



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



11TH MAY 2025: GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



HABEMUS PAPAM!

We have a new Pope! Isn't it special, that on this Good Shepherd Sunday, we give thanks for our new Pope Leo XIV. Christ our Good Shepherd watches over his flock. He does this in a special way when he calls forward pastors to serve his Church and to care for his People. Last Sunday, we heard the Risen Jesus calling Peter to 'feed my sheep.' We now have a new successor of Peter. May he be a good shepherd after our Lord's own heart. May he keep us in unity and love, and nourish us with the Word of God. The task of the Pope is a heavy one. We pray for Pope Leo as he begins his ministry. May God bless him in all he does!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

We also give thanks today for all our Mothers! All of us are here today thanks to our mum. May God shower all our mums today with his love and blessing.

Parish Contact Details:

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

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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 & 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

Marie Craig, Violet Egan, Jeff Learmonth
Pat Lange, Patrick Lynch, Catherine Kelly
Jack B Loughran, Thomas Brady, Mavis Mary Jones
Eris Tuohey, Percy Lewis, Thomas Burns

SICK LIST

Pat Hoare, Pat Croft, Maureen Allen,
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 11TH MAY
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Saturday Swan Hill 6pm
Sunday 8:30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 10.30am Mass
Wed: 10.30am Mass
Thurs: Confessions 5pm; 5.30pm Mass, Adoration
Friday: 10.30am Mass
Saturday: 10am Confessions, 10.30am Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 18TH MAY
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Culgoa
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES



A SPECIAL CUPPA FOR MOTHER'S DAY!

We will have a special celebration for **Mother's Day (this Sunday)** after the 10.30am Mass. Some nice warm soup and old-fashioned sweets for mum- all welcome!



**CELEBRATING AUSTRALIA'S PATRON SAINT
ST MARYS CHURCH BIRCHIP**

FRIDAY MAY 23RD 10AM -3PM

All are welcome to St Mary's Church, Birchip on Friday, May 23 to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia. Program for the day is: Mass will be at 10am, morning tea, 10.30am Mass, followed by a guest speaker, the Rosary and finishing with some light refreshments Contact Margaret Rowe margrowe@bigpond.com or Noeline Hogan 0427922988 for catering purposes by Friday May 16th.

**PRESENTING THE CHILDREN PREPARING FOR
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

This weekend we have invited the children preparing for their First Holy Communion and their families back to be Presented at our Swan Hill Masses. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers, and please also pray for all who have a part in preparing them.

As well as the home program, we also have a retreat day Tues 3rd June before the celebrations themselves on the weekend of the 14th / 15th June.

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake

Principal: Kate Nunn
47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake
Ph: 03 5070 1272

Principal@smsealake.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin
2 Murlong St Swan Hill
Ph. 03 5033 2541

principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

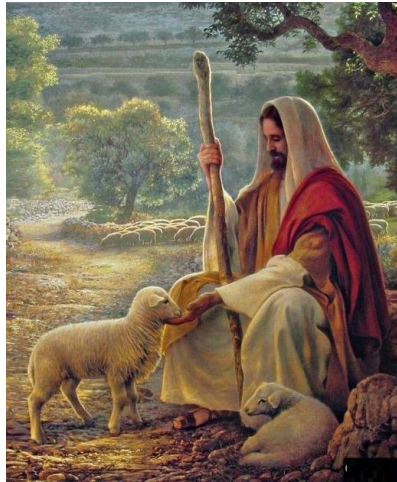
St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

MARY'S SPECIAL MONTH OF MAY

To celebrate May as the special month of Mary, we will have Masses every Saturday morning. You might also like to take up a simple devotion for the month, like praying the Rosary or setting up a little altar or sacred place at home with some flowers for Mary, our Blessed Mother.



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY:

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Prayer for Vocations:

God our Father,
you created each of us to receive our gifts
in the Body of Christ.

We ask that you inspire young people in their call to marriage, priesthood, consecrated or single life, to courageously follow your will.

Send workers into your great harvest
so that the Gospel is preached,
the poor are served with love,
the suffering are comforted,
the young are nurtured,
and all your people are strengthened
by the Sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!
Mary help of Christians, Pray for us!

CULGOA CHURCH 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Preparations are underway for a special celebration of faith and heritage in **Culgoa** as we enter the 100th year of the Church's construction and dedication.

Please put Sunday 19th October in your diaries for a special Mass at 1pm followed by an afternoon tea and sharing of stories in the community hall.

Please also pass the invite on to any family or friends who have since moved from the district but might appreciate the opportunity to celebrate their roots!

ANNUAL MASS COUNTS

Our Annual Mass Counts continues this weekend and for all the weekend Masses and Lay Lead Liturgies throughout May.

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

"Father God, I thank You for all the amazing mothers around the world who have shown unconditional love and sacrifice. They have brought all of us into this world and cared for us with the most purest love. I thank You for the precious gift of motherhood that is perfectly designed to bring out the best in each child. Bless every mother abundantly with good health and protection from harm. Fill them with Your peace and joy. Provide them with strength when they are weary. Heal them from any pain or sickness. Lead them in paths of righteousness that lead to blessing after blessing, all the days of their lives. Amen."



GOSPEL FOCUS – ETERNAL LIFE

In the gospel passage, Jesus says of the sheep that belong to him, 'I give them eternal life.' He does not say, I give them the promise of eternal life. The message that comes through the gospel of John is clear that eternal life is not some future existence, but rather a new way of being in the here and now.

But that is not to suggest that there is not an 'eternal' quality to eternal life. The gospel of John makes clear that eternal life begins in the here and now but has no end.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why has the image of the 'good shepherd' been such an enduring and significant one in Christianity?

Why might Jesus have chosen such a 'controversial' image to describe himself?

What are the positive and negative implications of describing faithful people as 'sheep'?

What message of hope for people today can be found in this short passage?

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We are now turning to the gentiles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him,

we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Revelation 7:9, 14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 10:27-30

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
I give my sheep eternal life.*

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

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

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5

Gospel: John 13:31-35