



# 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*



**2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2025**

**8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

***TAKE THE PLANK OUT OF YOUR OWN EYE FIRST,  
AND THEN YOU WILL SEE CLEARLY ENOUGH  
TO TAKE OUT THE SPLINTER THAT IS IN YOUR BROTHER'S EYE.***

When it comes to preaching, I keep things pretty general and don't give too many specific examples or overly prescriptive advice. This is firstly because everyone's situation in life is so different; what might be a good idea for one person might be unhelpful for another. For example, what a good daily prayer routine might look like for an elderly person living on their own will be very different to that of a young mother with little children to care for. The different responsibilities and struggles we face through the seasons of our life, the different settings we find ourselves in, even the difference in our own personal temperaments, all call for a unique application of the Gospel message. And no matter how wise and holy I may become, I will never be able to apply the message for each and every person all at once.

But of course, there is also the reality that I am not yet particularly wise or holy. And that is the second reason I am never overly prescriptive; I am conscious that there are still blind spots in my life, planks you could say, that I need work on removing. Okay, I have been entrusted with a task, and need to do my best with it, but I don't want to present myself as a guru with all the answers, because I am far from it. But even a semi blind man can know pretty quickly if his guide is trustworthy. We can know clearly enough that Jesus is our true guide, and that we can trust him. His sight is perfectly clear, and only goodness flows from his heart. So we can confidently place our hand in his, and ask him to help clear our sight. That is a good image of what is happening every time we hear his word in the Gospel; Jesus is clearing our blind spots and helping us to see more clearly. And so we should never be afraid to point others to him as well. Sure, we need to remain humble, and be careful of rushing to judgement, remaining conscious of our blind spots... but humility never prevents us from confidently pointing to our healer and guide. In fact, if anything, it is the most humble thing we can do. Go to Jesus! He will guide you!

## ***ASH WEDNESDAY***



This week sees the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. This is a special day of **prayer, abstinence** (no meat, although little children are exempted from this too) and **fasting** (for those who can handle it- so just for adults and not if it is unhealthy or too burdensome for you to do so- eg. if you are sick, pregnant, frail or elderly). And what does fasting look like? The suggestion is we skip a meal, or its equivalent (so we might cut a bit out of each meal during the day). But again, what each of us is capable of according to our fitness and the labour we need to undertake should guide what this looks like. And of course, there is also the opportunity to come to Mass and receive the Ashes as a special sign of the start of our Lenten journey. Masses in **Swan Hill** will be at **10:30am** and **6pm**, and there will also be a liturgy with the **Sea Lake** school at **2pm**. I will also bring ashes to Quambatook and Nandaly next Sunday as per our usual custom.

### **Parish Contact Details:**

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

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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+**

Michael Slattery  
Joan McNamara  
Maria Antonetta Massara

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Giuseppe & Nella Bellofiore, Mitchell Donohue  
Francesco Salvo, Norah Walsh, Mary Eleanor Ryan  
Thomas Walsh, Sarina & Giovanni Edera,  
Darryl Roberts, Frank Dillon, Charles Healy  
Kath Daniels, Ron Noble, Linton Ryan, Mary Foley

**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  
Pope Francis

**THIS WEEKEND 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2025  
8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sat 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8:30am Sea Lake  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

**Tuesday: 10am Mass**

**Ash Wednesday:** 9.15am Liturgy St Marys Swan Hill.  
10.30am Mass Swan Hill  
2pm Liturgy Sea Lake  
6pm Mass Swan Hill

Thursday: **Funeral Mick Slattery 1:30pm,**  
Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass  
Friday: 11.30am Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

Saturday 6pm  
Sunday 8:30am Quambatook  
Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill  
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

**NOTICES**



worldwide  
**marriage  
encounter**

**A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THE MARRIAGE  
ENCOUNTER TEAM!**

A big thank you and welcome to Sue & Steve and  
Marcel & Marianne who are in Swan Hill this  
weekend to run 'Vow', the presentation for Married  
Couples at 11:30am on Sunday in the PFC. If you  
haven't yet booked in, it still isn't too late- we would  
love to see you there!



**BAPTISM WELCOME**

This weekend we welcome Annabelle, daughter of  
Megan and Chris, and Penelope, daughter to Benjie &  
Frigie. Welcome to God's family!

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

9.15am Liturgy St Marys Swan Hill.  
10.30am Mass Swan Hill  
2pm Liturgy Sea Lake  
6pm Mass Swan Hill



**LENT IS ALMOST HERE**

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.

**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](mailto:principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au)



### **FROM DIAGNOSIS TO OAM, A PERSONAL AUTISM JOURNEY DANIEL GILES OAM & FAMILY**

We are very lucky to welcome Daniel Giles OAM and his dad Daryl to Swan Hill this week to give their special presentation; From Diagnosis to OAM. Daniel and Daniel's Dad (Daryl) will discuss Daniel's journey from diagnosis to present day giving an insight from Daniel's personal perspective of living life as an Autistic individual. Daniel's sister (Leash) will also be sharing the sibling perspective and is a qualified educator (*may be prerecorded*).

Topics include diagnosis, school journey, independent living, employment and strategies used to achieve the best outcomes.

There will also be an opportunity for question time.

The talk will be held this Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March at Swan Hill Club, from 6:30pm-9pm

Tickets from [trybooking.com/CYOZN](http://trybooking.com/CYOZN)

### **HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

What lesson/s do you take from this passage?

What is the danger of treating all opinions as equal?

In what way is treating all opinions as equal different from showing respect for a person's opinion?

What does it mean to 'take the log out of your own eye'?

What strategies do you use to 'filter' or evaluate critical comments before you make them?

How do you recognise a person who produces good 'out of the good treasure of the heart'?

How do you seek to nurture the good treasure of your heart?

### **GOSPEL FOCUS – GOOD FROM GOOD**

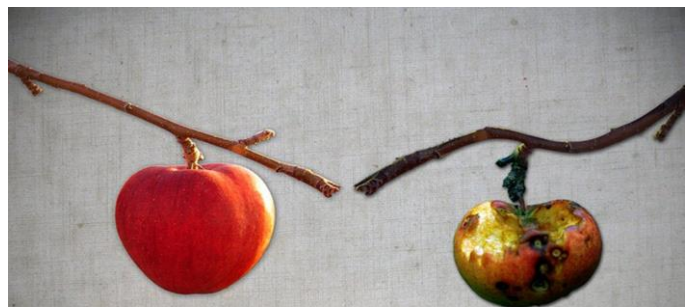
'The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good.' What makes a person good? Is it that they have had good things happen in their life? There are plenty of people who have had good things in their life but they remain cynical and spiteful people. Similarly there are plenty who have had the hardest of circumstances yet goodness constantly flows from them. It's not the external influences but what we do with them that determines whether we are nurturing 'good treasure' or harbouring 'evil treasure'. This is not just sugary sweetness but a deliberate decision to be a person of hope.

### **SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT – THREE TEXTS; ONE LESSON**

Today's gospel is made up of three separate teachings of Jesus that have been put together by the gospel writer to convey a particular message. When taken together, the three teachings all shed light on the way believers influence one another in community. It is a call to witness to one another through actions as well as words. Before we seek to teach another we must ensure we have adequately learned the lesson ourselves. We must be self-appraising before we critique another. Finally, our actions towards one another are a reflection of our intentions; good actions come from goodness of the heart.

### **LIVING THE GOSPEL – YOU HYPOCRITE**

It is often argued that it is hypocrisy to attend Mass on Sundays and be 'holy' in that circumstance but to then be less than perfect during the rest of the week. This is often rolled out as a convenient excuse for not attending Mass at all: everyone who goes to Mass is a hypocrite. Of course, attending Mass does not imply perfection. It is in fact a recognition of imperfection and the need to come together as a community and to seek God's help to have another go at trying to get it a bit more right in the coming week.



## **What Do You Produce?**

**FIRST READING** Sirach 27:4-7

*A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus*

*Do not praise someone before they have spoken.*

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,  
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.  
The kiln tests the work of the potter,  
the test of a man is in his conversation.  
The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the  
quality of its fruit,  
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.  
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,  
since this is the test of men.  
*The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

**(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night.  
The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.  
Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*  
*Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.*

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability,  
and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then  
the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed  
up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where  
is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its  
power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the  
victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat;  
keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that,  
in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.  
*The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Philippians 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Luke 6:39-45

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*  
*A person speaks from what is in his heart.*

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.  
'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

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



**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13