



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



1ST DECEMBER 2024:

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"STAND ERECT, HOLD YOUR HEADS HIGH, BECAUSE YOUR LIBERATION IS NEAR AT HAND"

So, we now begin this special season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation to welcome and receive Christ afresh into our hearts. Christ first came into the world when he was born of Mary. He comes to us today every time his word is born again in our hearts. And we look forward to the day when he will come in glory at the end of time, to restore all things in him and Love will be in all.

**DR SR MARY GLOWREY: REFLECTION DAY
THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER**



We look forward to a very special day on Thursday when the Catholic Women's League will run a reflection day in Swan Hill focused on Dr Sr Mary Glowrey. A Servant of God and on the way to be declared a Saint, Sr Mary spent most of her formative years in the Mallee not far away in Watchem, and also has plenty of relatives here in our Parish, so I think we can claim her as our own.

I encourage everyone who can to make the most of this opportunity, even if you can only join for part of the day. **Please see inside for more details** and note there will also be a special dinner opportunity at Swan Hill Club which is open to everyone, but especially targeted at those who will be working during the day.

CONFIRMATION CONGRATULATIONS

A special congratulations to the children who will be Confirmed on Saturday night!

Please know we have been praying for you over the last few months! May this be a very special day for you. May you know God's great love in your heart. May you feel it deeply and never, ever doubt it. May it shape you and move you, so that you might say your 'yes' to God and serve him by sharing his Love with all the world! We also welcome all our families and special friends who have come in support of the children today.

Thank you for helping them get ready for this big day.

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:

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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+

Tom O'Connor
Yvonne Annan
Bill McGregor

NOTICES



**CUPPA AFTER 10.30AM MASS THIS SUNDAY
ALL WELCOME**

This will be a special one as it will be the last for the year (and a break coming up in January).
So come for the party!



MONTHLY ROSARY SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

Will be held at Joe & Teresa Taverna's
106 Werrill St after the 10am Mass.
All welcome.

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

John Billing, Caterina Siciliano, Thomas Gleeson
Ruby Egan, Willian McInerney, Sheila Kelly
Thomas Stutley, Veronica Power, Jack Robinson
Catherine Conlan, James Derham, Donna Gammond
John Currie, Des McDonald, Josie Caccavello

SICK LIST

Pat Croft, Yvonne Richardson, Paul Donohue,
Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott,
Jarrod Crimmins, Michael Bourke, Jack Donohue,
Jude Lewis, Bridget Phyland,
Carmel Ryan, Peter Amezdroz
Ken Duryea, Helen Duryea



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Thank you all who took a box last weekend. There are still a few boxes available from the Parish Office. If you missed out you can still help. Use an ordinary box and cover the outside in Christmas wrapping.

Some suggestions for items this week,
Tin of canned fruit: Bag of Rice: Tin of Canned vegetables eg Peas & Corn: shampoo/conditioner.
Nothing fancy just basic everyday items.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

When you read this gospel passage, what thoughts and emotions does it evoke? What was the gospel writer trying to convey?

What is the message for a modern audience?
Why is Advent the beginning of the liturgical year?
What is an image or symbol for you of waiting and/or preparation?

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

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday: 1pm Funeral Mass for Tom O'Connor

Tuesday: 10am

Wednesday: **5.30pm** this week only

Thurs: 10:30am CWL Retreat Day Mass

Friday 11.30am

1:30pm Funeral Prayers Yvonne Annan

Saturday: 9.30am Confession, 10am Mass

Followed by monthly Rosary at Joe & Teresa Taverna.

**NEXT WEEKEND 7TH/8TH DEC
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

Sunday: 4:30pm Sea Lake Graduation Mass

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

This Thursday 5th December, our Parish is hosting a reflection day in Swan Hill organised by the Catholic Women's 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

6:30pm Dinner & Talk

Swan Hill Club: William Garden Room

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) on the sign-up sheet after Mass or to Parish Office.

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 this Sunday** (once everyone has a cuppa) just to touch base before the day.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world. © *Loyola Press*

FIRST READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.’

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will.

The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



READINGS NEXT WEEK:

2nd Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6



During Advent let us think of others through

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

- Pay for someone’s coffee
 - Give a hug
- Ask the elderly if they need anything.
- Practise compassion when in a slow-moving queue
 - Get festively crafty, its “make a Gift Day”
 - Give toys you no longer play with to charity.