

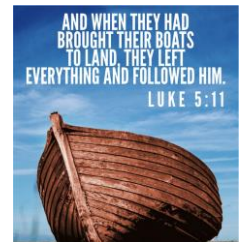


Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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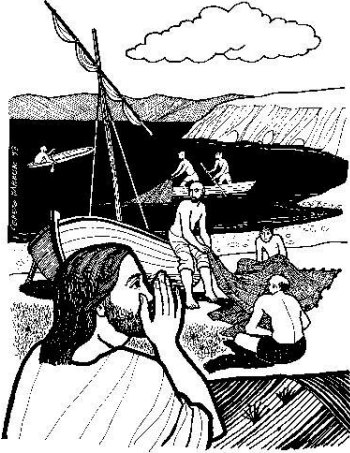
Website: northeastmallee.org.au

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



9TH FEBRUARY 2025: 5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

'PUT OUT INTO DEEP WATER'



Some images or phrases from Scripture are so punchy and apt they take on a life of their own. The little catch cry 'Put out into the deep' from today's Gospel has become a bit of a short hand expression for taking a risk and launching out in faith in response to Jesus' call. We may not be able to see what is ahead or where God may be leading us, there may be many reasons and excuses holding us back, but with faith in our hearts we respond to his call and 'put out into the deep.' It is a great image, and a very vivid one. The funny thing is though, standing on its own it can take on quite a different meaning. When you hear 'deep', you probably think of danger. And so putting out into the deep seems to be primarily about overcoming fear. And look, there is certainly truth in that.

Sometimes we do need to overcome fears or inhibitions that are keeping us back from fully trusting in God and answering his call. But is fear the thing holding Peter back in this Gospel? No, not at all. He is an experienced fisherman. What Jesus is asking of Peter is not dangerous, and it is not even particularly hard. But it does seem pointless. Peter and the others have been fishing all night without catching anything. They know what they are doing. They know how to fish. Experience tells them it is time to give up and call it a day. That's why they were washing their nets when Jesus came across them. They were tired and frustrated. They were done. So when Jesus asks them to put out once again, it is not fear that Peter needs to overcome. It is weariness, frustration, despair... Jesus' request must have felt not only pointless, but probably just a tad annoying too! But Peter is given the faith to overcome his hesitation, they launch out into the deep and are richly rewarded, blessed beyond anything they could have imagined. We can grow tired and weary too. The Lord knows this. He experienced that weariness himself. But we are asked to keep faith, to keep 'putting out into deep water' by responding to his call in our lives. And then, when we least expect it, when our expectations have been dashed and all human hope seem lost... he stands ready to bless our efforts in ways we could never have dreamed. So don't lose heart! Keep paying out those nets!

BLESSINGS FOR OUR SCHOOL STAFF

This Sunday we welcome the staff of St Mary's Swan Hill and Mackillop College for the annual Commissioning Mass. Both communities will have their beginning of year Liturgies this Friday. St Mary's Sea Lake will then have it's beginning of year Mass next Sunday at 4:30pm.

We thank our staff for their dedication in serving our students and their families, and ask God to bless them abundantly this year as they play their special role in helping to share the Light of Christ in our community.

May you never tire of 'putting out into the deep', and may you know we are praying for you always!

Parish Contact Details:

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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+**

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Patrick Shepherd, Francesco & Concetta Marotta
Kevin Quinlan, Patrick Casey, James King
Beatrice Curran, Geoff Stephenson, Natale Pino
Darren McKenzie, Blessing Ngobi Ugbejie,
Aileen Meehan, James Elliott, Susan Yusuf,
Salvatore Buccheri, Desma Roberts,
Edward Fitzgerald, Frank Lonergan,
Jan Marie Bell, Carmela Mammone, Ronald Duryea
Annunziata Russo, Lorna Phyland, Hugh Lane

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 8TH/9TH FEBRUARY 2025

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday: 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 5.30pm
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday: Confessions 5pm
5.30pm Mass, Adoration

Fri: MacKillop College Beginning Year Mass 12:30pm

NEXT WEEKEND 15TH/16TH FEBRUARY

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6pm
Sunday 8.30am Culgoa
Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

Sunday 4:30pm Sea Lake (Beginning of Year Mass)

NOTICES



**REFLECTING ON YOUR MARRIAGE VOW
SUNDAY 2ND MARCH**

The Sacred Vows that couples exchange at their wedding are packed full of meaning. Every couple deserves the opportunity to reflect on the Vows they have made to each other so that they may deepen their relationship and love for each other as husband and wife. That is why we are so pleased to welcome the Marriage Encounter team to offer a fun and informative presentation called "VOW" after 10:30am Mass on Sunday 2nd March in the Parish Function centre.

This fun and informative presentations will help couples explore the vows they have made to each other in Marriage (or perhaps even the ones some of you are planning to make in the future), and also those we made to God. We would also like to share with the couples how the Church is being a part of our relationships.

The presentation will last for about an hour and will be followed by a light luncheon. We warmly invite couples to take up this opportunity. For further questions and to register your interest please see Jordan and Ah Kwi Lan or contact the Parish Office.



**LENT IS ONLY 4 WEEKS AWAY
LAST CHANCE TO ORDER YOUR BOOK**

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, 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

This **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.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why do you think Peter allowed Jesus to use his boat to preach? What might Peter have been thinking when he agreed to go fishing again? Why does Peter say, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man'? Who do you know who has felt 'called' to act and has responded to that call? Do you have a sense of what you may be called to do with your life?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Gospel: Luke 6:17. 20-26

REFLECTION BY MARY COLOE PBVM

The Gospel today brings to a close a trilogy of episodes focusing on Jesus' mission to announce the good news of God's love to the poor, the sinners, and the outcasts. What Jesus announced in Nazareth he now lives out by the Sea of Galilee in the choice of his first followers. Luke borrowed this 'call story' from Mark's Gospel but made significant additions in Jesus' dialogue with Simon, the miraculous catch of fish, and Simon Peter's response. Luke's additions emphasise Peter's doubt, 'We've fished all night,' and his unworthiness, 'I am a sinful man.' But this is just the type of person Jesus announced that he has come to welcome. Peter qualifies as a disciple.

Keep in mind that this Gospel was written for a Christian community living fifty years after Jesus' death. In Peter, later Christians can see a person like themselves. Peter is a person of common sense and he reluctantly takes advice from this wandering preacher who has arrived in Capernaum. But when God does act, he responds with faith and humility.

Don't take Peter's response for granted because it is familiar. There are other ways he could have reacted – made excuses, become cynical or even angry at being shown up. Peter recognises God's power at work and knows his own human weakness. This recognition qualifies him for discipleship. Knowing his unworthiness, he can now be invited to join Jesus. Reluctance, doubt, even sinfulness, are no barriers for Christian disciples. Self-sufficiency is.

Both readings address the issue of being a genuine disciple. Neither Paul nor Peter could claim to be worthy of discipleship but both men trust that they have been called and therefore have some mission, that God has some purpose in calling them. The documents of Vatican II spoke with great force on the vocation of the lay people in the Church. These statements are just a sampling of the emphasis put on the role of the lay people in the Church.

The faithful are by baptism made one body with Christ and are constituted among the People of God; they are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ; and they carry out the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world. (The Constitution on the Church LG 31)

- The laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God. (LG 31)
- They live in the world, that is, in each and in all of the secular professions and occupations. They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven. (LG 31)
- They are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven. (LG 31)
- All are called to sanctity and have received an equal privilege of faith through the justice of God. (LG 32)
- For all their works, prayers and apostolic endeavours, their ordinary married and family life, their daily occupations, their physical and mental relaxation, if carried out in the Spirit, and even the hardships of life, if patiently borne – all these become 'spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.' (LG 34)
- Together with the offering of the Lord's body, they are most fittingly offered in the celebration of the Eucharist. (LG 34)
- Thus, the laity consecrate the world itself to God. (LG 34)

FIRST READING *Isaiah 6:1-8*

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Here am I! Send me.*

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.

And they cried out to one another in this way,
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said:

'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost,
for I am a man of unclean lips
and I live among a people of unclean lips,
and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips,
your sin is taken away,
your iniquity is purged.'

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:
'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?'
I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 137:1-5. 7-8. R. v.1*

(R.) In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways;
'How great is the glory of the Lord!'

You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
I preach what they preach, and this is what you believe.*

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only

if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you – believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Matthew 4:19*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Luke 5:1-11*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
They left everything and followed him.*

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him. *The Gospel of the Lord.*

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.