



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



10TH NOVEMBER 2024: 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"THIS POOR WIDOW HAS PUT MORE IN THAN ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED"

Jesus is watching people as they come make their contribution to the Temple treasury.

Firstly, what does he notice? What does he see? Jesus sees the inner heart, and so the true worth of their offerings. The poor widow may only be able to contribute a penny, and yet for her, that was everything. And so as small as it was, her offering was truly tremendous. What does Jesus see in us? Do you ever get down in the pits when you compare yourself to others? So-and-so is so good at this-or-that, and so-and-so is so generous and gives so much... and if we are not careful we are left feeling like our contribution is worthless in comparison, invisible in the greater scheme of things. But is that what God sees? Jesus helps us to see as the Father sees. The Father recognises our offerings for what they truly are. No matter how small they may feel, he knows what they have cost us, what sacrifices they have taken, what generosity and trust they have demanded. And so he delights in our offerings freely given.

So that is what Jesus sees; now for what he encourages. Is he necessarily happy that the poor widow is giving away everything she has to the Treasury? Does he think it is a good idea? It may help to compare her story with that of the widow approached by Elijah in the first reading today. She has only one meal left, and after that she was going to starve. But she trusts in Elijah's word. She trusts in the Father's loving care. Her trust is abundantly rewarded. The poor widow that Jesus sees in the Temple is in a similar position. A few small coins may buy her one last meal, but that is all. By putting the last of her coins in the Temple Treasury, she hands over all that she has left to the Father, full of trust in his loving care for her. And I think it is the great trust *behind* her offering that Jesus is commending, not necessarily the particulars of *where* she has put her money. Jesus encourages that same trust in us. May we also share her deep trust in the Father's love. Rather than trusting in the things we own, may we trust above all in his providential care for us.

WELCOME TO SRS MEL, FIONA & ISOBEL!

We are delighted to welcome Sisters Mel, Fiona and Issy from the Missionaries of God's love. While here, they will be offering some special opportunities for us to grow in faith and prayer- see inside for more details.

Parish Contact Details:

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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+**

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Donny Demaria, Rosa Nasisi, Roma Mannix,
Gerard Meehan, Dennis Cox, George Power,
Jean Lockhart, Josph Boulton, Peter Craig,
Daisie Byrne, William Kelly, Lindsay Gidding,
John Hayes, Myra Clohesy, Gavan O'Brien,
John Sheldon, Ivy Sewell, Brian O'Bryan,
Marion Derbas, Phil Milano, Cliff Hinton,
Bernie Maher, Michael Nolan, Kathleen Storer,
Robert Isgro, John Auden, Elizabeth Kiley,
Loretta Barry, Cecil Learmonth, Edward McLoughlin,
Henry Power, Carol Drummond, John Flannery,
Edna O'Halloran, Michael Power, Cyril Storer,
Catherine Scalora, Marlene Kelly, Emilio Tuntar,
Jennifer O'Loughlin

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
Ken Duryea, Helen Duryea

**THIS WEEKEND 9TH/10TH NOVEMBER
32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Sat 6pm Swan Hill (Followed by CONNECT)
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly**

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL
Tuesday: 5:30pm (Followed by ADORE)
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday: 10am (This week only)
NO MASS Friday (Fr James in Ballarat)**

**NEXT WEEKEND 16TH/17TH NOVEMBER
33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Sat 6pm Swan Hill Confirmations
Sunday 8.30am Culgoa
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill Confirmations**

NOTICES

PRAYERS FOR CONFIRMATION CHILDREN

Thank you for all your prayers for the children thus far. The celebrations next weekend are now fast approaching! If you could please offer special prayers for Monday's retreat day; for the children, their families and all who are helping them on this journey.

BAPTISM WELCOME

This weekend we welcome Finn who will be presented by parents Ashlea and Cameron, as well as Harlow and Scottie who are being presented by parents Marcus and Emily. We thank our parents for bringing their children forward for baptism. Welcome to God's family!

**A SPECIAL INVITATION:
ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD**
Our Diocese is looking forward to a very special celebration in November.

**Deacon Cay Xuan Trinh
will be Ordained to the Priesthood
on Saturday 23rd of November at 10:30am
in St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.**

Ordinations are beautiful celebrations. The candidate symbolically lays his life down in service of God and the Church, before the Bishop then lays hands and commissions him to a life of mission and service.

Please pray for Deacon Cay as he approaches this day. This is in open invitation, so perhaps some of you may even be able to drive down to witness it for yourself.

His Mass of Thanksgiving will then follow on Sunday 24th at 5pm, again at St Patrick's Cathedral.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why is the tiny contribution of the widow so much more significant than the large sums paid by the rich?

Why would widows be marked for special care and protection by Jewish Law and tradition?

How does it change the meaning of Jesus' words to read them with different emotions?

What is the message of this passage for a modern audience?

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake
Principal: Kate Nunn
47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake
Ph: 03 5070 1272

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill
Principal: Kate Quin
2 Murlong St Swan Hill
Ph. 03 5033 2541

St Mary MacKillop College
Principal: Michelle Haeusler
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
Ph: 5032 9771

principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au



A VERY SPECIAL VISIT!

FROM THE MISSIONARIES OF GOD'S LOVE!

This weekend we are very blessed to welcome Sisters Melanie, Fiona and Isobel from the Missionaries of God's love for a special visit to our Parish. They are here firstly to help lead the Confirmation retreat on Monday, but while here they will also offer a number of other special opportunities for growth and renewal for the wider Parish. As well as speaking at our weekend Masses in Quambatook and Swan Hill, they will also host three special events.



SATURDAY 9TH 10:30AM

'HEART TO HEART': SESSION ON PRAYER

On **Sat 9th at 10:30am** the Sisters will run a session on prayer in the Swan Hill Church.

Would you like to learn more about prayer? Sr Mel will lead you in a meditation based on imaginative prayer with the Scriptures, before opening up some other methods of prayer. An opportunity for fellowship to follow. All welcome.



SATURDAY 9TH 6PM

'FAITH THAT CONNECTS': YOUNG ADULTS

In a world where it seems hard to be a young Catholic or Christian, can my faith really fulfil me?

Come and explore the whys and hows with the MGL Sisters after **6pm Mass on Saturday 9th**.

Join the Sisters for an informal gathering centred around some food, fun & sharing as a special opportunity to connect you in your faith.



TUESDAY 12TH 5:30PM

'ADORE': AN HOUR OF WORSHIP & PRAYER

On **Tuesday 12th**, starting with Mass at **5:30pm**, the Sisters will lead us in an hour of Adoration, Reflection and Worship with the opportunity for Individual Prayer Ministry. All are welcome to attend, even if you can't make it on time for Mass.

The Holy Hour itself will run from **6-7pm**.

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

by Mary Coloe PBVM: *Giving one's all*

In the Gospel last week, we heard the great commandment: 'Hear O Israel, ... You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.' This poor widow demonstrates what loving with all your heart truly means when she surrenders all she has. Not only is she a model of discipleship, she also 'models' what Jesus will do in his Passion, when he will surrender all he has into the hands of God. This is why I suggest that this chapter interprets the meaning of the cross before the event happens.

This Sunday Jesus points to a woman, a widow, who gives all she has. The widow also serves as a Jesus figure, for this chapter of Mark began with a parable about wicked tenants who kill the son of the land owner, and this parable is a reflection of Jesus' own life. But Mark does not present Jesus as an unwilling victim of others, for Jesus has been speaking of 'giving his life as a ransom for many'. Jesus' death is the cost he is prepared to pay in order to witness to and teach about the gracious love of God for all people. In his death Jesus gives all he has. Just as Jesus taught the parable to point to his approaching death, it is possible he saw in this widow's offering another sign of his own total self-giving.

She gives little – two small coins. But its value in Jesus' eyes is priceless. She offers all she has. During our day, it might appear that our lives are small, even our discipleship hardly noticeable, but this scene suggests that God sees things differently. God doesn't measure the amount, but the inner disposition of our hearts. During this month we remember the official Saints whose lives made the headlines. This widow was never canonised, in fact we don't even know her name, but this woman is the final model of discipleship whose actions are praised by Jesus and serve as an image of his own death.

The author of Hebrews is also interpreting Jesus' death as his means of entering into the heavenly sanctuary of God. On the Day of Atonement, the high Priest enters into the inner sanctuary of the Temple, the Holy of Holies in order to make reparation for these sins of the people. He is the only one to enter the Holy of Holies, and only on this one day. The author likens this action to Jesus' passing through death into the presence of God. For his Jewish-Christian audience, such imagery would have helped to make sense of Jesus' death – why God allowed this to happen. Much of this sacrificial imagery is lost on us today, as we are unfamiliar with Jewish worship at the time of Jesus. © Mary Coloe

FIRST READING 1 Kings 17:10-16

A reading from the first book of the Kings

The widow made a little scone from her flour meal and brought it to Elijah.

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives', she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:7-10. R.v.2

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Hebrews 9:24-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual

presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matthew 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 12:38-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

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



READINGS NEXT WEEK:

33rd Sunday in Ordinary time

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Gospel: Mark 13:24-32