



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



23RD FEBRUARY 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

***AN INVITATION TO MARRIED COUPLES-
REFLECT ON YOUR MARRIAGE VOW
SUNDAY 2ND MARCH 11:30AM SWAN HILL***



When we hear about some marriage presentation or retreat, we can fall into the trap of assuming it must only be targeted at new couples preparing for marriage, or otherwise is just for couples going through a hard time. But that is not the case for **Marriage Encounter**. Its mission is to help *all* married couples to deepen and strengthen their relationships, no matter how many years they have been married.

Every Marriage deserves our encouragement and support.

Every Marriage deserves the opportunity to grow and flourish.

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 next Sunday 2nd March in the Parish Function centre (beginning 11:30am). The Sacred Vows that couples exchange at their wedding are packed full of meaning. Every married 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.

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 made to God. The Marriage Encounter team 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. If you have little children and have no-one to mind them, that is okay. They are welcome to come along with you- we will have a play space set up in the corner. And if you are married but your spouses cannot make it due to shift work or other circumstances (or they live in another country), don't let that stop you. Please still feel welcome to come along.

For further questions and to register your interest please see Jordan and Ah Kwi Lan or contact the Parish Office. We will have a sign-up sheet after Masses this weekend (please note any dietary requirements).

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+**

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Adrian Penno, Raffaele Caccavello

Frederick Lloyd, Vin Conway, Francis Foott

Ron Free, Clare O'Bryan

Wilhelm Wierderman, Mary Giddings

Vincenzo Iannucci, Flavia Dutto, John Quirk

Lozz Nolan, Simon Hayes, Gary Patching

Ted Corrie, John Walsh, Ellen Sheehan

SICK LIST

Maureen Allen, Pat Croft, Yvonne Richardson,

Paul Donohue, Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott,

Jarrold Crimmins, Michael Bourke, Jack Donohue,

Jude Lewis, Bridget Phyland, Carmel Ryan,

Peter Amezdroz, Ken Duryea, Helen Duryea

Pope Francis

THIS WEEKEND 22ND/23RD FEBRUARY 2025

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday: 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

This week only...

Tuesday: 10am Mass

Wednesday: 10am Mass

Thursday: 10am Mass

Friday: 10am Mass

Saturday: 10am Rosary

NEXT WEEKEND 1ST/2ND MARCH

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 8:30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

NOTICES



CUPPA THIS SUNDAY AFTER 10:30AM MASS

All welcome

MONTHLY ROSARY

Next Saturday at 10am in Swan Hill Church



BAPTISM WELCOME

This Sunday we welcome Patrick and Jade who are presenting their daughter Gracie for Baptism.

Welcome to God's family!



LENT IS ONLY 2 WEEKS AWAY

Our books have arrived! *Metanoia*—Lenten Program 2025, is now available from the Parish office- \$10 a copy. If you would like to do this program in a group,

Fr James is hoping a few may join him on the Wednesdays of Lent after 10am Mass in Swan Hill.

Also, if you would like to get a few friends together and form your own, please let us know.



WRAP WITH LOVE: THANKS TO OUR KNITTERS!

Another four boxes of rugs have been sent to Sydney to be distributed to the cold European countries.

Thanks to Pug & Kerry Ryan and Helen Dean for their commitment to this worthwhile cause. Thanks also to Pickering Transport for their ongoing support.

Hundreds of used stamps have been sent to Sydney to fund overseas missions.

Josephite Companions

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

principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER PLANNING MEETING

For those interested in helping to organise the Annual World Day of Prayer, there will be a meeting this Friday 28th February, 2:30pm at the GRAIN SHED.



PREPARING FOR FIRST CONFESSIONS

This coming week we will welcome our Sacramental Program children to the next stage of their journey as they begin to prepare for their First Reconciliation.

Please keep the children and their families in your prayers, as well as all those who are helping to prepare them.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Which line of today's gospel do you find most challenging for your own life?

When have you ever tried to treat someone positively when they were treating you badly?

What consequences can flow from treating others as you would like to be treated?

When have you experienced genuine compassion from another person?

What does it mean to you to know that God is willing to forgive anything and not judge you?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

8TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

BY BRENDAN BYRNE SJ

Today's Gospel continues Luke's instruction to his disciples known as the Sermon on the Plain. As if the Beatitudes (and Woes) that we heard last Sunday were not radical enough, the Sermon now pushes vulnerability to fresh extremes. A long instruction begins (v. 27) and ends (v. 35) with the extraordinary command to 'love your enemies'. This is the central theme. In between come concrete illustrations of what loving one's enemies might mean in practice: returning blessing for a curse, turning the other cheek, not withholding one's shirt from a person who

demands one's coat, and so forth. All involve responding to injury or unreasonable demand with nothing but generosity and the abandonment of all claim to recompense.

[It has been plausibly suggested that the instruction has in view the situation of people in an occupied country such as Palestine was at the time of Jesus under the Romans. The injuries listed are particularly those that ordinary citizens would be likely to suffer at the hands of Roman soldiers, who could bully and plunder them at will]

The attitudes Jesus commends make no sense in themselves. Once again, as so often in the Gospels, allowance has to be made for the exaggeration that often marks the prophetic speech of Jesus. He is not laying down maxims to be followed literally. Rather, he is seeking to inculcate a fundamental attitude according to which one would be prepared to be vulnerable to a degree that would be thought foolish by the standards of the world. The grounds for adopting a policy of such vulnerability and generosity towards others, even one's enemies, stems from what one both discerns in God and experiences from God. As in the case of the Beatitudes, the policy only makes sense in the context of the distinctive vision of God and relationship to God that Jesus communicates to his own. As obedient children follow the example of their parents, so, concludes Jesus, by acting in this way 'you will be children of the Most High, who is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked' (v 35).

Likewise, in view of this relationship with God, the members of the community are to be 'compassionate' as their Father is compassionate. If they refrain from judging (that is, condemning others), they themselves will avoid being judged (condemned [at the final judgment] by God). If they forgive they will be forgiven (by God). If they are generous in giving, they will meet with an extraordinary measure of generosity in return ('a full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap'). The principle is: 'The measure you give will be the measure you get back.' The sense is not that God waits to see the level of human generosity before deciding how generous to be in return. God's aim from the start is to be as extravagantly generous as possible. But, just as the volume of water one can draw from a tank depends upon the capacity of the vessel one brings to draw from it, so the generosity of the human 'receptacle' conditions the amount ('measure') God can give. Any limitation stems from the human, not the divine side. (C) Brendan Byrne SJ

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.

As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.' *The Gospel of the Lord.*

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.