



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 50324144

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*



**22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2024:**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:**



### **TAKE CHRIST WITH YOU AND SHARE THE JOY!**

Through the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth is able to recognise the presence of Mary's Blessed Child. Christ has come to visit her, she welcomes him and so she is filled with joy. We are all called to be like Elizabeth; ready to receive Christ with open hearts and to recognise Him when he comes with the eyes of faith. We are also called to be like other Marys- carrying Christ with us wherever we go and taking him to all those whom we meet. Christ lives in us. He has made us parts of his Body. With his Word alive in our hearts we can truly take him to all those we meet. By sharing his life with others, we can also be agents of joy, just as Mary was. So let's take up that Mission- take Christ with you and share the joy!

### **SPREAD THE WORD! CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

Please take some of the little flyers with the Christmas Mass times to share with your family, friends, neighbours & colleagues, and let them know which time you plan to attend. Have hope; you never know how much of an impact a personal invitation can make!

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

**Christmas Day (Wed 25<sup>th</sup>):** Quambatook 8:30am, Swan Hill 10:30am

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

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

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**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+**

Mary Guy

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Shirley Vains, George Dawes, Molly Curran,  
Mary Robbins, Robert O'Meara, Patricia Mikes,  
Geoffery Johnston, Alice Shanahan, Jim Romeo,  
Christopher Powell, Eileen Watson, Marie Ewart,  
Alexander Irwin, Catherine Spry, George Livingston,  
Anthony (Tony) Caruana, Margaret Cleary,  
Paolo Peluso, Nicholas Bruton, Connie Isgro,  
Monica Livingston, Freda Livingston, Rex Delmenico,  
Giuseppe "Joe" Saraceno

**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

**THIS WEEKEND 21<sup>ST</sup>/22<sup>ND</sup> DEC  
4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Sat 6pm Swan Hill

**NO Mass Quambatook**

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday: **Christmas Eve: Sea Lake 4:30pm, Swan Hill  
7pm & 9:30pm**

Wednesday: **Christmas Day Quambatook 8:30am,  
Swan Hill 10.30am**

Thurs: No Mass

Friday No Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 28<sup>TH</sup>/29<sup>TH</sup> DEC  
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

Sat 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**NOTICES**



**BAPTISM WELCOME**

This Saturday we welcome Kai Barbuto for baptism,  
son of Ace and Cecile. May God bless you always!  
We also welcome Dr Liyang Ding who will be baptised  
and received into the Church.

Thank you for your great witness to faith, and  
welcome to the family!



**2025 COLUMBAN CALENDARS, CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Are still available. \$10 for the Columban Calendars.

Christmas Cards are also available \$10 for a pack.

Apologies, we have run out of copies of God's Word,  
but you can order directly from [paulinebooks.com.au](http://paulinebooks.com.au)



**REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR**

A big, big thank you to everyone who has donated  
groceries, or returned filled boxes, your generosity is  
overwhelming. To date we have received and filled  
over sixty boxes.

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

There will be a combined choir led by Brenda Grace  
for the 9:30pm Christmas Eve Mass. All welcome to  
join. Carols will begin at 8.50pm.

**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](mailto:principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au)



*During Advent let us think of others through...*

### **RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS**

- Help prepare a meal
- Bake some biscuits and share with your neighbours
- Make a goody bag for a friend
- Say "Merry Christmas" to others as you walk down the street.

### **HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

What does Elizabeth mean when she describes Mary as 'blessed'?

When have you had an experience of incredible joy?

In a world full of electronic communication, how is a face-to-face visit more special?

Why is this gospel passage appropriate for the final week of Advent?

### **LIVING THE GOSPEL – LOOKING FOR SIGNS**

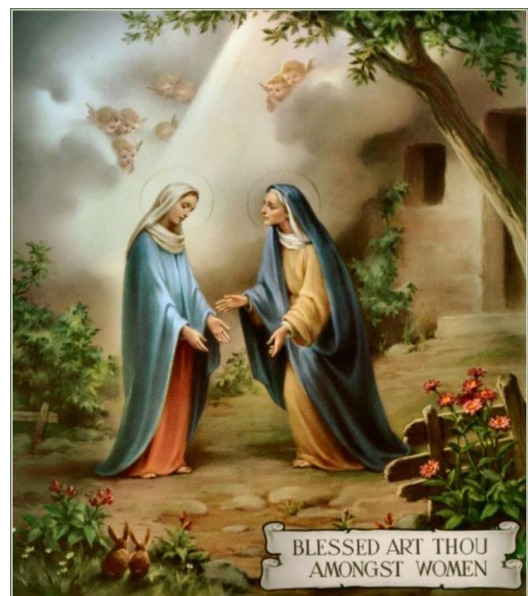
When Mary went to visit Elizabeth, she was not looking for a sign that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had accepted God's will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation. At times we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation.

### **BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**

In this last week of Advent, the Gospel turns its focus to two pregnant women, Mary and her cousin Elizabeth. As any parent knows, pregnancy is a time of heightened longing, waiting and expectancy; as such, these two women provide a great symbol of Advent's theme. Elizabeth feels in her womb the first stirrings of her child and filled with the Spirit gives praise for the child in Mary's womb. While recognising the blessedness of Mary's child, Mary herself is called blessed for her faith, rather than her maternity. Mary believes. In this is her greatness and her importance in the Christian tradition – as woman, mother and believer.

This visitation of Mary to Elizabeth prefigures the great visitation that is the joyful message of Luke's Gospel, God's visitation to all people. As the Gospel unfolds, Jesus will be the symbol and presence of God's gracious visit to us. Luke will show us Jesus visiting the homes of various people such as Peter whose mother-in-law is ill (Lk 4:38-39), Simon the Pharisee (Lk 7:36-50), and Zacheus (Lk 19:1-10). Jesus will also be the host inviting all to gather at his table (Lk 9:10-17; 22:14-27). Even before Jesus' ministry begins, God's active coming to people is given flesh in a young woman's journey to her cousin.

May this Christmas be a time when you experience the joy of family visitations, and you become for others the symbol of God's loving hospitality. May God's Spirit be a cause of joy and blessing in the depths of your life.



**FIRST READING** Micah 5:1-4

*A reading from the prophet Micah*

*Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.*

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back  
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend  
his power

to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

**(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 10:5-10

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

*I am coming to do your will.*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;  
then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,

‘God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.’

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

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

**Gospel Acclamation** Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:

may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Luke 1:39-45

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

First Reading: Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

Second Reading: Col 3:12-21

Gospel: Lk 2:41-52