



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



SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2025: 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"AND AT HIS GATE THERE LAY A POOR MAN CALLED LAZARUS"

Today's parable always pricks my conscience. Have I neglected poor Lazarus at my door? How often have I walked past someone in need and not reached out to them? What will Abraham have to say to me when my times comes? It doesn't help (or maybe it does) that one of the last prayers of our funeral rites, the hymn 'In Paradisum', invokes precisely this parable. Except this time around, the rich man is ignored, and only Lazarus is seen, poor no longer, right there in the halls of eternity. *"May choirs of angels welcome you and lead you to the bosom of Abraham; and where Lazarus is poor no longer may you find eternal rest."*

God never forgot poor Lazarus, and so we must not forget him either.

The beauty of parables is we can hear them speak to us as individuals, each according to the circumstances of our lives. We all have to make that judgement for ourselves about what we are able to give and what the call of charity looks like for us. That will always be changing as our circumstances change, we need to keep taking the question to prayer. And of course, in the messiness of this world it is not always easy to discern in practice how best to help someone in their need. As the saying goes, we want to truly give a hand up instead of just a quick hand out. Again, how we best help those in need takes continual discernment. Does the parable help us here? Well, not directly, no. It is not meant as an instruction manual for how to fix things or do the job. It is aimed instead at forming our hearts; to imbed deeply there a concern for the poor and a solidarity with those in need. God never forgot poor Lazarus, and so we must not forget him either. Finally, I recognise that many of you aren't exactly well off yourselves, and perhaps feel more akin to Lazarus than the rich man. For you, this parable then carries a word of consolation; God sees you in your need, and does not forget.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER RETREAT: INVITATION TO JOIN A NOVENA

The Marriage Encounter Retreat in Tooleybuc is now only one week away! Thank you to those who have been praying for this event and for all those involved in it. Could I ask you to consider making a particular focus over these next few days by joining a novena to Our Lady of the Rosary, starting this Sunday and finishing on Monday 6th Oct, the day before the Feast. Perhaps you might use the prayer below:

Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us Your mother as Our Lady of the Rosary.

Help us to turn to her as our mother in all of our needs!

Our Lady of the Rosary, you care for each of us with tender motherly love.

You wish us to truly turn to you so that you may care for us as a mother.

Pray for us, that we may make use of every help for salvation that God gives us.

Pray that we may grow in holiness and virtue each day of our lives.

We especially ask in this novena for the success of the Marriage Encounter Retreat;

for the organisers and hosts and for all the couples involved. May they be showered with graces, and through those couples may God's abundant blessings continue to flow to bless their families and indeed the whole community. In a special way, may those blessings flow to all married couples who are striving to live their vocation with love and faithfulness, now, and into the future.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!

Parish Contact Details:

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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 & 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+

Patricia Hoare

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Maria Tuntar, Rema O'Sullivan, David Burns,
Leo Deola, Giovanna & Lorenzo Colombo,
Catherine Hilda McInerney, Leo Phyland,
Immacolata Marsilino, Doreen Greenham Ellen Kelly,
Dick Balsarini, Mary Louisa Boulton
Frances Mineo, Margaret McLoughlin
Clara Theresa Conlan

SICK LIST

Andrew Day, Pat Egan, Carmel Ryan,
Pat Croft, Yvonne Richardson, Jayden Williams,
Margaret Foott, Jarrod Crimmins, Michael Bourke,
Jack Donohue, Jude Lewis, Bridget Phyland,
Peter Amezdroz, Ken Duryea, Helen Duryea

**THIS WEEKEND 28TH SEPTEMBER
26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: **5:30pm**
Wednesday: **1pm Requiem Mass Pat Hoare**
Thurs: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5:30pm, Adoration
Friday: 10.30am
Sat: Confessions 10am, Mass 10:30am, Rosary

**NEXT WEEKEND 5TH OCTOBER
27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Tooleybuc

NOTICES

CUPPA AFTER MASS

Next Sunday October 5th after 10:30 Mass Swan Hill

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: SUN 5TH OCTOBER

We plan to meet again for reflection and fellowship
on Sunday 5th October after 10:30am Mass, in the
Parish Presbytery Meeting Room. Our reflection will
be on *'Forgiveness and Reconciliation'*



CULGOA CHURCH 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The date is fast approaching! We are very much
looking forward to a special celebration of over 100
years of faith and heritage of the Sacred Heart
Catholic church in Culgoa. All are welcome!

Sunday 19 October – Mass at 1.00pm

Followed by afternoon tea and sharing of stories and
history displays in the town 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!

If you are able to help with anything on the day, for
example with the catering or with any photos/stories
etc, please contact Chris Sewell 0439972305 or email
sewell.chistine@activ8.net.au . If you plan to attend,
we have a little sign up sheet in the Swan Hill Church
so we can have a rough idea of numbers.



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

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM – ‘YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS THE UPKEEP OF OUR PARISH’

As our planned giving cycle comes to its end, we once again offer our thanks for your ongoing support of our Parish. Your regular giving keeps the parish ticking and allows us to plan for the future.

ENVELOPES: Weekly Giving Envelopes are now available. Monthly and yearly will be ready for next weekend. Thank you for your patience.

CDF-PAY & Online Giving: If anyone is interested in joining the stewardship program or transferring to direct debit payments please contact me at the office on a Tuesday or Friday between 11am and 1.30pm.

Thankyou for your patience and understanding,
Glenda.

MARCH FOR THE BABIES 2025

The Right To Life Australia Inc. encourages you to join the annual March for the Babies 2025.

Location: Treasury Gardens, Melbourne
(Cnr. of Spring St & Wellington Pde)

Date & Time: Sat 11 Oct 2025, 1pm start

Please wear PINK and / or BLUE for the babies.

Further details are available at
www.marchforthebabies.com

ONLY 1 WEEK TO GO!

TOOLEYBUC MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER RETREAT

The Marriage Encounter Retreat is now only two weeks away (Oct 3-5)! Please keep up your prayers for the organisers and for all the couples who will be involved. Last chance to jump on board! To sign up, email via vicbookings@wwme.org.au or call Mercy & James Bvirakare directly on 0409 183 676.

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY BY MARY COLOE PBVM

They won't listen!

Parents will certainly understand the point of the parable in today's Gospel. You can almost hear the exasperation in Jesus' voice, 'You've been told over and over again...' But still people refuse to listen. In the parable, the rich man insists that if only the message was dramatic enough, if only Lazarus could return then surely his brothers would listen. 'No,' says Jesus, 'they won't listen, even if someone were to rise from the dead.'

And someone has risen from the dead, and has the listening improved? Is kindness a value for us? Generosity? Are we willing to share with others? Or like the rich man, do we block our ears and close our eyes to the needy at our gates, to the refugees on our doorsteps. As I write this reflection, men, women and children are locked up in 'Detention' centres, their

crime being a desire to live, and see their families live, with some hope. They want a chance for their children to be educated, a chance to live without fear of arrest and torture, a chance to live alongside us and be given a fair go. Apart from these asylum seekers, there are other examples you can think of where Lazarus lies starving on our doorsteps. What more will it take for us to listen, really listen to the words of Jesus?

If you look carefully at the parable and the description of the rich man, it does not describe him as a thief, or a swindler; it is not as if he is the one who caused Lazarus to become poor; in this sense he has done nothing wrong. But this is the point. He has done nothing! Lazarus has been at his gate and he has not reached out to him; he has not seen that he has any responsibility for him – it's not his fault – it's just the way it is. But Jesus holds him accountable for doing nothing.

The letter to Timothy speaks of the person dedicated to God, calling this person to be holy and religious. My question is, how can anyone know she/he is holy or religious? What are the signs to look for? Within Christianity, holiness is not measured in the number of prayers, or our life-choices, but is measured in how we act. Remember when the young man came to Jesus asking about the greatest commandment? Jesus' response was to tell a story about a Priest, a Levite and a Samaritan, with the last one being upheld as the one who truly kept the commandment because he acted to care for the stranger. It was not his fault that the Jewish man was battered and robbed and lying by the side of the road. No one would have been surprised if he, like the Priest and Levite, had just walked past. But the Samaritan saw a fellow human in need; not one of his own race, but one with him in his neediness. So he acted. Perhaps he thought that it could have been himself by the side of the road – we don't really know his motives, but he did act. Which is what the rich man in the parable did not do.

May our ears and hearts be opened to feel the discomfort of the Gospel; may the Risen One in our midst goad us to act in his name for those like Lazarus in our midst.

© Mary Coloe

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

FIRST READING Amos 6:1. 4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos

You who give yourself to licentiousness and revelry will be exiled.

The almighty Lord says this:

Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion
and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of
Samaria.

Lying on ivory beds
and sprawling on their divans,
they dine on lambs from the flock,
and stall-fattened veal;
they bawl to the sound of the harp,
they invent new instruments of music like David,
they drink wine by the bowlful,
and use the finest oil for anointing themselves,
but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all.
That is why they will be the first to be exiled;
the sprawlers' revelry is over.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. v.2

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

He upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Timothy 6:11-16

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Obey the commandments until the coming of the Lord.

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly
and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and
gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for
yourself the eternal life to which you were called when
you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in
front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of
all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness
for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the

duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or
failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and
only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who
alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom
no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour
and everlasting power. Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 2 Corinthians 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,
to make you rich out of his poverty.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 16:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*During your life good things came your way just as bad things
came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted while
you are in agony.*

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used
to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every
day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus,
covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps
that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked
his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by
angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and
was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a
long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out,
"Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of
his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in
these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that
during your life good things come your way, just as bad things
came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here
while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you
a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to,
crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from
your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus
to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them
warning, so that they do not come to this place of torment
too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let
them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich
man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will
repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen
either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced
even if someone should rise from the dead.'"

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