



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 50324144

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



2ND FEBRUARY 2025

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



FOR MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION

Forty days after his birth, Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus to the Temple to present him to the Lord. Simeon, an old and holy priest, sees the little baby and immediately recognises Jesus as the Promised One that Israel has been waiting for. This poor family carries with them the Saviour of God's people, the One sent to set them free. And not only Israel; this child will be a Light to all the nations. Through his teaching and great works, and yes even through his rejection and suffering, he will bring countless people into fullness of life with the Father. He comes to set us free.

Jesus is our Light. In a world where there is so much darkness and confusion, he brings us light and truth and shows us the way. This way is not always easy. Just as Christ himself was rejected and scorned, just as he himself faced suffering and hurt, so too will we also face our times of trial. But through it all we can know that he walks alongside of us so that we are never alone, and that we have his Light to guide us.

Perhaps you've had the experience of being afraid of the dark, especially as a child. Maybe there was a long corridor at home, and at night it was so black that it almost seemed impenetrable- and there was no way you could pass through it on your own. But with someone beside you, someone ready to take your hand, suddenly the way was opened and the dark corridor didn't seem quite so scary anymore. Jesus is like that friend, ready to take our hand in his. And when we let him live in us, we can become that hand for someone else- ready to reach out to them in their need. We take the Light of Christ with us today. May it burn brightly in our hearts, dispersing every shadow of darkness. And shining in us, may we share it with all the world.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MERRIL KELLY

We continue to pray for the family of Merrill Kelly, and for the whole Quambatook community who have been so shaken by her loss. There will be a special community celebration for Merrill this Friday 7th Feb at the Quambatook Weir at 10:30am. The family invites attendees to bring a posy of flowers from their gardens in memory of Merrill. The Parish will also host a Vigil service on Thursday at 6pm in St Peter and Paul Church Quambatook. We hope this will be an opportunity to remember Merrill and the family in quiet prayer.

Parish Contact Details:

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

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Website: northeastmallee.org.au

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+

Merril Kelly
Michael Foott

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Wilma Woodburn, Patrick Feeny, Bridget Supple
Johanna Wise, Lucio Tieri, Mary Hall, Vince Iannuci
Audrey Walsh, Anne Patching, Kathleen McArthur
Adelina Buccheri, Tony D 'Orsa, Fred DeLeux
Mary Shirley, Marjory Bormann, Domenic Costa
Marianne Costa, Pasquale Milazzo,
John Francis Maher, Maria Peluso, Gavin Currie,
Robert Burns, Kieran Brennan

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 1ST/2ND FEBRUARY 2025

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Sat 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday: 8.30am Sea Lake
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 5.30pm

Wednesday: 10am Requiem Michael Foott

Thursday (*Fr Matt Restall Visiting*): Confessions 5pm
5.30pm Mass, Adoration
Friday: 11.30am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND 8TH/9TH FEBRUARY

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6pm
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

NOTICES



SWAN HILL MONTHLY CUPPA

There will be no cuppa after Swan Hill Sunday Mass this weekend. *Next cuppa will instead be on Sunday 23rd February*, and will then return to the first Sundays from April onwards.

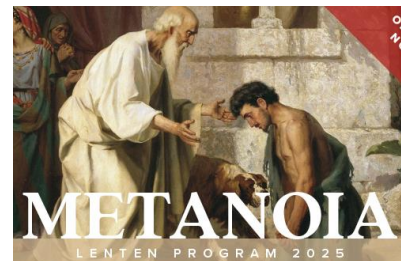


LOCAL OPPORTUNITY: SUNDAY 2ND MARCH

We are very pleased to welcome the Marriage Encounter team to offer a fun and informative presentation called "WOW" after 10:30am Mass on Sunday 2nd March in the Parish Function centre. The presentation will be followed by a light luncheon. More information to follow, but in the meantime Jordan and Ah Kwi Lan can help with any inquiries.

BAPTISM WELCOME

This Sunday we welcome Nicole and Frank as they present their little Vinnie for Baptism into God's family, the Church. May God bless you always and keep you in his care!



LENT IS ONLY 5 WEEKS AWAY

I will need numbers by the 8th of February to order the books if anyone is interested. We will be getting **Metanoia**—Lenten Program 2025! With Fr John Corrigan whose beautiful and challenging Gospel reflections illuminate Christ's teachings and Mother Hilda Scott OSB our spiritual director, who invites us into a deeper encounter with God's love. Please contact the parish office – 50324144 or call in on a Tuesday or Friday. Thankyou.

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



FLOURISH WITH MARY'S HEART

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. Copies available through the Parish Office.



FAITH THAT CONNECTS

Next **Saturday 8th after 6pm Mass**, there will be an opportunity for our **young adults (18+)** to gather in the Parish Function centre for some shared food and games, finishing with a time of prayer together.

We had a great first gathering in December of last year, and hope to hold these regularly on every second Saturday. Sometimes we can feel very isolated in our journey following Christ. We hope these gatherings will be just one way to help us to see that we are not alone, and that we can strengthen each other.



SCHOOLS BACK!

Special prayers for all our students, staff and families as we enter a new school year!

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why might the Church mark this presentation in the Temple event as a special feast day?

How might Simeon's predictions about their child have affected Joseph and Mary?

Why did the first-born son hold such a special place in ancient times?

In what ways can we 'offer their lives to God' today?

In what ways can you be like Simeon and Anna and proclaim the importance of Jesus?

REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

Traditionally this is the fortieth day of Christmas. Though the Christmas season closed with the Epiphany, the Presentation brings us back to some of the Christmas themes. The feast is on the edge, a kind of hinge between the seasons of Christmas and Lent.

The temple is not merely a building where believers gather to worship God. It is sacred because it is the dwelling place of God on earth. Therefore, the coming of God to the temple was always a time of great anticipation and excitement. It promised blessing and rejoicing.

The first reading declares that God will come to the temple in might and power. This coming will be terrifying. The sacred precincts have been desecrated and so God will come to purify it with fire and lye. This picture of purification is modified by the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews where we see that the purging and refinement are accomplished in the self-sacrifice of Christ.

It took the eyes of the old man and the faith of an old woman to recognise that the Lord had indeed come into the temple. Ritually, it was the child who was redeemed. In fact, it is the world that will be redeemed by this child. He is the light that shines in the darkness of the world; he will enlighten all people, Jew and Gentile alike. This feast shares the theme of universality so prominent on the feast of the Epiphany. The king of glory opens the portals for the entire universe to enter.

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In today's gospel passage, it is the devout Simeon and the prophetess, Anna, who declare the greatness and far-reaching influence of the child that has been brought to the Temple. This is a common feature of the gospel accounts. It is not Jesus himself who proclaims his greatness but those who have observed him and recognised the revelation of God's presence amongst the people. It is a role that continues today. Those of us who believe and recognise the presence and influence of God in the world are challenged to proclaim it in both our actions and our words. *© Greg Sunter*

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 23:7-10. R. v.10

(R.) Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He had to be made like us in all things.

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Luke 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
My eyes have seen your saving power.*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

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