



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 50324144

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 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2025: ALL SOULS DAY

### *JESUS, A WIDOW, AND A MIRACLE...*

When it comes to commemorating All Souls, we can choose from all the readings that can be used at a Mass for the Dead. There are a lot of choices. I have gone with the story of Jesus raising the son of the widow of Nain, from Luke's Gospel. We are reading mostly from Luke's Gospel this year, so it seemed appropriate.



It is also a Gospel very close to my heart. Growing up in Ballarat, we mostly attended the Cathedral. Our usual spot was up the front to the right, under a beautiful window depicting just this scene. I loved it as a kid, and still do. There is the city gate in the background- a castle, and I loved castles! Coming out of the gate is a procession of mourners, following behind the son being carried on a bier. The widow is at the front, on her knees, pleading for help. Jesus faces them all, with his arm raised in blessing and prayer. The son has just sat up, raised up by Jesus, his burial cloths falling away (I always thought he looked a bit like a mummy). The bearers behind are amazed, lost in wonder, and a little dog is at their feet, leaping for joy.

The window is truly beautiful, and the Gospel scene even more so. It begins with Jesus' deep compassion, *'when the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her.'* In losing her only son, the widow faced not only tremendous grief and loss, but also poverty. The way inheritance laws worked, she stood to be left with almost nothing. Jesus could not let her walk by. He reached out to her. In the same way, Jesus knows our grief, our loss, our sadness. He does not stand aloof or indifferent; he has come precisely to share in them. He cares deeply for us, so deeply, and comes to us in our need. *'Do not cry'* he says, he is with us to comfort and console.

But it goes further still. Jesus comes with compassion, but not only with compassion. He also comes with power- the power of the Creator to heal, to raise, to make whole again. Nothing is beyond this power; not even death itself. He stops the bearers and reaching out he touches the bier. He is not afraid to touch death. It has no power over him. Speaking to the son he commands him, *'Young man, I tell you to get up'*. And by the power of his word, the young man is raised from the dead, and Jesus gives him back to his mother. Everyone who witnesses the deed is amazed, and rightly so. But here is the even more amazing thing; Jesus has promised an even greater miracle- that those who believe in him may have eternal life. He has opened up the way for us. We have no need to fear death, so long as we keep faith in him.

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

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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+**  
Alan Sherlock

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Keith Greenham, Bill Shanahan, Hugh Kelly  
Jane Scanlon, Roma Giddings, Rodney Walsh  
Claire Dunstan, Patricia O'Loughlin, Jack McGrath  
James McNamara, Barbara D'Orsa, Lucille Nolan  
Keith Rowe, Kelvin Upton, William O'Brien  
Les Johnston, Ashley Maher, Domenico DeMaria  
Michele Costa, Donny Demaria, Jean McInerney  
Rev Fr Patrick Atesbite

**SICK LIST**

Pat Jeans, 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 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER  
ALL SOULS DAY**

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

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday: 10.30am  
Wednesday: 10.30am  
Thurs: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5.30pm Adoration  
Friday: 10.30am  
Saturday: 'Hope does not disappoint!' Retreat,  
beginning 9.30am. Adoration from 5pm until Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA**

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

**NOTICES**

**CUPPA AFTER MASS TODAY SWAN HILL  
ALL WELCOME**

**HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT**  
Romans 5:5

*Parish Retreat*

Experience a day of prayer, renewal and fellowship, deepening in the Jubilee theme of 'Hope' with Rosemary Drum MGL and Kathryn Kingsley MGL

**SAT 8 NOVEMBER, 2025**

**"HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT!"**

**A VERY SPECIAL RETREAT OPPORTUNITY:**

Experience a day of prayer, renewal and fellowship, deepening in the Jubilee theme of 'Hope' with Rosemary Drum MGL and Kathryn Kingsley MGL

**SAT 8 NOVEMBER, 2025**

Starts 9.30am with morning tea, finishes with fellowship after 6pm Mass.

Lunch will be provided, but if you are happy to bring a plate to share or something sweet for the morning tea, it will be most appreciated!

Venue: Parish Function Centre, 62 Splatt St Swan Hill  
RSVP FOR CATERING PURPOSES:  
northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**Schedule for the Day**

10.00am Session 1- God's Gift of Hope  
11.00am Session 2- The Reason For Our Hope  
12.30pm Lunch  
1.30pm Session 3- A Future Full of Hope  
2.30pm Prayer and reflection time  
3.30pm Session 4- Jesus, Hope for the Hopeless  
4.30pm Session 5: Gathering the Grace  
5.00pm Adoration  
6.00pm Mass

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au)

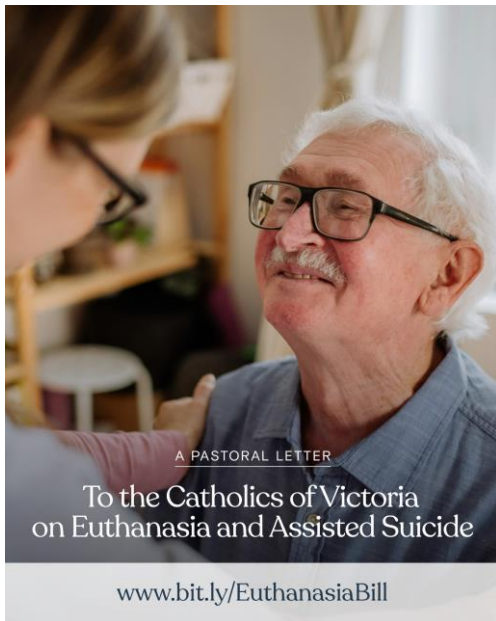
## BAPTISM WELCOME

Our special welcome to two children who will be presented for Baptism this Sunday. We welcome Paddy, son of Nathan and Morgan, as well as Luca, son of Joseph and Amanda. Thank you to our parents for presenting your little ones, and to Luca & Paddy, welcome to God's family!

## ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

Marret & Augustine have just moved to Swan Hill from Nigeria with their 3yo daughter so that Marret can begin work at Swan Hill District Health. Welcome to the family! They are having a little trouble looking for suitable long-term accommodation.

If you know of any leads, please contact the parish and we can put them in touch. Thank you.



## PASTORAL LETTER

### TO THE CATHOLICS OF VICTORIA ON EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

The State Government is seeking to amend Victoria's euthanasia and assisted suicide laws. If passed, the new laws would further weaken protections for vulnerable patients and reduce protections for nurses, doctors and other medical practitioners who conscientiously object. In response, the Bishops of Victoria have written a pastoral letter asking that we contact our local Members of Parliament and urge them to vote against these laws. You can read the letter online and find out more by scanning the QR code or via [www.bit.ly/EuthanasiaBill](http://www.bit.ly/EuthanasiaBill)

*Please note: This legislation has now passed the Lower House, but will still need to pass through the Upper.*



## REFLECTION BY FR MICHAEL TATE

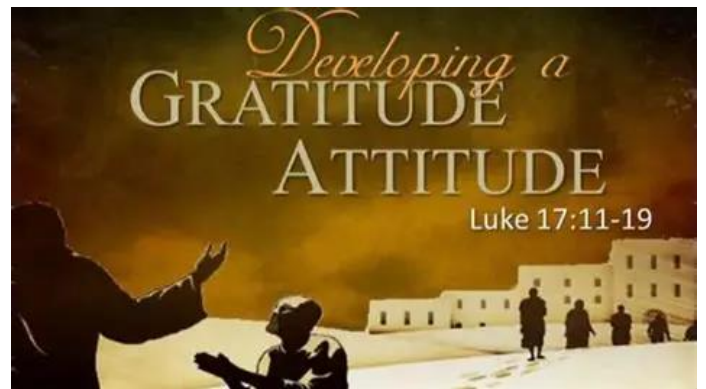
Today, many of us will visit the grave or plinth of a beloved member of the family or a friend. If you are like me, you will first tidy the area, prune any dead heads off the rose bush, place some fresh flowers and then pray. The beautiful Catholic custom is that on this day especially – All Souls' Day – we pray for those who have died. We prayed for them when they were with us on earth. Death is no barrier to continuing that prayer. We pray for them and for ourselves that one day, when every tear is wiped away, we may join them in heavenly bliss.

What grounds our hope? Nothing more, nothing less, than the victory of Jesus Christ over death. We pray that those we love even now are sharing in the benefits of that triumph.

For most, as I expect for me, that may involve a purging of those traits of personality which prevent the fullest participation in the bliss of Heaven. But that bliss is what God desires for each one of them and for me. God prays for the fulfilment of that desire whilst souls are being purged (whatever that may involve). Our praying for the dead is simply our participation in this prayer of God, our privilege which we intentionally share in. Even those not intentionally sharing our faith often say R.I.P., rest in peace, and that is a prayer!

And so we pray with confident Christian hope: 'Endless light shine on those we love, O Lord. May their souls and the souls of all those who have died, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.'

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)



## READINGS NEXT WEEK:

### THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

First Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-2. 8-9. 12

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:9-11. 16-17

Gospel: John 2:13-22

**FIRST READING** *Isaiah 25:6-9*

*A reading from the book of Isaiah  
The Lord God will destroy death for ever.*

On this mountain,  
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples  
a banquet of rich food.

On this mountain he will remove  
the mourning veil covering all peoples,  
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,  
he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away  
the tears from every cheek;  
he will take away his people's shame  
everywhere on earth,  
for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God  
in whom we hoped for salvation;  
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.  
We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.  
*The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 22. R. v.1 or v.4*

**(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** *Romans 8:31-35. 37-39*

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
Nothing can really come between us and the love of Christ.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *John 3:16*

God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

**GOSPEL** *Luke 7:11-17*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
Young man, I say to you, to get up.*

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry,' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up'. And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.' And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

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