



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



26TH JANUARY 2025

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WELCOME BACK FR JAMES.

Today's Gospel reading combines two separate passages taken from the Gospel of Luke. First we hear the opening verses where Luke establishes the purpose of his Gospel. His style is typical of polished Greek and Roman literature. In this passage, we learn that Luke may have written to a specific person, Theophilus; but the word Theophilus may also be a general reference, functioning as the phrase "Dear Reader" might in contemporary writing. In Greek, the word Theophilus translates as "lover of God."

Today's Gospel reading then skips several chapters in which one would find the Infancy Narratives, Jesus' baptism by John, the temptations Jesus faced in the desert, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In chapter four of Luke's Gospel, we hear that Jesus is in his hometown of Nazareth, attending the synagogue on the Sabbath, which is said to be his custom. In this account, we find another important clue that Jesus lived as a faithful, observant Jew. We will continue to read from Luke's Gospel in sequence for the next two Sundays.

As Jesus stands in the synagogue, he reads from the scroll handed to him; it contains the words of the prophet Isaiah. At this early moment in his ministry, Jesus announces his mission in continuity with Israel's prophetic tradition. This reading from Isaiah defines Jesus' ministry. We will find more evidence of this as we continue to read from Luke's Gospel throughout the year. Jesus' ministry will include bringing glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, and proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord.

Through this text from Isaiah, Jesus announces God's salvation. The "year acceptable to the Lord" is a reference to the Jewish tradition of Sabbath years and jubilee. The Sabbath year was observed every seventh year. It was a year of rest when land was left fallow, and food stores were to be shared equally with all. A year of Jubilee was celebrated every fiftieth year, the conclusion of seven cycles of Sabbath years. It was a year of renewal in which debts were forgiven, and slaves were freed.

This tradition of Jubilee is the framework for God's promise of salvation. And yet in Jesus, something new begins. Jesus not only announces God's salvation, he brings this salvation about in his person. Jesus is Yahweh's Anointed One, filled with the Spirit of God. The Kingdom of God is now at hand. It is made present in Jesus, in his life, death, and Resurrection. Jesus will send the Holy Spirit so that the Kingdom of God can be fulfilled.

The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to the Church. The Holy Spirit enables the Church to continue the mission of Jesus. When we do what Jesus did—bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed—we serve the Kingdom of God. © Loyola Press

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

Giuseppe 'Joe' Galluccio, Matthew O'Neill
Agnes Joyce O'Loughlin, David "Tige" Bonney,
Ken Jillard, Elizabeth (Betty)O'Brien
Colin Lawry, Mary "Maxine" Robinson
Vince Mobilio, Rita Stahl, Eugenio Aiello
Neil Meyer, Des Byrne
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 25TH/26TH JANUARY 2025

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 5.30pm

Wednesday: 10am

Thursday: Confessions 5pm.

5.30pm Mass: Adoration

Friday: 11.30am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND 1ST/2ND FEBRUARY

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

NOTICES



Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of St Mary MacKillop's beatification with a free commemorative prayer book, "Flourish with Mary's Heart", written by the Sisters of St Joseph 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.

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,"



IS ONLY 6 WEEKS AWAY

Are you interested in purchasing 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.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What effect does the author achieve through the opening four verses of the gospel?

In what way can this gospel passage be seen as a declaration of mission by Jesus?

What might be meant by 'the Lord's year of favour'?

In what ways are you able to work toward achieving the actions Jesus named as his mission?

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

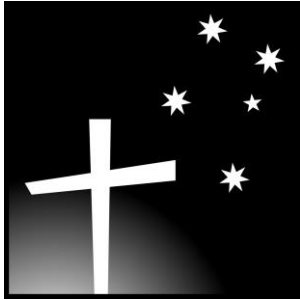
Principal: Michelle Haeusler
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
Ph: 5032 9771

principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA DAY

Blessed be God, for this ancient and beautiful land - a land of despair and hope, a land of wealth and abundant harvests, a land of fire, drought and flood.

We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land and bring forgiveness, reconciliation, and an end to all injustice. Amen.



Grant we pray, O Lord our God, that as the cross shines in our southern skies, so may Christ bring light to our nation, to its people old and new and by saving grace, transform our lives. Amen

REFLECTION BY FR MICHAEL TATE

The Beatitudes we just heard are at the beginning of the 'Sermon on the Mount'. This sermon provides a picture of a society where the usual expectations of how people relate to each other are turned upside down.

Australia, 'Down Under', is a place to which people have been attracted by a vision of a different future, a future where human beings could relate to each other differently to the old order in their society of origin.

De Quiros, the Portuguese explorer of the 16th Century, set out on a quest for 'Terra Austrialia del Espiritu Santo', South Land of the Holy Spirit.

I am convinced that 'Australia' is a work of the Holy Spirit, one of whose most distinctive works at Pentecost was the breaking down of ethnic and language barriers between people.

Australia is a place where that Pentecostal impulse is creating a new society. Have we responded to the Holy Spirit perfectly? No.

Treatment of the earliest inhabitants of this land was shameful and is not yet fully remedied as the Lord of the Sermon on the Mount desires.

But we could pause for a moment and thank God.

For our land abounding in nature's gifts of beauty rich and rare.

For the divine Spirit of Pentecost attracting us to follow Jesus in this

South Land of the Holy Spirit. mtate@bigpond.com

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

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.*

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



FIRST READING Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock! **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, ‘I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body’, would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, ‘I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,’ would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I do not need you,’ nor can the head say to the feet, ‘I do not need you.’

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION See Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!