



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



29TH DECEMBER 2024:

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



A GOOD TIME TO SAY THANK YOU

Our Parish is like a family, and that means many people are involved in its life. As always, I would like to thank everyone for so generously sharing their gifts and energy with our Parish. For all those involved in cleaning, maintaining and decorating our churches and their grounds, and for the special efforts in the lead up to Christmas- thank you! For all those who help prepare for our Masses, getting everything set up; for those who organise and lead us in music; for our readers, collectors and extra-ordinary ministers; and for all who lead our Lay-Lead Assemblies- thank you! For all of you who help welcome people when they arrive, and for those who play a special role in inviting others in- thank you! For all of you who help in offering hospitality after Masses, for funerals and other special celebrations- thank you! For all of you who have responded so generously when invited to play a special role- thank you! For all of you who take the initiative and quietly go out to visit the elderly, the sick and house-bound, taking Christ with you as you go- thank you! For all those who keep us in their prayer, and who never tire of sharing that gentle encouraging word- thank you! For all of you who play a special part in reaching out to the poor, for volunteering your time and giving so generously- thank you! For all the work each and every one of you do in your daily lives to build up the kingdom- no matter how small that effort may seem- thank you! And for the support you show to this parish by giving financially so we can continue to do what we do- thank you! On a personal level I would also like to thank all those who support me in my role so well- whether that's with your good advice and counsel, your special concern or your encouragement, your hospitality or your prayers... please know I deeply grateful for all that you do.

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

Alexander Irwin, Charlie "Billy" McClelland, John Capiello Maria Mirabito, Patricia Hinton, Marg Mason Paul Dutto, Bill Croft, Margaret Johnston Teresa Aiello, Antonietta Barresi, Dorothy Tuohey John Maher, Ray Leschke, Marie Barry

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 28TH/29TH DECEMBER

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sat 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Mon: No Mass

Tues: 6pm Mass New Year's Eve

NEW YEARS DAY: MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday 1st Jan 10.30am Swan Hill

Thurs: 5.30pm

Friday 11.30am

NEXT WEEKEND 4TH/5TH JANUARY

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Saturday 6pm

No 8.30am Mass

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

NOTICES



On behalf of St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Mary's Swan Hill Conference, we extend our thanks to Glenda Klabbbers, 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 helping hand this Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all."

*Brian Richardson
Swan Hill Conference President*

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What does this incident tell us about the relationship between Jesus, Mary and Joseph?

In what way was Jesus beginning the work of God in this incident?

What can we learn from Mary's reaction of storing up such incidents 'in her heart'?

Are there times you take your family for granted?

How could you better demonstrate your love for your family?

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – JESUS THE JEW

This gospel passage reminds us of the fact that Jesus and his family were faithful Jews throughout their lives. Although in his public ministry Jesus challenged some of the practices and attitudes of the institutional religion, he nevertheless remained faithful throughout his life. In this incident, we see the practice of travelling

Our Parish Schools

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Principal: Kate Quin
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St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler
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to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover and we also see the very Jewish method of teaching and exploring Torah through question and answer. Some people oddly struggle with the notion of Jesus as a Jew and yet the gospels repeatedly demonstrate how he was faithful to the tradition.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT? MARY

We're told in today's gospel that Mary 'stored up all these things in her heart'. Mary is a model of the reflective life. When extraordinary, life-altering events occur to her, she is portrayed as pondering these events in her heart. She responds to these events by allowing them to speak to her and speak to her heart rather than simply 'reacting' as so many of us do. The ability to reflect on events, rather than react to them, can lead to a much better considered response and less chance of making the same mistakes over and over again.



LIVING THE GOSPEL – IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

It is sometimes easy to glibly declare that our families are important to us, but it is in the everyday living of family life that we have the opportunity to demonstrate how serious we are. It is inevitable, as we establish our individual identity, that we will at times clash with our family's expectations and challenge the authority of parents. However, we can never forget the love, care and security our family has provided throughout our lives. Parents try to protect their children from disappointment and harm and reflect the love of God when they're repeatedly prepared to try again with damaged family relationships.



GOSPEL REFLECTION

We live in an era when we are constantly hearing about the demise of the family and the demise of family values. It seems that the family is under constant attack. Divorce rates are at an all-time high and a huge number of young people are raised in single-parent families, divided families or blended families. To talk about a 'typical' family is increasingly irrelevant. What we are learning to appreciate more and more is the diversity of family experience. Despite all this, there is no disputing the value of the family unit. Family is at the heart of our society; at the heart of our development; and at the heart of our Church. When we stop and think about it, the Holy Family that we honour today wasn't exactly what we might describe as a 'typical' family and yet they provide a model for all families.

In today's gospel, we get a snapshot of family life for Jesus, Mary and Joseph at a time when Jesus was 12 years old. We're reminded that the family was a faithful Jewish family, attending the Passover celebrations in Jerusalem every year. We're also reminded that it is at the Passover celebrations some 20 or so years later that Jesus will be tried and crucified. When Mary chastises the boy Jesus, he reminds her that he needs to be busy with his Father's affairs. Mary and Joseph are confused by this, perhaps forgetting momentarily that Jesus is referring to his heavenly Father. This incident, so often dismissed as background 'colour' to the gospel narrative, conveys the significant truth that Jesus shared a family relationship with Mary and Joseph, but also shared a family relationship with God, his Father. It reminds us that Jesus called all of us to enter into the relationship he shared with his Father.

FIRST READING Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

*A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus
Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.*

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone
amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with
children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing
obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Col 3:12-21

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians
Concerning the Christian life in the world.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your

hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Col 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 2:41-52

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the
learned men, listening to them.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

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