

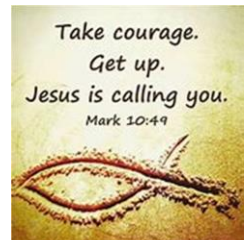


# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://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*



## 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024: 30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### *'RABBUNI,' THE BLIND MAN SAID TO HIM 'MASTER, LET ME SEE AGAIN.'*



We hear that the blind man Bartimaues had been begging; pleading for alms so that he could at least eat and so survive. Of course, he had to keep doing this every day. The people who helped him could only address the symptom, his hunger, not the underlying cause; the deep wound of his blindness. Then suddenly everything changes. He hears that Jesus is passing by, and so he jumps at the chance to beg of Jesus' help too. But this time it is different. Jesus can heal his wound of blindness. Jesus, and only Jesus, can help him see again.

We all face challenges and hurts in the brokenness of this life. We might struggle with a particular bad habit or pattern of behaviour, or maybe there is ongoing tensions and conflict in our relationships that are most dear to us. Too often, we

focus only on the problem that is presented to us, and our prayer may also limit itself to just that; pleading to God to simply 'fix the problem'. And perhaps for a time this prayer works. The symptoms are eased, and we enjoy a period of peace and wholeness. But soon we find the symptoms return. It is only when our prayer and focus can shift to the underlying wound at the root of it all that deep and lasting healing can begin.

It is a bit like Bartimaeus begging for bread; his hunger is abated for a time, but the wound at the root of it all still remains. Soon, he will be hungry again. He is only truly whole again after he boldly turns to Christ to heal his deeper wound of blindness. May we also have the courage and faith to open up our hearts to Christ and boldly call on him to heal our deeper wounds so that we may be truly whole.

### **ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS:**

#### ***REMEMBERING THE DEPARTED AND OUR HOPE IN HEAVEN***

This week we celebrate the great feasts of All Saints and All Souls, a special time to remember those who have gone before us and our great hope that they are alive in Christ. Christ defeated Death on the Cross, and by Rising opened up for us the gates of Heaven. Death may draw its veil between us, but we believe that in Christ we still share in Communion with all the faithful departed; for all are alive in Christ.

Our celebrations begin with the 6pm Vigil of All Saints on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October (Halloween), followed by the Family Event. Friday's 11:30am Mass will also be for All Saints (aka All Hallows), and then the 10am Mass on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> offered for All Souls. Saturday evening's Mass will be of the 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday, but as it still falls on the 2<sup>nd</sup> the opportunity for obtaining an indulgence for visiting a Church still stands.

#### **Parish Contact Details:**

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Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://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**

Dorothy Bishop, Ronald Hoare, Lia Pino  
Patrick O'Reilly, Jack Giddings, Doreen O'Brien,  
Deborah Ann Elliott, Raffaele Mollo, George K Nair,  
Phyll Taylor, Margaret Byrne, Cypril Nwaobia,  
Jean Eustace, John Betts, Christina Heron,  
Fr Patrick Adegbetie, Keith Greenham, Bill Shanahan,  
Hugh Kelly, Jane Scanlon, Roma Giddings,  
Rodney Walsh, Claire Dunstan

**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 26<sup>TH</sup>/27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday: 10am  
Wednesday: 10am  
**Thursday: 6pm Mass Vigil All Saints  
(Followed by Halloween Family Event)**  
**Friday: 11:30am Mass All Saints**  
**Saturday: 10am Mass All Souls**

**NEXT WEEKEND 2<sup>ND</sup>/3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER  
31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sat 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**NOTICES**



**Halloween Family Event**

**Let's Reclaim Halloween for its Original  
Purpose: Celebrating All the Saints and our  
Hope in Heaven!**

Join us for a special family event on  
**Thursday 31st October** (All Hallow's Eve)

Starting at **6:40pm** (after 6pm Mass),  
In the Parish Function Centre, Swan Hill

We will have some dinner, games and a special  
activity and prayer remembering our loved ones who  
have gone before us.

**Kids are encouraged to dress up as their favourite  
saint. There will be prizes for the best dressed!**

RSVP: Via Parish Office, Fr James or Francesca



We hope to see you there!

**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)

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. You may remember him from Easter last year, when he joined our Parish for the celebrations. It is an 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 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm, again at St Patrick's Cathedral.

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

This week, you're invited to partner with the Church in Mongolia to help deliver essential services to people who need it most. Lack of access and social stigma mean that some of the most vulnerable people are not getting the support they require.

The House of Mercy will provide a haven for many people, including those affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Without your partnership, people in need will go without the assistance they require. During World Mission Sunday, we are called to "Invite others to the banquet", and we invite you to share the warmth of God's love with our brothers and sisters who need it most in Mongolia. You can support this work by using the appeal envelope, or going online at [catholicmission.org.au/mongolia](http://catholicmission.org.au/mongolia) Your gift will also assist many other Church programs around the world.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

Why do the crowd try to keep Bartimaeus quiet at first?

How does the attitude of the crowd change once Jesus calls for Bartimaeus?

In what way is physical blindness a symbol or metaphor?

When have you been 'blind' to a situation or truth?

How is this event a story about discipleship?

**NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY  
BY MARY COLOE PBVM**

**A MODEL DISCIPLE** Mark 10:46-52

*Immediately his sight returned, and he followed Jesus along the way.*

This episode concludes a very significant section of Mark's Gospel, which began with Jesus healing a blind man in Bethsaida (8:22-26) in Galilee, then setting out on a journey south to Jerusalem along the Jordan valley. In this journey, Jericho is the last stop before Jerusalem, and it is here that he meets another blind man. In between these two miracles where blind people gain sight, Jesus has been trying to lead his disciples to an understanding of his mission. He has taught them three times about what awaits him in Jerusalem, and each time the disciples fail to perceive his meaning. He has taught them about letting go the desire for wealth, power and prestige and to seek the gift that only God can give, namely life in God's presence. But the disciples have argued about who will be the greatest and who will have positions of authority.

Now, in today's reading, blind Bartimaeus models what discipleship entails. In his poverty he calls out to Jesus knowing that only Jesus can give him what he truly desires. When he is healed, he leaves behind all he has and becomes a follower of Jesus on the way that will lead to the cross.

The Gospel describes Bartimaeus as sitting by 'the way', and at the end of the story he follows Jesus 'on the way'. This term, 'the Way', appears to be one of the earliest names for the Church – 'followers of the Way' (see Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 24:14, 22). When Mark uses this term, on a number of occasions it is more than simply a description of a path, but has the theological sense of 'the way of discipleship'. Where the disciples are blinded by their ambitions, Bartimaeus sees clearly and he willingly leaves his things behind, throws off his cloak and takes up the position of a disciple – a follower on the way. This episode is far more than a simple healing miracle; it is really a lesson in discipleship and it makes a sharp contrast with the ignorance and ambition shown by Jesus' disciples throughout his journey.

Bartimaeus is able to name his deepest need and seek the one who can fulfil this. Can I leave aside the external trapping that can distract me from following my heart's desire?



**FIRST READING** *Jeremiah 31:7-9*

*A reading from the prophet Jeremiah*

*I shall lead them back in mercy – both the blind and the lame.*

The Lord says this:

Shout with joy for Jacob!

Hail the chief of nations!

Proclaim! Praise! Shout:

The Lord has saved his people,

the remnant of Israel!

See, I will bring them back

from the land of the North

and gather them from the far ends of earth;

all of them: the blind and the lame,

women with child, women in labour:

a great company returning here.

They had left in tears,

I will comfort them as I lead them back;

I will guide them to streams of water,

by a smooth path where they will not stumble.

For I am a father to Israel,

and Ephraim is my first-born son.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 125. R. v.3*

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
It seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:

they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** *Hebrews 5:1-6*

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

*You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.*

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too

lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *See 2 Timothy 1:10*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death,  
and brought us life through his gospel.

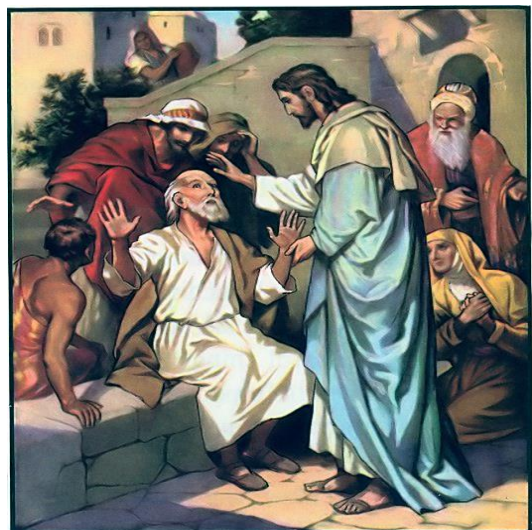
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *Mark 10:46-52*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*  
*Master, grant that I may see.*

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

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



**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**30th Sunday in Ordinary time**

First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28