



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



24TH NOVEMBER 2024:

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

"MINE IS NOT A KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD"



Christ is King of all Creation; of everything we can see, and of all that is outside our vision; of all time and history; of all people's and nations; he is King! And he is a Good, Good King. He handed himself over to his captors that we might be free. He submitted and was rendered powerless, so that we might be lifted up from a position of helplessness to share in his Power over sin and death. He emptied himself and gave up his life so that we could have fullness of life with him. He loved us first so that we might love in turn. Christ is the Good King, the best of Kings. And we are held safely under his protection and loving care. With Christ as King, we have nothing to fear.

That is an awesome statement of Faith. We should be confident of that Truth, because he proved it on the Cross. It should give us great comfort and hope, especially in those moments when we find ourselves overwhelmed or overpowered. But of course, those moments are also when we might find

ourselves asking; if he is the Good King, why am I suffering like this? Why doesn't he save me from this trial? If all time and all Creation is in his care, why is life so hard? It is good for us to be honest with these feelings, and to bring them to Christ in prayer. We should never be afraid to petition our King, even when it may be coming from a place of confusion, frustration or even anger. Prayer opens up our heart so that he might help us to see the situation as he sees it; to recognise where he is already present to us in our trial, the help he is already sending us. Our prayer may also lead us to understand something of the great Mystery of how our life is being united ever more closely to his, of how our story is being gently weaved into the awesome tapestry of God's ongoing work of Love. And that last bit is important- God's work is ongoing. The Victory is won, but it's final Completion and Fulfilment is still being worked out.

When Jesus tells Pilate "My Kingdom is not of this World," he is not saying he has no Power here. Still less is he suggesting that what goes on 'down here' doesn't matter or that he doesn't care about our plight. No! He cares deeply about our trials, more deeply than we will ever know. He shares in our hurts and suffering. As our Good King he is with us, right alongside us. But as our Good King he is also leading us to something far, far greater than we could ever envision. He is King not only of the past and present, but also of the future. He is King of Earth, but also King of Heaven. 'My Kingdom is not of this World' is a reminder that He is not bound or contained by reality as we experience it, but that there is an even greater reality beyond our vision, and He is Lord of that too. And because he is Lord of it all, that means our reality is also greater than what we can see and experience in this life. We won't get all the answers now, and perhaps we may never fully understand, but we can trust that our lives and our stories are firmly in his care.

PLANNING AHEAD: CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve (Tues 24th): 4:30pm Sea Lake, 7pm Swan Hill (*With Nativity Play*), 9:30pm Swan Hill

Christmas Day (Wed 25th): Quambatook 8:30am, Swan Hill 10:30am

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, 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

Phillip Milano, Graeme Patterson,

Leon McDougall, Michael Leonard, Mary Rogers
Frank Curran, Trevor Wiedermann, Amy Leggett

Mary Bryent, James Stahl, Trevor Wright

Antonio Tarascio, Brian Templeton, Mary O'Connor

Michael Considine, Cade Hickey, Carmela Capone

Mary Considine, Frank Richardson, Frederick Ledwick

Daniel Rogers, Stan Smith, Deanne Ryan

SICK LIST

Pat Croft, Yvonne Richardson, Paul Donohue,

Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott,

Jarrold Crimmins, Michael Bourke, Jack Donohue,

Jude Lewis, Susan, Yvonne Annan,

Bridget Phyland, Carmel Ryan, Peter Amezdroz

Ken Duryea, Helen Duryea

**THIS WEEKEND 23RD/24TH NOVEMBER
CHRIST THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

Sat 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: **NO MASS**

Wednesday: 10am

Thurs: 5pm Confession, 5.30pm Mass, Adoration

Friday 11.30am

**NEXT WEEKEND 30TH NOV/1ST DEC
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Sat 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

BAPTISM WELCOME

Last Sunday in Sea Lake we welcomed Darci, daughter of Lorraine and Corey. This Sunday in Swan Hill we welcome Isabelle, daughter of Michael and Jessica, and Francis, son of Michael and Amy.

Thank you to our parents for presenting your children for baptism, and Darci, Isabelle and Francis- welcome to God's family!

'MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS'

St Mary's Primary Swan Hill are hosting 'Making a Scene' again next week, with a special opportunity for parishioners and public to view the exhibition after school on Tuesday 26th between 3:45 and 4:30pm.

'Making a Scene' is a spectacular collection of beautiful Nativity Scenes from all around the world, along with some impressive historical pieces tied to the Christmas story (last time we got to smell real Frankincense!). It is well worth a viewing.



Our Reverse Advent Calendars are available again this year. Boxes will be available after Masses this weekend. Return date is the weekend of the 15/16th December when we will deliver them to A Good Kitchen/St Vinnies for Christmas. A suggestion list of items to go in the boxes is available.

Donations of items or money from anyone who would like to help but not fill a box are most welcome as we can make up boxes to be donated. These can be left at the Parish Office Tuesdays or Fridays between 10.30 and 2pm.

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Stamps can be left in the box marked 'Stamps' that can be found in the foyer of the Swan Hill Church.

These are then collected by the Josephite Companions. Funds are raised for areas such as Peru, The Kimberly and Timor Leste.

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

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



CWL REFLECTION DAY: THURS DEC 5

DR SR MARY GLOWREY IN THE MALLEE

Our Parish is looking forward to a very special day on Thursday 5th December. The Catholic Women's League is helping to organise a reflection day in Swan Hill, with a special focus on Servant of God Dr Sr Mary Glowrey.

Many of you know Sr Mary's story, and many are even related to her, which makes it very special that we can host this day. And if you haven't heard of Sr Mary Glowrey, what better chance!

The day is open to anyone, and will run as follows (feel free to join for part or all of the day)...

10:30am Mass

11-11:30am Morning tea

11:30am - 1pm Main Presentation by Anna Krohn on Dr Sr Mary Glowrey

1pm - 2pm Lunch

2pm - 3pm Afternoon Session/Sharing

3pm Final prayer & Blessing

We will be welcoming visitors from other parishes for the day, and the afternoon session will be an opportunity to share with each other all the good things that are happening in parishes around our region. It might also be a special opportunity for some of Sr Mary's relatives to do a bit of a show and tell of any photos/items connected to her story!

RSVP (for catering purposes) to Parish Office.

For any questions about the day, see Faye Palmer, Fr James or Mary Kennedy.

Finally, if you are able to offer a bed to any of the ladies visiting from out of town, please let us know.

ST MARY'S HOSPITALITY TEAM

Will be catering for the CWL Mary Glowrey day.

There will be a very short, informal meeting **after 10:30am Mass on Dec 1st** (once everyone has a cuppa) just to touch base before the day.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why did Pilate question Jesus the way he did?

To what 'truth' did Jesus come into the world to bear witness?

How are we called to continue to bear witness to this truth?

Have you ever felt challenged about what you believe?

Do you find 'Christ the King' a helpful or significant image of Jesus?



GOSPEL REFLECTION

This week marks the end of the liturgical year. Next week, with the first week of Advent, we begin the new liturgical cycle. It is fitting that the Church concludes the liturgical year with the celebration of Christ the King. The conversation between Jesus and Pilate displays a lot of word play on the part of Jesus and quite a lot of confusion on the part of Pilate. The confusion stems from different perceptions of what it means to be a king. For Pilate, part of the most powerful political and military rule in the ancient world, the idea of a king was a threat. Claiming kingship was claiming authority and power that would inevitably lead to challenging the authority and power of Rome and, more directly, its representative in Palestine – Pilate. Jesus, of course, had a completely different idea about ushering in a kingdom. He does indeed declare that he is a king and that is what leads us to today's feast of Christ the King. However, his intention is not to claim a position of power and authority. When we think back to Jesus' teachings about the kingdom of God, we recall that he declares the people of highest status – the first – in the kingdom to be the lowliest of this world. It is the poor, the sick, the outcast, the children and the widows who will hold the highest places in the kingdom of God. In a kingdom like that, what does it mean to declare oneself king? The confusion about what it means to be a king that is captured in this interaction between Jesus and Pilate is the same confusion that we saw among the disciples as they came to terms with exactly what it means to be the Messiah.

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FIRST READING Daniel 7:13-14

*A reading from the prophet Daniel
His sovereignty is eternal.*

I gazed into the visions of the night.
And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,
one like a son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.
On him was conferred sovereignty,
glory and kingship,
and men of all peoples, nations and languages
became his servants.
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty
which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire be destroyed.
The Word of the Lord. ALL Thanks Be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 92:1-2. 5. R.v.1

**(R.) The Lord is king;
he is robed in majesty.**

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;
the Lord has robed himself with might,
he has girded himself with power.

The world you made firm, not to be moved;
your throne has stood firm from of old.
From all eternity, O Lord, you are.

Truly your decrees are to be trusted.
Holiness is fitting to your house,
O Lord, until the end of time. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Revelation 1:5-8

*A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
The ruler of the kings of the earth ... made us a line
of kings, priests to serve his God.*

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from
the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves
us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and
made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and
Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and
ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds;
everyone will see him, even those who pierced him,
and all the races of the earth will mourn over him.
This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the
Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who
is to come, the Almighty.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mark 11:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our
Father;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Alleluia!

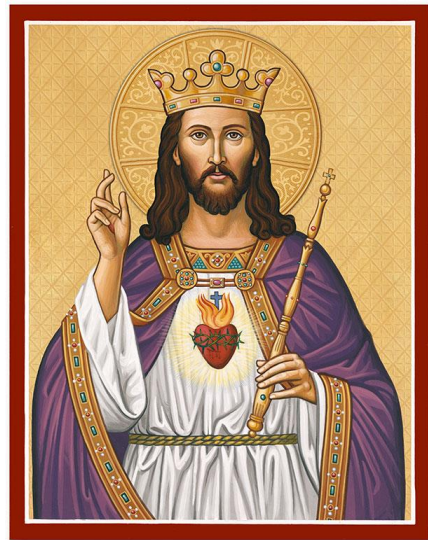
GOSPEL John 18:33-37

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
You say that I am a king.*

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus
replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have
others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I
a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who
have handed you over to me: what have you done?'
Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if
my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought
to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my
kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said
Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a
king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this:
to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side
of truth listen to my voice.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



READINGS NEXT WEEK:

1st Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28. 34-36