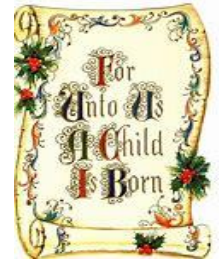




# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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*



## WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



### WISHING YOU EVERY JOY AND BLESSING THIS CHRISTMAS!

We wish you and all those you love every joy this Christmas. May Christ's peace fill your hearts and your homes! We all know the story, of how after he was born Jesus was laid in a manger, 'because there was no room for them in the inn'. Let's make room for Jesus in our lives today. He comes now to meet us, in all the busyness and stress of our lives. Let's open up our hearts and let him in, so that he may fill us with his light and his love, and that we might share the peace and joy we find in him with everyone we meet. In that way, Christ is truly born anew into the world, even today. Every home can be a little Bethlehem, and every heart a manger ready to receive Jesus. And here in the Eucharist is the perfect place to begin; the same Jesus born all those years ago in Bethlehem, the 'City of Bread', come to us in the Eucharist as our Bread of Life. He gives himself to us again today, so that we might be filled.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

#### Parish Contact Details

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St  
Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585  
Phone: 03 5032 4144

[northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

#### Office Hours

Tues, and Fri 10:30am -2pm

#### Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

#### Parish Admin Officers:

Glenda Klabbbers

Mary Kennedy

#### Child Protection Officers:

Tony & Joelle Whiting

#### Child Safe Church

Here in the Parish of Holy Family North East Mallee follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office.

### **ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Jim Romeo, Eileen Watson, George Livingston  
Margaret Cleary, Paul Peluso, Connie Isgro,  
Nicholas Bruton, John Capiello, Maria Mirabito,  
Patricia Hinton, Marg Mason, Paul Dutto,  
Alexander Irwin, Margaret Johnston

### **WISHING YOU A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND EVERY BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR!**

I will be heading home this week to spend a couple of days with my family. The Office will be closed from Christmas Eve until Friday Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> with limited hours during January on Tuesday and Friday.

### **MASSES IN COMING DAYS**

#### ***No week day Masses***

#### **FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY**

28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> December  
Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

#### **NEW YEARS EVE/DAY: MARY MOTHER OF GOD**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> 6pm Swan Hill  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 10.30am Swan Hill

### **ANNUAL BISHOP'S COLLECTION**

Each year at Christmas we take up a special collection across the Diocese that is then distributed to those in need, both locally and internationally. Last year the \$32,000 collected were distributed as follows: \$5000 each given to the Appeal for Lebanon, Catholic Care Victoria, St Vincent de Paul, Nazareth House Ballarat, St Columban's Mission Peru, and Catholic mission Myanmar Appeal. \$2000 to Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans.

This collection will be taken as you leave the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

Donations can now also be made directly via the "Parish Giving" link at the bottom of the Diocesan website home page, Click on Parish Giving, select your Parish, then from the drop-down box "My Giving is For", select "Bishop's Christmas Appeal."

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

On behalf of St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Mary's Swan Hill Conference, we extend our thanks to Glenda Klabbers, Reverse Advent Calendar Co-ordinator, Swan Hill and the parishioners of St. Mary's for the generous donation of 61 Reverse Advent boxes (*so far*). The boxes have/will be distributed to those in need of a hand up at A GOOD KITCHEN and at SVDP assistance centre located at 272 Campbell Street, Swan Hill.

A Total of 52 Christmas hampers were distributed to companions and families seeking a hand up this Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all."

*Brian Richardson*

*Swan Hill Conference President*

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

What words or phrases from the passage appear to be particularly significant? Why?

How might Mary and Joseph have felt about their situation for having their baby?

What message about Jesus is portrayed by his mother laying him in a manger – an animal feed trough?

Does a close reading of this passage change your picture of the birth of Jesus in any way?

Why do you think the different infancy stories have been commonly combined into one?

### **A CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

"Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

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

#### **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)



Draw a picture of the newly born Jesus lying in the manger.



JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Joy to the world! The Saviour is Born!

20/1/08

B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	N	M	N	F	A
A	J	Z	P	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	J	J	L
D	E	D	S	K	U	Q	D	R	G	L	O	R	Y
V	S	L	N	E	Y	L	K	E	P	N	P	V	Y
W	U	G	D	V	C	U	N	S	P	A	X	S	J
Y	S	U	F	A	S	L	F	Q	D	Z	P	Z	B
F	P	E	A	C	E	L	Q	K	I	A	F	D	Q
L	C	C	T	V	K	H	C	M	R	R	V	J	I
O	M	Q	D	P	Q	D	L	E	F	E	A	O	N
C	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	T	N	S	L
K	H	I	M	A	R	Y	Z	Y	H	G	E	H	
S	V	W	B	R	N	D	Q	J	M	S	E	P	I
V	J	O	C	O	N	Q	V	G	C	R	L	H	O
G	U	B	B	M	A	P	M	P	G	L	S	D	C
X	Y	D	A	U	F	J	M	A	N	G	E	R	C

Try to find these words:

- angels
- Bethlehem
- flocks
- glory
- Jesus
- Joseph
- manger
- Mary
- Nazareth
- peace
- shepherds
- saviour

**FIRST READING** *Is 9:1-7*

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this. *The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11*

**(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth.

With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth.

**(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

**SECOND READING** *Ti 2:11-14*

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. *The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Lk 2:10-11*

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world, today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *Lk 2:1-14*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So, Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

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