



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



16TH MARCH 2025

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

'THIS IS MY SON, THE CHOSEN ONE. LISTEN TO HIM.'

Peter, James and John go up the mountain with Jesus and see him as he truly is, clothed in light and glory. And here is the mystery; we too are made for that same light and glory. Our truest identity is as the Father's beloved children, our truest reality is to live bathed in his light and radiant with his glory. Jesus through his death and resurrection has opened up the way for us to follow. Lent is a special time for growth and renewal into our truest identity. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving we cooperate with God's plan to sanctify us and to form us into our truest selves.

PRAYER

What better time to try and grow our prayer life than Lent? As always, the best way to pray is the way we can, so aim for something realistic and suitable. All life needs nourishment, and it is the same with prayer. That's where the many great resources for Lent can be a real help. Many of you have taken up the Lenten Program Metanoia or the daily reflections of God's Word. Keep up the good work! Unfortunately, we have sold out of copies, but you are still welcome to join the group session on Wednesdays after 10am Mass. Alternatively, you can easily follow the daily readings from home using apps like **Universalis** or make use of the many offerings on **Hallow**. Or you might appreciate the video series **"The Seven Last Words of Christ"** from the St Paul Center (see <https://stpaulcenter.com/lent>). Or perhaps you might like to make a special effort to join in praying the **Stations of the Cross**? We will have these each Friday of Lent at 6pm in Swan Hill.

FASTING

The whole of Lent can be a time to set aside some luxuries or indulgences and live more simply. And this is not just limited to food and drink, for example cutting back on our screen time might be just what we need (pointing the finger at myself with that one!). Fasting is not about proving to God or others how strong we are, but rather about recognising our ongoing need for God's help and grace. The money, time and energy we save can also then be redirected towards others in acts of charity.

ALMSGIVING

This is often highlighted by the saints as the most important of all our efforts. 'Charity covers a multitude of sins.' Perhaps some of you have been considering volunteering for St Vincent de Paul or A Good Kitchen? Now might be the perfect time! Many of you have a great tradition of supporting Caritas' **Project Compassion** Program each year. The envelopes and boxes are available at the back of the church, or you can give online via www.caritas.org.au. There are also many other charities offering aid across the world that you might also consider, such as aidtochurch.org, catholicmission.org.au and salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au. These are all worthy bodies with strong connections to the communities they serve. Or back to thinking more locally- perhaps you might even just make this Lent the time to reach out to your neighbours? The opportunities for charity and almsgiving are endless, but thankfully so too is the great store of God's love freely offered to us every day.

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

Dorothy Burgess, Libby Dunstone, Teresa Prochilo
Francis Ledwich, Rosario Mammone, Catherine
Leggitt Margaret Nolan, John White, Mary Meehan
Evelyn O'Brien, Sebastiano Costa, Lavena Johnston
Maurice McNamara, William Foley

SICK LIST

Pope Francis, Pat Hoare, 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 16th MARCH 2025

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sat 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8:30am Culgoa

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday: 5:30pm (St Patrick's Day)

Tues: 9am Mass (This week only)

Wed: 10am Mass, 5:30pm Mass (Feast St Joseph)

Thursday: Confessions 5pm,
5.30pm Mass, Adoration

Friday: 11:30am

Stations of the Cross 6pm

NEXT WEEKEND 23RD MARCH

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

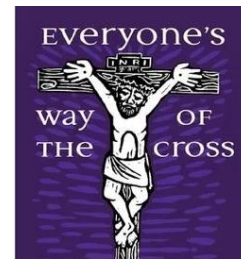
Sunday 8:30am Quambatook

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

WELCOME FR RESTALL!

A very warm welcome back to Fr Matt Restall who will be celebrating our Masses this weekend in Fr James' absence (a family wedding down south). I'm sure you will make him very welcome!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent 6pm St Marys Swan Hill.



KIDS & FAMILY'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We are planning to hold our annual Kids & Family's Stations of the Cross on Friday 28th March in Swan Hill, starting with some games and activities at 5pm, followed by the Stations and finishing with Fish & Chips. All families welcome! RSVP via the Parish office or sign up sheet in the Church. Perhaps grandparents might even invite their little ones and bring them along? Also, if you are willing to help with the day, please let Fr James or Mary Kennedy know.

CONNECT: YOUNG ADULTS

Meeting again next Saturday 22nd after 6pm Mass

LITTLE ACTS OF KINDNESS FOR LENT

Help a neighbour bring their trash bin up after garbage day. (Philippians 2:4 – "Look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.")
Weed or help with gardening for a neighbour. (Isaiah 58:10 – "Spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed.")

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

Make cookies for a neighbour you don't know well (Galatians 5:14 – "Love your neighbour as yourself.")

Compliment a friend (on something more than their appearance). (Ephesians 4:29 – "Let everything you say be good and helpful.")

Send someone a letter in the mail. (Colossians 3:12 – "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.")

Simple Prayer: Jesus, help us love our neighbours the way you love us. Amen.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What is the significance of Moses and Elijah appearing with Jesus?

Why do you think the disciples are portrayed as being sleepy at this important event?

Can you recall other biblical events in which mountaintops feature at special moments?

Why might Peter have suggested constructing tents?

What does the command, 'Listen to him' mean for you in your life?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

3rd Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9



BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

On the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in Jesus' Transfiguration. On the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel always tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday, we always hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The report of Jesus' Transfiguration is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew and Mark. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his

Passion. After the prediction there is a discussion of the cost of discipleship in each of these Gospels. The placement of the Transfiguration story close to Peter's confession and Jesus' prediction encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery.

The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples—Peter, James and John. These are among the first disciples that Jesus called in Luke's Gospel. We recently heard this Gospel at Mass, on the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as his appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the three disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his Passion and death.

As they awake, Peter and the disciples see Jesus Transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus' continuity with the Law and the Prophets. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospels, there is reference to conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel explains that this conversation is about Jesus' later accomplishments in Jerusalem. Luke describes this as his exodus, connecting Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection with the Israel's Exodus from Egypt.

On witnessing Jesus' Transfiguration and seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Having just awoken, perhaps Peter's offer was made in confusion. We also notice that Peter reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus "master" instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding that the disciples listen to him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness his Passion, and death will the disciples understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We hear this story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and death.

© Loyola Press

FIRST READING Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life
before whom shall I shrink?

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

SECOND READING Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Luke 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

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