



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



19TH JANUARY 2025 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. For many Sundays in this lectionary cycle (Cycle C), our readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. Occasionally, however, we will read from John's Gospel. This is true of today's Gospel reading, which describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his first miracle.

To situate today's reading within the context of John's Gospel, we note that John's report of this event follows Jesus' call of his first disciples. John tells us that Jesus and his disciples were invited to this wedding at Cana, as was Jesus' mother, Mary. There is no parallel report of this miracle at Cana in the Synoptic Gospels.

In the Church's liturgical history, the wedding feast of Cana is closely associated with the baptism of the Lord and the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Wise Men. In this context, the sign Jesus performs at the wedding feast is celebrated as an epiphany or a manifestation of Jesus' divinity.

Yet awareness of Jesus' impending passion and death is ever present in John's Gospel. Even in this report of Jesus' first sign, the language used anticipates Jesus' passion. When Jesus says to his mother that his hour has not yet come, he protests against her wishes in language that John will use again when reporting Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. When introducing the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, John writes that Jesus knew that his hour had come. In John's Gospel, Jesus is very much in command and aware of all that is to happen to him.

Here, as elsewhere in John's Gospel, Mary is not mentioned by name but is referred to instead as the mother of Jesus. Mary is influential in Jesus' first sign. She will also be present at his Crucifixion, a witness to the final manifestation of his divinity.

John's Gospel describes seven signs that indicate Jesus' identity to his disciples. John never speaks of these signs as miracles because their importance is not in the deed that Jesus performs but in what these deeds indicate about Jesus' identity. Here, as when John describes the other signs, the disciples are said to begin to believe, but no mention is made as to whether the other wedding guests are even aware of what has happened.

Marriage and wedding feasts are metaphors used in Scripture to describe God's salvation and the Kingdom of God. Here at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, John's Gospel seeks to establish that Jesus is going to re-interpret and fulfill Yahweh's promise to Israel. Jesus establishes the New Covenant. A hint about what this New Covenant will be like is made evident in the deed that Jesus performs. Asked to do something to address the awkward situation that the absence of wine at a wedding feast would create, Jesus' miracle produces vast quantities of wine—six jars holding thirty gallons each are filled to overflowing with choice wine.

This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God's kingdom. It challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need today. We respond as best we can, fully confident that God can transform our efforts, bringing the Kingdom of God to fulfillment among us.

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+**

Kath Bonney

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Cameron Looney, Laurence Byrne, Margaret Walsh
Giuseppe 'Joe' Galluccio, Margaret Rogers
John (Jack) Quirk, Loughlin Curran, Bill Magee
Concetta Caruso, Alf Wilson, Tom & Jo Murphy
Carmelo Carpenteri, Mary Fogarty, Brian " Pud" Walsh
Laurel Kelly, Norah McGown, Eve Ledwich
Catherine Willson, Julia Wilson, Bill McCartney
Dick Barratt, Brian Byrne, Agnes Joyce O'Loughlin
Matthew O'Neill, David "Tige" Bonney, Ken Jillard
Elizabeth (Betty)O'Brien , Colin Lawry, Mary "Maxine"
Robinson, Vince Mobilio, Rita Stahl, Eugenio Aiello
Neil Meyer, Des Byrne, Bryan Hogan,
Evaline, Bernard, William Wilkinson

SICK LIST

Maureen Allen, 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 18TH/19TH JANUARY 2025

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Culgoa

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

**THURSDAY 10.30AM FUNERAL MASS FOR KATH BONNEY
NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK**

NEXT WEEKEND 25TH/26TH JANUARY

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Gospel: Luke 1:1-4. 4:14-21

NOTICES



To celebrate the 30th anniversary of
Saint Mary MacKillop's beatification
We invite you to order your FREE copy of
Flourish with Mary's Heart

The Sisters of Saint Joseph created a commemorative
prayer book that inspires us all to 'do the extraordinary' as
Mary so often did. The prayers offer an opportunity to
understand the values that are key to the heart of Mary –
a woman of compassion & courage.

Join us in celebrating the inspiring legacy of Saint Mary
MacKillop by ordering your exclusive copy via the QR code
or call us on Ph: 02 8912 2763.

The Office will have some copies available shortly



Marriage Encounter- "Marriage Encounter
presentation called "WOW" after mass on Sunday



02/03/2025 followed by a light luncheon in
the Parish Function room. More information to
follow,"

MASS FOR YOU AT HOME

Australia's longest-running religious television program
Mass for You at Home will continue its beloved ministry in
2025. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the
Diocese of Wollongong have signed an agreement to
continue producing and broadcasting the program, which
first aired on Australian television in 1971. Mass for You at
Home will be broadcast every Sunday at 6.00am on the
Ten Network and multiple times during the week on
Foxtel's Aurora (Channel 173).

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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IS ONLY 7 WEEKS AWAY

Yes I know, we have only just celebrated Christmas, but I would like to know if anyone wishes to purchase the Lenten program books, this year's topic, "Many Paths Lead to Easter." I will need numbers by the 8th of February to order the books. Please contact the parish office – 50324144 or call in on a Tuesday or Friday. Thankyou.

GOSPEL FOCUS – THE BEST WINE

The steward comments that the best wine had been kept until the end of the wedding celebration – a clever use of an image for Jesus. Remembering the use of wedding imagery to describe the relationship between the people of Israel and God, the wedding feast is celebration of that relationship, and at the very heart of the celebration and the relationship is Jesus. He is the best wine that is kept until the end – the 'finishing touch' to a magnificent celebration, just as he is the 'finishing touch' to the relationship between God and God's people to that point.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

- Why do you think Mary brings the wine issue to Jesus' attention?
- Why might Jesus have been reluctant to perform a miracle at this time?
- Why does Mary seem to force the issue when Jesus has tried to side-step it?
- What might the servants have said to one another after the wedding banquet?
- What evidence is in the passage that suggests John's gospel was written for non-Jewish Christians?

When the wine ran out at a wedding at Cana, Jesus performed his first miracle by turning the water in six stone jars into wine. After seeing this, Jesus' disciples put all their faith in him. Write down some of the ways that you show your faith in God.



REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

The readings that are offered to us as we begin Ordinary Time carry over some of the themes that we considered during the Christmas season. Then we celebrated the new era that God inaugurated through the birth of Jesus. Now we look deeply into our minds and hearts to see just how open we are to the demands of that new year. Last Sunday we considered the manifestation of the Spirit at the time of the baptism of Jesus. This Sunday we contemplate the various manifestations of that same Spirit in our own lives. Finally, we are brought to realise that this variety of Spirit-filled ministries is intended to be a source of Christian unity and not of fragmentation or division.

One of the major themes gleaned from the readings for today is that of the call to newness. God summons us to something new, gives us a new name, provides us with new experiences, launches us into new ministries, and calls us to sing a new song of praise. Even Jesus experienced a call to newness. Through Mary, God called him out into ministry, a ministry that would bring the fruits of the eschatological age of fulfilment to the whole world. We may be inclined to think of Pentecost as the season of the Spirit, but in reality the newness of God always comes to us through the Spirit regardless of the season of the year. In the world of the new age, the real glory of Jesus will be manifested in the variety of the gifts of the Spirit given to the church. © Dianne Bergant CSA

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ... THE SERVANTS

What must the servants have been thinking? First of all, there was insufficient wine for the feast. They probably knew who was going to wear the blame for that ordering mistake! Then they're told to fill the enormous water jars with water, draw some into a serving vessel and go and present it to the steward of the household – effectively their overseer; their boss! They must have been very nervous about how the steward would respond to what they were taking to him. Yet they, along with Mary and Jesus, were the only witnesses to Jesus' first miracle! Even the steward was unaware of the miracle.

DIFFERENT VIEW – USE OF ALCOHOL

Sadly, this text is sometimes used by people to show that Jesus legitimises drinking alcohol. If there was anything wrong with drinking, they say, Jesus wouldn't have made wine out of water! This argument is used to not only justify consumption of alcohol (sometimes to excess) but also to berate and ridicule those who, for religious and other reasons, abstain from alcohol. It is, of course, a feeble attempt to misappropriate scripture and use it completely out of context and for their own purposes. One could not even justify this argument on the grounds of a literal interpretation of scripture!

FIRST READING Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a torch.
The nations then will see your integrity,
all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name,
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
nor your land 'Abandoned',
but you shall be called 'My Delight'
and your land 'The Wedded';
for the Lord takes delight in you
and your land will have its wedding.
Like a young man marrying a virgin,
so will the one who built you wed you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95:1-3. 7-10. R. v.3

Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

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.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.

Worship the Lord in his temple.

O earth, tremble before him.

Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'

He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
One and the same spirit distributes different gifts as he chooses.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of

preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION See 2 Thessalonians 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 2:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The first of the signs given by Jesus was at Cana in Galilee.

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

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

