the local Government schools, but there is always the chance that some may have missed out.

So, if your child is in grade 3, or is older but has missed out on Confirmation so far, simply touch base with Fr James after Mass or contact the Parish via email northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone 50324144. Grandparents can also have a special role in making sure the message gets out!

SLIGHT CHANGE TO OFFICE TIMES

Please note the slight change to our office hours. The Parish Office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30am to 1:30pm.

MASS TIME CHANGE: TUESDAYS

I may potentially be taking up some coaching duties with junior rugby, or at least offering some help. Training sessions have been on Tuesdays after school. To allow for this, I will have to shift the Tuesday 5:30pm Mass, at least for the meantime.

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?

Why do you think the disciples didn't understand what Jesus was saying about his death?

Why didn't the disciples want to tell Jesus what they'd been arguing about?

Why might Jesus have used a child to make his point to the disciples?

What does it mean to make yourself last of all if you want to be first?

In what ways do you sometimes put yourself first ahead of the needs of others?

How could you better be of service to someone or a group of people?

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY BY MARY COLOE PBVM Facing Death/ Facing Truth

Many people confront the reality of their own death quite prematurely. It may be a car accident, or a diagnosis of a serious medical condition; however it comes, the confrontation with death is life changing. In today's Gospel, we see Jesus confronting this reality and trying to explain this to his obtuse disciples. Jesus did not need a crystal ball to realise that if he travelled to Jerusalem and continued to teach about God's reign as he had been doing, then his teaching would put him in conflict with the authorities. He had the examples of prophets in the Old Testament who were persecuted and killed because their message was unacceptable.

If Jesus looked to his disciples for support, he was sadly let down. While he walked towards his death, the disciples had plans of their own – who would be the greatest in the coming Kingdom! This section of Mark's gospel needs to be considered in its total context.

8:22 Cure of the Blind Man at Bethsaida, in Galilee. In this miracle, the blind man comes to sight gradually.

8:31 First teaching about his death. Peter's objection

9:30 Second teaching about his death. The disciples discuss their positions in the Kingdom.

10:33 Third teaching about his death. James and John want to sit in the best places in the Kingdom.

10:46 The cure of Blind Bartimaeus in Jericho, near Jerusalem. Bartimaeus acts like a perfect disciple in leaving his cloak behind & following Jesus on the way

This structure is quite deliberate and shows Jesus taking the path to Jerusalem deliberately knowing the cost, while the disciples consistently fail to understand. The 'blindness' of the disciples is framed by the two healings of blind men. Mark frequently uses this type of a structure to bring narrative and theology together. The outer 'frame' acts as a commentary on what is happening in the narrative – in this case, it points to the deep blindness of the disciples.

From this point in Mark's Gospel, the disciples will consistently fail in the understanding of Jesus and fear will undermine their loyalty to him. Remember that the gospel was produced decades after the Resurrection, and it was written for a particular community. It is worth considering why the Gospel author presented the disciples in such a negative light. By the time of the gospel some of these disciples, such as Peter and James have died for their faith, so it is strange that these great figures are presented so poorly. Scholars believe this is a deliberate technique of Mark to teach his community and Christians of all time that disciples do not have to be perfect, that failure does not stop one from being a disciple. Jesus remains faithful even to failing disciples.

The reading from James clearly names some of the issues faced by the disciples in the Gospel – and disciples today. We see in this Gospel the ambition of the disciples, and in the other episodes noted above, we read of their vying with one another for the best positions. James offers a deep insight into many problematic types of human behaviour when he states that 'wars and battles' start from 'inside your own selves'. His solution is to spend time in prayer, to meditate. I find his words offering a psychological insight that resonates with my own experience. Today we know something of the way we can project onto others our own inner demons, and then instead of grappling with our own truth, painful though it may be, we demonise the other. We can do this with individuals, and we can do this with groups. But this is the easy way out. Real truth, and the peace and freedom that come with knowing ourselves, warts and all, require quiet contemplative time. As Christians, we need not do this alone, for in prayer we can call upon Jesus to be our friend and guide, leading us on the way to truth and life. ©

FIRST READING *Wisdom 2:12, 17-20*

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Let us condemn him to a most shameful death.

The godless say to themselves,
'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us
and opposes our way of life,
reproaches us for our breaches of the law
and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.
Let us see if what he says is true,
let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.
If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part
and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.
Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,
and thus explore this gentleness of his
and put his endurance to the proof.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death
since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'
The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 53:3-6. 8. R. v.6*

(R.) The Lord upholds my life.

O God, save me by your name;
by your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayers;
listen to the words of my mouth.

For proud men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for God.

But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it is good. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *James 3:16 – 4:3*

A reading from the letter of St James

Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace.

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires. *The Word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *See 2 Thessalonians 2:14*

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Mark 9:30-37*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity ... All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

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



READINGS NEXT WEEK:

26th Sunday in Ordinary time

First Reading: Numbers 11:25-29

Second Reading: James 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48