



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 16TH NOVEMBER 2025: 33RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

"...BUT NOT A HAIR OF YOUR HEAD WILL BE LOST..."



My nephews and nieces are very good at letting me know when I am getting a bit tubby, or my fashion choice in hats is apparently a bit off ("That's a lady's hat!"). They tell me that they only say such things because they love me. I will have to take their word for that. Another thing they have started to note is the appearance of a little bald patch...

"Uncle Jimmy, you're going bald!" Oh well, these things happen, but what are a few hairs in the greater scheme of things? They are falling out all the time. And to be honest, I am surprised the ones that are left have lasted this long!

Sorry, enough of the digression. Back to the Gospel. One thing is very clear- Jesus never pretended things were going to be easy. He is very open and honest about the trials and tribulations we will face. There is going to be struggle and strife in this life, and the choice to follow him does not magically save us from any of them. In fact, he makes it clear that following him will mean opening ourselves up to even more trials in this life, as we will inevitably face the same opposition that he faced. Life as a Christian is not meant to be easy... and yet... in the midst of the struggle comes this promise... *'not a hair of your head will be lost.'*

What do we make of it, when we lose hairs all the time and some of us are already going bald? I think it means this; that nothing is ever lost to God, no trial ever forgotten, no tribulation ever unseen. Nothing will ever overcome us, no struggle will be beyond his power. He will carry us safely through whatever strife we face, because the victory is already his. He holds us firmly in his arms.

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+**
Ross Marsilino

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

John Hayes, John Sheldon, Ivy Sewell, Brian O'Bryan
Marion Derbas, Phil Milano, Cliff Hinton, Bernie
Maher, Michael Nolan, Kathleen Storer, Robert Isgro,
John Auden Elizabeth Kiley, Loretta Barry,
Cecil Learmonth, Edward McLoughlin, Henry Power,
Carol Drummond, John Flannery, Gladys Bryant,
Edna O'Halloran, Michael Power, Cyril Storer,
Catherine Scalora, Marlene Kelly, Emilio Tuntar,
Jennifer O'Loughlin, Tom O'Connor, Leon McDougall,
Michael Leonard, Mary Rogers, Mary O'Connor,
Frank Curran, Amy Leggett Trevor Wiedermann,
Yvonne Annan, Mary Bryant, James Stahl, Trevor
Wright, Antonio Tarascio, Brian Templeton, Graeme
Patterson, Mary O'Connor, Michael Considine,
Carmela Capone, Mary Considine, Cade Hickey

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 16TH NOVEMBER
33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Culgoa
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 10.30am
Wednesday: 10.30am
Thurs: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5.30pm Adoration
Friday: 10.30am, **6pm MacKillop Graduation**
Saturday: 10:30am Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 23RD NOVEMBER
CHRIST THE KING**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill **Confirmations**
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill **Confirmations**
Sunday 3pm Sea Lake Confirmation

NOTICES

TWO SPECIAL COMMEMORATIONS

Bishop Paul has asked that we recognise two special commemorations at this week's Masses. This **Wednesday 19th sees the Anniversary of the Dedication of our Cathedral** in Ballarat- a time of special prayer for our Diocese as the living Church of God in our region. On **Thursday 20th we will offer Mass for Persecuted Christians** around the world, as organised by Aid to the Church in Need.

Unfortunately, many of our brothers and sisters in Christ face very real and violent persecution. In fact, there are more martyrs now than there have ever been in history. Our brethren need our prayers.

For more information see

<https://rednovember.org/home>



**WORLD DAY
OF THE POOR**

Today is the World Day of the Poor. It offers us an opportunity to renew our solidarity with those who are poor in our own community and across the world.

In his message for the World Day of the Poor, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that "the poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel." The full text of Pope Leo's message may be found at <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/poor/documents/20250613-messaggio-giornata-poveri.html>

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MANY THANKS!

We've had a very big couple of weeks and I would just like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have made them possible with their hard work, generous hospitality, enthusiastic participation & fervent prayers. For all those who were part of our **All Saints & All Souls Day Family Event**- either as helpers or participants- my sincere thanks. It was a great night and it was beautiful to see so many join in.

We have also just said goodbye to Srs Rosie and Kathryn from the Missionaries of God's Love after a

Our Parish Schools

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very successful visit. They were many graces, blessings and fruits, and I am sure many seeds have been planted. To all who helped to make them feel so welcome- thank you! They were overwhelmed with the generous food, support and kind attention they received, and were delighted with the great participation in all their activities. Thank you to everyone who played a part. We are so blessed to be able to experience such Missions, and it wouldn't be possible without your warm welcome and enthusiastic participation. Thank you.



HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What are three 'predictions' that Jesus makes in this passage?

Why would the disciples have been shocked to hear that the Temple would be destroyed?

Why does the gospel writer have Jesus 'predict' things that have occurred by the time of writing?

What appears to be the purpose and message of this passage?

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

In the Gospel, Jesus has now reached the end of his journey and is in Jerusalem, within its magnificent Temple. Here, other questions are raised.

What do we do when things go wrong? How do we find faith in God when life collapses around us? These are questions all Christians face and today's gospel gives us a brief insight into the pain and struggle of Luke's small community who had such faith and hope in Jesus, but life did not appear to be blessed.

God wasn't intervening to save them from conflict within families and persecution from governments. Luke tries to reassure his community that such discord and trouble is part of a living Christianity and can be expected. Faith in Jesus doesn't take us out of the world, or permit us to live as some sort of aliens in the world. We are part of a struggling humanity.

Jesus lived at a time when the Jerusalem temple existed and had recently been greatly renovated and made even grander by King Herod the Great. But by the time the Gospel is written, the magnificent Temple was utterly destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. Many Jews saw this event as the 'end of the world' and took this destruction as a sign that God was coming soon. Luke cautions against such false ideas. The end has not yet come and Luke's community must learn to live in an extended time of waiting. Through Jesus' words, Luke teaches his community that in this time of waiting there will be hardship and struggle; these are not incompatible with Christian faith and are not to be taken as signs that God is absent. Endurance is required.

The concerns of Luke's community and Paul's seem very distant to the concerns of our own time. We need to exercise some historical imagination to try to get a sense of real people, living with their real questions and struggling with faith. There are no simple answers to most of the really important questions of life. Our faith was never meant to be an easy escape from really living. We cannot, like the Thessalonians, drop our tools, give up work and just wait for Jesus; but nor can we settle for simplistic answers when difficult times come. A robust faith will engage the world and wrestle with the questions life poses. But in all this, faith in Jesus should make a difference. Paul advises the Thessalonians, 'imitate me'. Living faith should be visible. G K Chesterton once said, 'Christianity hasn't been tried and found wanting – but it has been found hard, and it hasn't been tried!' It was the living witness of the early believers that attracted others to join them, even in the midst of misunderstanding and persecution from the surrounding society. Each of us should be able to say as Paul did – 'imitate me'. What a challenge!

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FIRST READING Malachi 3:19-20

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The sun of righteousness will shine on you.

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97:5-9. *R. see v.9*

(R.) The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp
with the sound of music.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord.

Let the sea and all within it, thunder;
the world, and all its peoples.

Let the rivers clap their hands
and the hills ring out their joy
at the presence of the Lord.

For the Lord comes,
he comes to rule the earth.

He will rule the world with justice
and the peoples with fairness. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the
Thessalonians*

Do not give anyone food who refuses to work.

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Luke 21:28

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is near at hand.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 21:5-19

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Your endurance will win you your life.*

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?' 'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

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

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

CHRIST THE KING

First Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-3

Second Reading: Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel: Luke 23:35-43