



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



8TH DECEMBER 2024: 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"THE ONE WHO BEGAN THIS GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL SEE THAT IT IS FINISHED"

As you know, we had a special day on Thursday with a retreat focused on Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, an amazing woman of faith who laboured so generously and tirelessly. God certainly did tremendous works through her, and we were all greatly moved and inspired in hearing more of her story. It was also so special to have so many of her close relatives join us, including her last surviving niece Joan Hoare. It really was a graced day.

We will certainly look for more opportunities to learn more about Mary into the future.

But the day wasn't just about hearing what Mary had done in the past, the second half of the day was an opportunity for sharing about the many good things that are happening around our region. As well as our own parishioners, we had representatives from over a dozen other parishes and church communities join us for the day, so there was a lot to share. There really are so many great works being done in our region, and we were all so heartened and encouraged to hear about all the good things being done. God truly is moving through so many faithful people. We heard of different initiatives finding new ways to reach out to young families to share the story of Jesus, of the many efforts being made to welcome and invite people into His family the Church, of support offered to families who are grieving, and of efforts to help the poor... it really was quite a list! Perhaps taken individually, these works might not seem all that grand or impressive, but taken together you can really begin to see God's hand at work, doing great and tremendous deeds through ordinary folk like you and me. And I know what was shared on Thursday barely even scratched the surface- God is working so many wonders through each and every one of you. Every act of faith, every act of hope, every act of love, is God's good work being done in you. We know there is still so much to do before the end, but it is so important for us to take stock every now and again and give thanks for the many great things that have already been done. *"I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes."*

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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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

Bernie Ryan, Mary Kelly, Luigi Fedele, Desmond Jones
Reginald Byrne, Eliza Driscoll, Tony Campinelli,
Faye Nolan, Thomas Irwin, Caterina Bonanno,
James Stewart Lawrence Turner, Tom Murphy,
Norma Ryan, Mary Elliott, Frank Raudino,
Anthony Hooper, Giovanni Russo, Vera Schlitz,
Vince Pellegrino, Jack Cook, Michael Farrell,
Fr Gerald Payne, Lucy Johnston, Eileen White,
Jack & Mary O'Connor

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 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

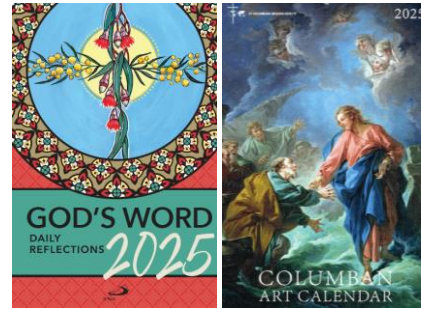
WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday: 11:30am Immaculate Conception
Tuesday: 5:30pm
Wednesday: 10am
Thurs: 5pm Confessions, 5.30pm Mass, Adoration
Friday 11.30am

**NEXT WEEKEND 14TH/15TH DEC
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

NOTICES



2025 COLUMBAN CALENDARS, GOD'S WORD
Are now available. \$10 for the Calendars, and \$20 for
the God's Word (which contain the daily scripture
readings of the Mass with a short reflection).



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Some suggestions for items this week,
Canned veges e.g. peas/corn; pasta, pasta sauce,
toothpaste / toothbrush; peanut butter, vegemite or
jam; coffee/tea or milo.
Nothing fancy, just basic everyday items.



**CWL REFLECTION DAY: THURS DEC 5
DR SR MARY GLOWREY IN THE MALLEE**

On Thursday 5th December, our Parish hosted a
reflection day in Swan Hill organised by the Catholic
Women's League with a special focus on Servant of
God Dr Sr Mary Glowrey. It was truly an amazing and
information gathering learning about Dr Sr Mary
Glowrey's connection to our Parish and surrounding
areas. **A big thank you to the Hospitality Group for
their work in catering for the day, and for all who
attended and supported it.**

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
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Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why does the gospel writer go to such extremes to identify the historical timing of this event?

In what ways did John the Baptist fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah?

What are some of the obstacles to God that you have put up in your life?

What would it take for you to 'Prepare a way' – to clear the obstacles and allow God's love through?

How can you assist others to 'Prepare a way'?



During Advent let us think of others through...

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

- Pray for those who need peace
- Think about Mary the Mother of Jesus. Tell her what is in your heart.
- Create a bell Ornament for the Christmas tree.
- Do something that brings your family or friends JOY
- Look at the Christmas lights around your neighbourhood, remembering that Jesus is the light of the world

LIVING THE GOSPEL – MAKE WAY!

Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

© Greg Sunter

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER

The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun last week, but still, rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. The gospel writer includes a quote from Isaiah in which the prophet says, 'Prepare a way for the Lord.' (Often translated as 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.) The application of this passage to John the Baptist is a logical one. This gospel emphasises that John was preaching 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. Throughout the gospel of Luke, the recognition of sinfulness and the desire to repent and seek forgiveness is the prelude to receiving God's favour.

This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognise our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. It is only through such repentance that we can make ourselves receptive to the love of God. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive. We are absolutely assured of God's love. The problem is that we often feel that we are undeserving of that love or are unable to receive it. When we are called to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts – to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognise God's love if we 'Prepare a way'.

2nd Sunday
in Advent

Faith

Bethlehem Candle
reminding us of Mary and
Joseph's journey to
Bethlehem



The Archdiocese of
Port of Spain

FIRST READING Baruch 5:1-9

*A reading from the prophet Baruch
Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the
cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem
of the glory of the Eternal on your head:

since God means to show your splendour to every nation
under heaven,

since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through
devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:

see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has
remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

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 Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of
Christ.*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering
how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day
you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain
that the One who began this good work in you will see that it
is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows
how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you.
My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more
and more and never stop improving your knowledge and
deepening your perception so that you can always recognise
what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless,
and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the
perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the
glory and praise of God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
All people shall see the salvation of God.*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius
Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his
brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis,
Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas
and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah,
in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of
sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet
Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

3rd Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18