



# 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 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025: 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*"WERE YOUR FAITH THE SIZE OF A MUSTARD SEED..."*

Jesus encourages us to have faith in the awesome power of God. Even the smallest seed of faith can be just the opening God seeks to work wonders in our lives. And so with that encouragement I am going to put out a call for help, confident that God has everything in his hands...

### A CALL FOR HELP: KEEPING OUR BUILDINGS IN GOOD ORDER

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 on what exactly this looks like in practice, but in a general sense we are looking for help in identifying maintenance issues as they arise and then setting priorities, knowing which issues are urgent and which can wait, and knowing how to go about addressing the problem and who we can call on to get the job done. Perhaps this might mean forming a small building committee or maintenance group, or something less formal. Perhaps it could mean being entrusted to organise getting the little 'fix-it' jobs done, while working with the Finance Committee when it comes to the bigger projects by sharing your advice and knowledge. Again, 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.

Basically, when it comes to maintenance and property management, I lack the experience and skills to keep on top of things, and my focus is regularly taken up by the immediate pastoral needs of the Parish. I may see a problem, or something may be brought to my attention, but then too often nothing ends up happening because I simply don't know where to start or who to call on, or even if I do have some idea I get caught up with other tasks and the issue is repeatedly pushed aside. This has led to maintenance issues lingering and building up, and this is simply unsustainable. I kept thinking I just had to try harder, but I realise I have been missing the point. They were never really 'my' issues to fix. Sure, I have a responsibility to oversee the operations of the Parish, but I am not alone. We all have our part to play in the life of this community, each according to our strengths and abilities. 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.

I am therefore putting out a call for help, but maybe it would be even better to describe it as a 'stepping out of the way'. As things stand, by trying to do it all myself I am holding things up. This isn't helping anyone, and it is time to let go and let others in. I trust that the skills are there, and that even if I can't at the moment see what the solution is, others with more experience will be able to step up and lead the way.

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

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Phone: 03 5032 4144

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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+**

Andrew Day  
Loretta Francis

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Doreen Greenham, Stephen Walsh, Bill O'Loughlin  
Carmel Kelly, Thomas Patrick Bell, Alma Cameron  
Maurice Foley, William Kelly, John Tuohey  
John Considine, Margaret Barry, Murray Grant  
Ada & Gordon Dwyer, Justina Unukpo Ugbejie  
Dom Violi, Catherine Gleeson, Maureen Irwin  
Lucia & Ralph Amitrano, Donald Nicholson  
Theresa Ederson, Christopher Irwin

**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 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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  
*No 10:30am Mass this Saturday*

**NEXT WEEKEND 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

**NOTICES**

**BAPTISM WELCOME**

This Sunday we welcome Alessia, daughter of Jarrod & Alina. May God bless you always!

**CUPPA AFTER MASS**

Today Sunday after 10:30 Mass Swan Hill

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: SUN 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

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



**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: STARTING SOON**

Invitations are now going 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 later 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 2 weeks. In Sea Lake we will celebrate the Sacraments together later this term. I will be meeting with the children this week. 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 early next week if you haven't received anything so they won't miss out.

**MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY**

This Sunday is observed across the universal Church as Migrant and Refugee Sunday. In terms of our Parish story, it is a good time to once again recognise and celebrate the great gifts each wave of new migrants have brought to our local Church community. Where would we be without the strong faith, devotion and new life each generation has shared? You might also like to read Pope Leo's statement here- [acmro.catholic.org.au/wdmr/2025](http://acmro.catholic.org.au/wdmr/2025) He speaks of migrants as special missionaries of hope and as living signs of who we truly are as Christians; pilgrim people who are always on the move, striving in hope for our final homeland in heaven.

**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)



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

***Sunday 19 October – Mass at 1.00pm***

Join us for a special celebration of over 100 years of faith and heritage of the Sacred Heart Catholic church in Culgoa. 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](mailto:sewell.chistine@activ8.net.au)



## **TOOLEYBUC MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER RETREAT**

Please keep up your prayers for the organisers and for all the couples who are involved this weekend.

### **NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY BY MARY COLOE PBVM**

***I've done no more than my duty***

As a child, I thought that had I lived 2000 years ago and had the chance to see and hear Jesus then faith would have been so much easier. I'd have certainly believed! That's not what the Gospels say. Many people who witnessed the deeds and heard the words of Jesus did not come to faith in him. Faith isn't a matter of seeing, or hearing. Faith is about loving. It's risking one's whole life for another. This is the normal sort of faith on which we base our human friendships and commitments, and religious faith is similar. The disciples ask that their faith might be increased, but notice that Jesus puts the responsibility back onto them. Faith and love increase by daily living them, by daily putting them into action.

The parable shows faith in action by taking a common image from Jesus' time when a household would have servants. The parable suggests that faith is not what we want God to do for us; faith is about our being and doing for God. It is enough for us to live within the bounty of God's goodness and to respond

to that goodness by generous service. Isn't that what it is like when people are in love? They are not asking, 'What will the other do for me?' but rather, 'How can I respond to this experience of love?' As a lover loves and a believer believes, so servants express their identity in serving. At the end of the day the disciple simply says, 'I have done no more than my duty, I have lived my faith.'

'Fan into a flame the gift God gave you.' As I read or listen to these words their urgency challenges me. What is my gift? What particular way has God gifted me? Often I look at other people and their gifts are obvious – they can sing, or lead, or have a way of making friends easily, or a sharp mind. In fact by comparison with others it can sometimes be hard to see or value God's gift to me. Perhaps today my response to this reading is to take some quiet time alone and in silence open my heart to God, asking for wisdom to see clearly.

When I was teaching in school there was a poster in my room that read – God doesn't make junk! Whether we know it or not each of us is a precious part of God's creation and Timothy is right in wanting us all to be contributors. Quite a few of the Gospel sayings have a similar theme – don't hide your light under a bushel; the woman who gives a small penny but is praised for contributing all. The other side of Timothy's urgent teaching is not just to recognise my gifts, but to put them to work – to fan them into a blazing flame. Gifts are not things to be cherished for oneself, but are meant to draw us out to others in some way. In my own ministry I have a great love of the Scriptures. In this, and in the opportunities I have had to deepen my knowledge of them, I feel deeply blessed. The more I appreciate the power of the Scriptures in my life, the greater the urgency I feel to share this with others through teaching or giving talks or writing. And in doing this, in going out to teach it seems I receive more blessings. It's a strange sort of circle of receiving, giving, receiving more.

Timothy says, I have 'been trusted to look after something precious,' but in a paradoxical way, to guard this precious gift, I need to be open and share it with others. Here, the image of a flame is helpful. If a small flame is alight inside a closed room, it will stay small – but if you open the door or window, then it will blaze up to life. © Mary Coloe

### **READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

*28th Sunday of Ordinary Time*

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:14-17

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

**FIRST READING** Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

*A reading from the prophet Habakkuk*

*The just will live by faithfulness.*

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help  
while you will not listen;  
to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear  
and you will not save?  
Why do you set injustice before me,  
why do you look on where there is tyranny?  
Outrage and violence, this is all I see,  
all is contention, and discord flourishes.  
Then the Lord answered and said,  
'Write the vision down,  
inscribe it on tablets  
to be easily read,  
since this vision is for its own time only:  
eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive;  
if it comes slowly, wait,  
for come it will, without fail.  
See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights,  
but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'  
The Word of the Lord. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

**(R.) If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord.  
Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.  
O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy*  
*Never be ashamed of witnessing the Lord.*

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God  
gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was

not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and  
self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing  
to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but  
with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News,  
relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard  
from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You  
have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it  
with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.  
The Word of the Lord. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** 1 Peter 1:25

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The word of the Lord stands for ever;  
it is the word given to you, the Good News.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Luke 17:5-10

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*  
*If you had faith!*

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord  
replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you  
could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in  
the sea", and it would obey you.  
'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep,  
would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come  
and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more  
likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and  
wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink  
yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for  
doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done  
all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants:  
we have done no more than our duty."  
The Gospel of the Lord. *ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

