



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 19TH OCTOBER 2025: 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FAITH!

This weekend we have the very special celebration in Culgoa of the 100th year of Sacred Heart Church. That the community was able to build such an impressive building in the first place is a great testament to their hope and generosity. The beautiful furnishings that the community procured to fill the Church give witness to their great devotion. The very bricks, mortar and marble are lasting expressions of the tremendous faith of our forebears. They wanted to build a beautiful house for God, and they certainly did. They must have been proud of what they achieved, and rightly so! But of course, the bricks and mortar were only ever laid down to house something far greater than anything we could ever create with our own hands. The church building was raised up as a fitting home for God's own creation- his living Church, his Holy People. Time and time again, over the last 100 years, he has called his people to himself. His Word has been proclaimed continuously, calling us to new life and hope. Time and time again, he has built us up and renewed us through his Sacraments, patiently forming us as his People. Just think, how many Baptisms has this church seen over the last 100 years... how many celebrations of the Eucharist, the Source and Summit of our Faith? That work has never ceased, and it goes on even still. Demographics are always changing, and the town's population is a fraction of what it once was, and yet the faithful who remain keep showing up and God's work goes on and on. You have kept to 'what you have been taught and know to be true', just like we hear in today's reading from St Paul. And as beautiful and as impressive as this physical church may be, I think that perseverance in faith is even more reason to celebrate. Today we celebrate the 100th year of the physical building of Sacred Heart Church, but we also celebrate the living faith of this community, from our forebears down to today.

Parish Contact Details:

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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+**
Judy Safe

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Santo & Grace Pati,
James Odah, Nance Power, Catherine Patching
Ellen Real, Lee Power, Christina Donnelly
Frank Capone, Mary Morton, Fr Frank Monaghan
Henry Kiley, Luke Brennan, Mercy Ukadie Nwaobia
Brian O'Loughlin, Patrick Pearce,
John (Jack) McNamara, Michael O'Connor

SICK LIST

Teresa O'Brien, 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 19TH OCTOBER
29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 12.15 MacKillop End of year Mass
Wednesday: 10.30am Funeral Mass for Judy Safe
Thurs: Mass 10.30am
Friday: 10.30am
Saturday: 10:30am

**NEXT WEEKEND 26TH OCTOBER
30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 6pm Sea Lake (Once off)

NOTICES



BAPTISM WELCOME

This Sunday we welcome Andre, son of Jessie & Emery; Winnie, daughter of Blake & Chelsie; and Jace, son of Mitchell and Melissa. May God bless you all today and keep you always in his care!



**ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS
SPECIAL FAMILY EVENT**

Celebrating All the Saints and our Hope in Heaven!

Join us for a special family event on Saturday 1st November, starting with the 6pm Mass. Last year we had a great celebration of All Hallows Eve (aka Halloween), and this year we hope to do it again. Beginning with the 6pm Mass for All Souls, we will remember our loved who have gone before us, and then we will carry on with some games and food in the Parish Function Centre.

And for a bit of extra fun, kids are encouraged to dress up as their favourite saint. There will be prizes for the best dressed!

RSVPs to the Parish Office would be appreciated. Also, if you are able to help out, please let us know.

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

CALLING FOR HELPERS:

KEEPING OUR BUILDINGS IN GOOD ORDER

A couple of weeks ago I put out a call for help from any parishioners with experience in building and trades. I was very touched by the great response and my thanks to those who have already stepped forward to offer their experience, skill and contacts.

Thank you! Just in case some missed the initial invitation, I would like to renew it here...

Together with the Parish Finance Committee, I would like to extend an invitation to any parishioners with experience and skills in building and property management or with good connections to those in local trades to work with us in making sure our buildings are kept up to scratch, especially in regards to those in Swan Hill and Sea Lake. We are open to suggestions as to what this might look like in practice, but at least we can begin by identifying the need and getting the right people on board. Just as so many of you have stepped up to share your gifts in music and hospitality and other ministries, I am confident God will call forth the particular gifts we need to help keep our buildings in good order.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

This term we will be welcoming a number of children and their families to be part of our Parish Sacramental Program. I have already met with the children in Sea Lake, and this coming week will see our Enrolment Sessions in Swan Hill. Please keep all the children and their families in your prayers, and please pray for us who will be preparing them.

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER

In the gospel of Luke, widows represent the lowly of society. They also are a measure of how the society is travelling. In the Old Testament, God commanded the people to care for widows, orphans and strangers. Widows, in particular, were to be cared for by the whole community. From that point on, the level of compassion within the society could be measured by the care extended to the widows. A number of the prophets point to neglect of the widows as a sign that the community has turned its back on the covenant with God. The gospel of Luke picks up this prophetic tradition and on several occasions uses widows as the key figures in stories or parables.

In this parable, the widow is petitioning her local judge for justice against towards the widow, but the judge fobs her off repeatedly. The widow, knowing that her cause is just, persists and finally wears down the judge.

Another feature of the gospel of Luke is that the lowly and poor – represented here by the widow – are those who recognise their own condition and call on the mercy of God to lift them up. Jesus says that God will see justice done to those who cry out for God's help. Jesus' final comment about finding any faith on earth is a reminder that human beings have a tendency to think they can solve all their own problems and forget that they need God's action in their lives. The faithful in the gospel of Luke are those who know that they are in need of God's mercy and love and call out for it.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT? A PARABLE ABOUT GOD

When Jesus tells this parable about the widow and the judge, he is actually painting a picture about God for his disciples. This is not to suggest that God needs to be worn down by persistence but rather it is a description of what God is not. If such a wicked and unjust judge can eventually be worn down, how much more quickly will God respond to a just cause? Yet the parable is told to reinforce the need to pray continually. The continuous prayer is not to wear God down – like the judge – but rather to demonstrate the genuine need.

DIFFERENT VIEW – CONVINCING GOD

Does this teaching about the need for continual prayer mean that God needs to be convinced of our cause? Does a one-off prayer not get heard? Is God swayed by the force of numbers? Can the prayers of ten people carry more weight than the prayers of one? All these questions miss the point of the parable. It is not God who needs our prayers, but we who have to recognise, through prayer, our need for God's mercy and gracious love. The constancy of prayer is not to convince God but to remind ourselves of our dependence upon God. © Greg Sunter

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

30TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

FIRST READING Exodus 17:8-13

A reading from the book of Exodus

As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage.

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 120. R. v.2

**(R.) Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

This is how the people of God become equipped and ready for every good work.

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how,

ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Hebrews 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 18:1-8

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
God will see those who cry to him vindicated.*

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."'

And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you; he will see justice done to them and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

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