

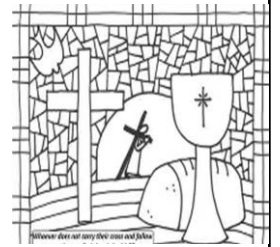


# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

[northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au) 03 50324144

Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://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 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025: 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### *GIVING THANKS AND PRAYING FOR OUR DADS*



While Father's Day itself is a secular celebration, our faith has so much to say about the immense value of fatherhood and what true fatherhood is. We give thanks for all our dads and pray for them in a special way today. Speaking personally, I realise I am very blessed.

My dad is still here and we have a good relationship. That relationship has played a huge part in forming me to be the person I am. Just one example. If I am on public transport or at some event and someone else is left standing because there aren't enough seats, I hear dad's voice saying, "Come on Jimmy, they can have our seat, we'll stand up." And so I can't just sit there, I have to stand up and offer my seat to them. And even if they won't take it, I still can't sit back down so long as they are left standing. There are of course so many other ways my dad has helped shape me into the man I am, some deep and profound, some silly and maybe not all

that desirable (like making stupid sound effects when squeezing a sauce bottle). I won't try to name them all but suffice to say I simply wouldn't be where I am or who I am today without my dad. Sure, he isn't perfect (who is?), and I haven't exactly come out perfectly either, but I still have so much to be thankful for. Thank you dad. And thank you to all our dads today!

I am however conscious that Father's Day can be a hard one for a whole lot of reasons. Maybe there has been a separation or dad is not really on the scene, or maybe the relationship is a broken one or is not as good as it should be. And even when our father is a truly decent man who is trying his best, the reality is he will never be perfect and will still fall short in many ways. We live in a fallen world. Love is not always expressed or received well. Relationships aren't always as they should be, and that can leave us wounded. It is important to name that reality for what it is and recognise wounds where they exist so that we can grow and find healing. But I think even those wounds themselves still point to the immense importance of Fatherhood.

Fathers play a crucial role in our lives and in shaping us as persons. They carry a privileged yet heavy responsibility, and they do this while facing their own imperfections and shortcomings. It is so important therefore to continue to support and encourage our dads to be the good fathers their families and society need them to be. Today is a fitting day to do just that.

To all our dads, please know we see and appreciate your efforts to be good fathers for your families. Thank you for all you have done for us; for the many sacrifices you have made, the lessons you have taught, and for the many ways you guided and challenged us. You carry a heavy burden, but the good news is that you never have to carry it on your own. We have a Father in heaven who holds us all firmly in his care, an infinitely Good Father who can make up for wherever we fall short and who can bring healing to every wound. We pray in thanks for all our fathers today. May God inspire, strengthen and richly bless you in your special vocation, and may it bring you great joy. St Joseph, pray for all our fathers!

#### **Parish Contact Details:**

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

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Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://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+

Sean Burke

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Susan Coburn, Stella Dalton, Mary Maher
George Egan, Frank Grant, John Conlan
Elizabeth Gertrude Byrne, Bernie Noble
Mary Mangiameli, Vi Power, John McNamara
Mary Casey, Ellen Olive Considine, Alice Ross
Ronald Shepherd, Mary Scarce, Maria Tuntar
Les O'Halloran, Eileen Young, Joseph Case
George William Ledwich, Thomas Nolan,
Norma Meney

SICK LIST

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

THIS WEEKEND 7TH SEPTEMBER
23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

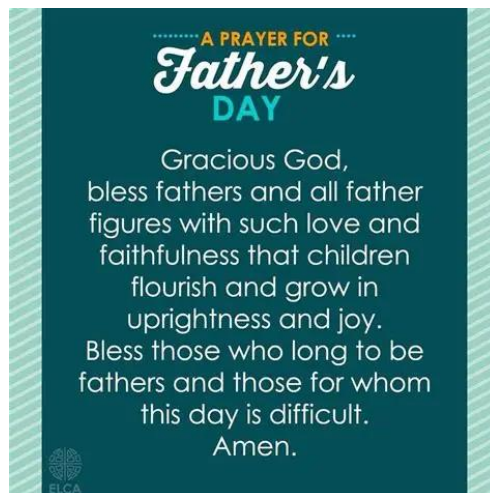
WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday: 5:30pm (Nativity of Our Lady)
Tuesday: 10.30am
Wednesday: 10.30am
Thurs: No Mass (Fr away for meeting in Horsham)
Friday: 10.30am
Sat: Confessions 10am, Mass 10.30am and Rosary

NEXT WEEKEND 14TH SEPTEMBER
23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

NOTICES



CONNECT FAMILY GATHERING:

This Saturday 6th after 6pm Mass. Games, food & fun.



CUPPA AFTER MASS THIS SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER.



THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS... 4 WEEKS TO GO!
TOOLEYBUC MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

The Marriage Encounter Retreat is now only four weeks away (Oct 3-5)! Please keep up your prayers for the organisers and for all the couples who will be involved. And please pass the word around. Committed Marriages don't just happen magically; they need support and encouragement, so let's keep up the conversation!

If you are thinking about it as a couple, it is not too late to jump on board. To sign up, email Mercy & James Bvirakare via vicbookings@wwme.org.au or call directly on 0409 183 676.

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: Unfortunately, envelopes will be unavailable until mid-September. Due to unforeseen

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

circumstances either human or gremlin (not sure which) the data base has disappeared and I am in the process of re-entering details etc.

**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.

### **CULGOA CHURCH 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

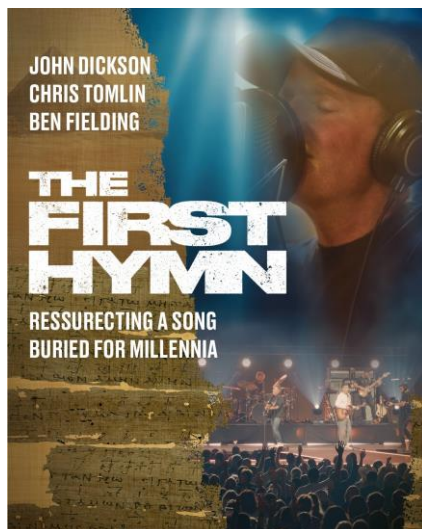
An invitation is extended to all those interested or with connections to Culgoa. A special celebration of over 100 years of faith and heritage of the Sacred Heart Catholic church in Culgoa.

**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!

Please RSVP Chris Sewell 0439972305 or email [sewell.chistine@activ8.net.au](mailto:sewell.chistine@activ8.net.au)



### **SPECIAL SCREENING: *THE FIRST HYMN***

Swan Hill Showbiz Cinema

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm

Tickets \$11pp on the night (Cash only)

### **2<sup>ND</sup> MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mai Nguyen Hoang Lam (Andrew) intends to marry Tran Thi Thuy Thuy in Vietnam later this year.

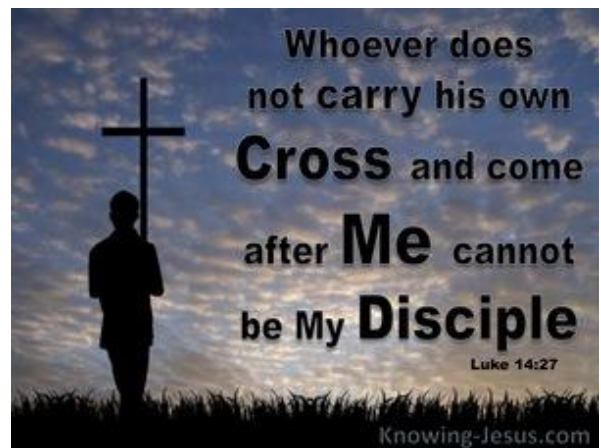
### **READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

#### **THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: John 3:13-17



### **NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY**

**BY MARY COLOE PBVM**

#### ***Do you have what it takes to follow Jesus?***

Jesus' teaching and miracles have been attracting crowds of would-be followers. Today's Gospel challenges these followers to realise that discipleship has a cost. It's all very well to go with the crowd when the miracle-worker is in town and gaining popularity, but have these followers considered the consequences? Jesus speaks of the utter commitment needed to be a disciple. In Semitic fashion, he sets out the options in a clear 'black or white' extreme position. To 'love' Jesus means 'hating' all else.

In a world which spends millions on advertising and promoting products and causes, Jesus' words sound very strange. Far from advertising discipleship, his words sound discouraging. 'Take up your Cross' is hardly a caption that would sell Christianity. But this is just the point. Jesus isn't after half-hearted followers. He wants 'all or nothing' Christians, people who know what they are taking on and give a whole-hearted commitment.

The two parables show up the stupidity of starting a venture without really thinking through the consequences. In the parables, the consequences of lack of foresight are simply being the butt of jokes, or needing to seek peace. In real life the consequences are far more serious. How many people today are put off Christianity because they can see so few authentic Christians? Paul can say to the community in Corinth, if you want to see Christianity, look at me, 'Be imitators of me'. (1Corinthians 11:1) Can each of us say that? It is such robust followers that Jesus desires not just those who follow the crowd. © Mary Coloe

**FIRST READING** Wisdom 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Who can comprehend the will of God?

What man can know the intentions of God?

Who can divine the will of the Lord?

The reasonings of mortals are unsure  
and our intentions unstable;

for a perishable body presses down the soul,  
and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,  
laborious to know what lies within our reach;

who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you  
not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from  
above?

Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened  
and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by  
Wisdom.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

**(R.) IN EVERY AGE, O LORD, YOU HAVE BEEN OUR  
REFUGE.**

You turn men back into dust  
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'

To your eyes a thousand years  
are like yesterday, come and gone,  
no more than a watch in the night.

You sweep men away like a dream,  
like grass which springs up in the morning.  
In the morning it springs up and flowers:  
by evening it withers and fades.

Make us know the shortness of our life  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.

Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?

Show pity to your servants.

In the morning, fill us with your love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.

Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:

give success to the work of our hands. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** Philemon 12-17: Phlm 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear  
brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Psalm 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,  
and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Luke 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.*

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

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