



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 12TH OCTOBER 2025: 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

...‘ONE OF THEM TURNED BACK PRAISING GOD AT THE TOP OF HIS VOICE...’

Ten lepers call out to Jesus from a distance- ‘Take pity!’ They are searching for healing. Take note of how they are calling from ‘some way off’. As lepers, they have been judged unclean and were therefore cut off from the community, including their family. They really were suffering greatly, and not just in a physical sense, so of course Jesus has mercy. He tells them to show themselves to the priests. Why? When we hear of ‘priests’ in the Gospels, it is speaking of the Levitical priesthood who offer the sacrifices of the Temple. They also had many other duties as set out in the Torah or Law, including judging whether someone had been cured of their skin disease. If they had, they were no longer unclean and so could be readmitted to the community. Jesus sends the lepers to the priests so they can be readmitted and return to their homes.

Back to the ten lepers; while on the way to showing themselves to the priests they find themselves to be cured. I guess most of them get so caught up in the excitement of being cured that they rush to be able to see their families again. Only one of them turns back to give thanks to Jesus, praising God at the top of his voice. He remembers who has saved him, and so he cannot move on until he has given thanks. He comes close to Jesus, and because he is ready to recognise and give thanks for what Jesus has done for him, he is able to enjoy an even deeper healing, right down to the depths of his soul. ‘Go, your faith has saved you’.

The word Eucharist simply means thanksgiving. When we come to Jesus in the Eucharist we bring our thanks to God for all that he has done for us. Everything we have comes from him. We have so much to be thankful for. May we always be quick to give him thanks and never forget all he has done for us.

MID MURRAY REGIONAL COUNCIL FESTIVAL

This Sunday in Swan Hill we have a very special celebration with many representatives from the St Vincent de Paul Society as we celebrate the Mid Murray Regional Council Festival. We all know the great work that the St Vincent de Paul Society continues to do, both locally here and across the globe. This Festival is a special opportunity to bring together representatives from the State and Regional Councils as well as members of local Conferences and the many others who are associated with the work and Mission of the Society through their involvement in the Vinnies Shop and A Good Kitchen. We will also have a special commissioning of Regional Office holders during the Mass, as well as some special acknowledgements of service in the Parish Function Centre after Mass, followed by lunch which everyone is welcome to join.

It is a great honour for our Parish to be hosting this celebration. It is also a special opportunity for us as a Parish to once again acknowledge the great work done by the Society and all who are involved in it. Thank you for your great dedication and generosity in supporting the works of the Society and in serving the poor and underprivileged. Your faithful service is right at the heart of who we are as the Church.

TIMOR LESTE COMMUNITY PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY

But wait, there’s more! This Sunday is also a double celebration, with our Timor Leste community leading us in a Procession at the start of Mass in Swan Hill in honour of Our Lady. We are very grateful to the community for sharing this celebration with us; for sharing your culture, your devotion and your great faith. Thank you!

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+**

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Albert Kelly, Justina Unukpo, John O'Sullivan
Giuseppe Nasisi, Noelien Neild, Francesca Sobara
Sam Guastlegname, Shaun Mangiameli, Antonio Pati
John McInerney, Phillip Parsons, Peter Fosdick
Antonia Giampaola, Patrick O'Loughlin, James Odah
Anthony "John" Burns, Peter Gallo, Mary Ann Byrne
Philomena Walsh, Edith Jordan, Josephine Mary Bull
Michael Conidi, Eileen Doyle, Kathleen Hooper
Lila Proctor, Joy Noble, Greta Sherlock

SICK LIST

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 12TH OCTOBER
28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 10.30am
Wednesday: 10.30am
Thurs: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5:30pm, Adoration
Friday: 10.30am
Saturday: 10:30am

**NEXT WEEKEND 19TH OCTOBER
29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 1pm Culgoa

NOTICES



CULGOA CHURCH 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Next Sunday 19 October – Mass at 1.00pm

You are very welcome to join us for a special celebration of over 100 years of faith and heritage of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Culgoa next Sunday. 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 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 sewell.chistine@activ8.net.au



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: STARTING SOON

Invitations have gone out for the beginning of our new Sacramental Program for children in grade 3 and above. In Swan Hill we will be starting with Confirmations this term and continuing on with Confession and Holy Communion in the first half of next year. The whole program begins with enrolment sessions in the week after next. In Sea Lake we will celebrate the Sacraments together later this term. Please keep all the children and their families in your prayers, and please pray for us who will be preparing them. If you have children or grand children in Grade 3, look out for the invite and get in touch if you haven't received anything so they won't miss out.

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

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: MANY THANKS!

As you know, we had our long awaited Marriage Encounter Retreat last weekend in Tooleybuc. I would just like to express my deep thank you to all who were involved and to all who supported it with their prayers and encouragement. I am very thankful to all the couples who took the leap and participated in the weekend. I hope it was a great source of blessing and strength to you. I am very grateful to all those who prayed for its success and those who helped promote it, especially to those who had the courage to speak about it from the pulpit! As for the presenting team of Sue & Steve, Maryanne and Marcel & Fr Pat, we are so thankful for their tremendous generosity and commitment in coming to our region to present the retreat. They were also supported in the background by the wider Marriage Encounter community, many of whom came up for the weekend to help welcome the participating couples and to pray with them once the weekend was complete. Finally, I would like in a very special way to thank Ahkwilan and Jordan for having the dream to bring Marriage Encounter to the Mallee and for all the work in making the dream a reality!

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

By Mary Coloe PBVM

Seeing miracles

'On the way to Jerusalem'; these opening words remind us of the great journey Jesus is taking from his home territory of Galilee towards Jerusalem. On this journey, Jesus takes the border road, skirting the hostile territory of Samaria, for as a Jew he would not be welcome. Here, on the outskirts of the territory he meets a group of outcasts, both Jew and Samaritan united in the common bond of leprosy.

The story is familiar to you, but have you ever considered the other nine lepers in this miracle story? They too were cured. They did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They did what their religious laws demanded in going to the priests to be announced as clean and so able to join the praying community. But it seems that they took their healing for granted and failed to see the miracle of God's goodness to them. The one who does recognise the wonder of what has occurred is the foreigner, the one least likely to expect it. The God of Israel, the God of Jesus the Jew, has reached out beyond the boundaries of Judaism and the Samaritan realises this.

Jesus then offers this Samaritan something more than the other nine. All ten were cured, but this foreigner is offered Salvation: 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

Where are you in this story? Are you with the nine, doing all the correct things but without perceiving the wonder of God's goodness to you? Or like the outsider, the Samaritan leper, can you see the miracles of God unfolding around you? What is there in your own life that perhaps you take for granted – health, freedom from war or conflict, good education for your children, living in a democracy. We have much to be grateful for.

The biblical scholar Raymond Brown considered that this letter to Timothy was written soon after Paul's death by a close disciple of Paul, as if it is Paul's own farewell testament. We are asked to imagine Paul in prison in Rome, awaiting certain death for his faith – a death that possibly took place during the persecutions of the emperor Nero around 65 CE. The image of being chained is quite striking – but the Good News cannot be chained. The Good News is that Jesus has risen and since this has happened then God has dramatically entered into the world to bring about its salvation. The Resurrection of Jesus was a reality that impinged on people's living. Two thousand years later, it could simply be a dry statement of doctrine we recite in the creed. According to Sandra Schneiders, another biblical scholar, *'The theological crux of the problem in spirituality around the real presence and personal activity of Jesus in the life of the believer is the Resurrection. ... It is precisely this affirmation of the personal, bodily Resurrection of Jesus and his continued presence and activity in the world that poses a stumbling block for the religious imagination of some contemporary believers. Unless something that is intellectually coherent within the horizon generated by modern science, cosmology, psychology, anthropology, and history can be said about resurrection, the real presence of Jesus in the spirituality of the contemporary Christian, however deeply desired, can remain imaginatively implausible.'* (Jesus Risen in Our Midst (2013))

Schneiders writes to bring the Resurrection from simply a creedal statement into the heart of Christian living; to live as if we believe this. Paul lived and died with the certainty of the Resurrection; may this faith become a living flame within our own lives.

Another book I recommend on the Resurrection is, Anthony J. Kelly, *The Resurrection Effect* (2008).

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

First Reading: Exodus 17:8-13

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

FIRST READING 2 Kings 5:14-17

*A reading from the second book of the Kings
Naaman returned to Elisha, the prophet, and
acknowledged the Lord.*

Naaman the leper went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.

Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. 'Now I know' he said, 'that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now, please, accept a present from your servant.' But Elisha replied, 'As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing.' Naaman pressed him to accept, but he refused. Then Naaman said, 'Since your answer is "No," allow your servant to be given as much earth as two mules may carry, because your servant will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any god except the Lord.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2

(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 2:8-13

*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy
If we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.*

Remember the Good News that I carry. 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal – but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen, so that in the end they may have the

salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that you can rely on:

If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.

If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.

If we disown him, then he will disown us.

We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful,
for he cannot disown his own self.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

For all things give thanks to God,

because this is what he expects of you in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 17:11-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*It seems that no one has returned to give thanks to God
except this foreigner.*

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

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

