



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 30TH NOVEMBER 2025: 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"SO STAY AWAKE!"

Today we begin Advent, and with it the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. And just as we are probably at our most tuckered out and looking forward to a good summer holiday, Jesus is calling us once again to 'stay awake' and to 'stand ready'! It is a little ironic isn't it, that for us here in Australia, and especially here in the country, we are in the midst of the busiest period of the year with harvest, dance concerts and the end of another school year. As a parish we've also just had our huge Confirmation celebrations, and there are so many other jobs we will need to tick off over the next few weeks. It therefore feels more like the ending of things rather than the beginning; a few weeks to survive and endure before we can collapse in a heap. The beginning of a new Liturgical Year? I'm not sure I am ready to start anything new right at the moment! But then again, maybe our circumstances are actually the perfect reflection of what Advent is all about. We need to stay vigilant, to persevere with patience, to stay awake and stand ready. The job isn't done just yet! But of course, more than anything we do, Advent is a time of joyful anticipation for God's ultimate victory and the final completion of his great work of salvation. We might be looking forward to a good holiday, but how much more should we be anticipating Jesus coming again in all his glory! Even the best holiday can only last a few days, but we look forward to everlasting peace and joy with him! Come Lord Jesus!

SOME VERY EXCITING NEWS: VENERABLE MARY GLOWREY PRAY FOR US!

We heard some very exciting news last weekend; Sr Mary Glowrey has now been declared Venerable, and so is one step closer to being officially declared Australia's second Saint. Sr Mary was born in Birregurra before the family moved to Garvoc then eventually Watchem. Mary was able to obtain a scholarship to finish her matriculation in Melbourne, before going on to Melbourne University where she graduated in Medicine, one of the first women to do so in Victoria. She specialised in maternal health, working for a number of years in Melbourne where she also helped to found the Catholic Women's League. She was already doing great work for God, but reading about the appalling mortality rates of poor mothers and infants in India and the lack of female doctors for them to consult, she felt a special call in her heart to leave everything behind and offer her life to a new mission. After much preparation (and even some changes to Church law), she left for India to join the Sisters of the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph (JMJ) in Guntur (present-day Andhra Pradesh).

I really encourage everyone to look up Sr Mary's story; it really is inspiring. And what makes it even more special is the strong connection we have to that story here locally; much of Mary's family moved up through the Mallee and ended up here in Swan Hill. Her parents are buried here, and her sister lived just a couple of doors up from the Church where one of her grandsons still lives today. Her niece and nearest surviving relative lives just a little further around the corner, and there are plenty of other family connections across our parish. Going back in time, those family connections also meant much support for Sr Mary's work came from our region, led and coordinated by her siblings. We should be very proud that Sr Mary has been recognised, and we should also confidently call on her intercession. I know a beautiful little baby and a very grateful family who are already beneficiaries of her prayers.

Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

For more information see <https://melbournecatholic.org/maryglowrey>

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+**

Shane O'Loughlan
Frank Connellan

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Ross Marsalino (1 month anniversary)
Frank Richardson Frederick Ledwick, Daniel Rogers,
Stan Smith, Deanne Ryan, John Billing,
Caterina Siciliano, Thomas Gleeson, Ruby Egan,
William McInerney, Sheila Kelly, Thomas Stutley,
Veronica Power, Jack Robinson, Catherine Conlan,
James Derham, Donna Gammond, John Currie

SICK LIST

Pat Jeans, 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 30TH NOVEMBER
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

*Fr James is away for the Australian Catholic Youth
Festival from Sunday afternoon, returning
Wednesday afternoon. Please pray for us!*

Tuesday: NO MASS

Wednesday: NO MASS

Thurs: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5.30pm, Adoration
Friday: 10.30am

Saturday: 10am Confessions, 10:30am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND 7TH DECEMBER

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Nandaly (Special for end of year)

NOTICES

SUNDAY CUPPA AFTER MASS

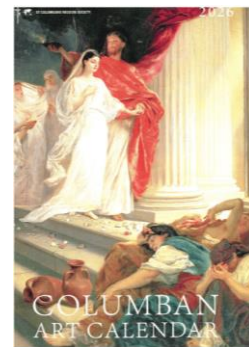
Next Sunday 7th December there will be an extra special Christmas Morning Tea after the 10.30am Mass in Swan Hill to celebrate another year coming to a close. A SMALL PLATE would be appreciated for our Christmas Morning Tea. All welcome



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDARS

Our Reverse Advent Calendars are available again this year. Boxes will be available from the parish office or after Masses this weekend. Return date is the weekend of the 14th/15th December when we will deliver them to A Good Kitchen/St Vinnies for Christmas. A suggestion list of items to go in the boxes is available.

Donations of items or money from anyone who would like to help but not fill a box are most welcome as we can make up boxes to be donated. These can be left at the Parish Office Tuesdays or Fridays between 10.30 and 2pm.



COLUMBAN CALENDARS & GOD'S WORD 2026

Have arrived and are now available from the Parish Office- Calendars are \$10 each and God's Words \$20. Also Religious Christmas Cards, \$10 per pack.

MONTHLY ROSARY

Saturday 6th December after the 10.30am Mass. The Rosary will be at 11am at 109 Werril Street, followed by morning tea.

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



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Just so you can set your diaries and organise your families, our Christmas Mass times will be...

Christmas Eve (Wednesday 24th)

4:30pm Sea Lake

7pm Swan Hill (*With Nativity Play*)

9:30pm Swan Hill

Christmas Day (Thursday 25th)

Quambatook 8:30am

Swan Hill 10:30am

Please start passing the message around!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The first Sunday of Advent sees the commencement of the new liturgical year. This new liturgical cycle is referred to as Year A and features the gospel of Matthew. Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which literally means 'coming'; it is also reflected in the Greek word *Parousia*, which is used to describe the second coming of Jesus. So Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world that is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas. The gospel passage chosen for today's reading richly expresses that anticipation and need for preparation.

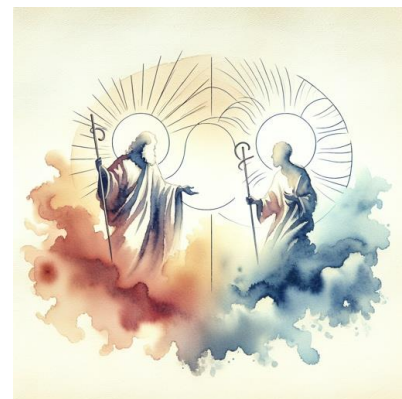
The first thing to note is that it is a Jewish world where believers in Jesus are just one particular form of Judaism in the first century alongside other Jewish parties – the Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, the Essenes, and the ordinary 'people of the land'. What is remarkable about this particular group of Jews is their belief that the long-awaited hopes of their people have begun to be realised in Jesus of Nazareth. For this group Jesus is the one the prophets promised, God's anointed one (in Hebrew this is the Messiah, in Greek it is the Christos).

In the year 70AD a cataclysmic event happened for the Jewish world. Following a four year revolt, the Roman legions laid siege to Jerusalem, eventually capturing it and destroying the Temple. This event was the end of the Jewish sacrificial system and also the end of some forms of Judaism. Two groups survived – the Pharisees, who put more emphasis on the Jewish Law (Torah) than Temple sacrifices, and the followers of Jesus. This is the Jewish world in the final decades of the first century when Matthew's Gospel takes its written form – possible around the years 80-85AD.

So how could Matthew portray Jesus in a way that reflected and cherished his community's Jewish origins, while at the same time argue against the Synagogue leaders of his time? One way was to project back into the time of Jesus the type of conflict about the teachings of Moses that Matthew's community was currently facing. The struggles taking place in the 80s give this gospel its sharp sense of conflict and hostility between Jesus and the Pharisees, reflecting the struggles between later Christians and the rabbis.

Even in the struggles with emerging Rabbinic Judaism, and within the Roman Empire, Matthew's 'good news' is that Jesus is 'God with us' – Emmanuel. This is the name announced at his birth, and the final promise Jesus leaves his disciples, 'I am with you always.'

In the twenty-first century our struggles are different to Matthew's community: climate change, terrorism, global economic rationalism and its consequences, continuing wars, drought, genocide, and the personal daily struggles in families, relationships, work. While our world is vastly different, we still need to hear the good news that God is with us.



Two people are referred to in today's Gospel, Noah and the Son of Man. Both are meant to urge Christians to live with an alertness to God's reign. People were not ready for the flood in the time of Noah. According to the book of Daniel, at the end of time when all the powers of evil have been overcome, one 'like a Son of Man' will be given all authority in God's new world. The early Christian communities related this image to Jesus. Matthew is therefore urging his community to be alert and ready for the day when Jesus will return. This is the same message that Paul writes to the community in Rome – 'wake up now'.

Amidst the signs of Christmas and toys we too need to be reminded that the focus of this time is Jesus. He can be lost amidst the glitter and excitement if we are not attentive. © Greg Sunter & Mary Coloe

FIRST READING *Isaiah 2:1-5*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz,
concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come

the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it;
and they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob

that he may teach us his ways

so that we may walk in his paths;

since the Law will go out from Zion,

and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations

and adjudicate between many peoples;

these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,

there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,

let us walk in the light of the Lord.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:

‘Let us go to God’s house.’

And now our feet are standing

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

It is there that the tribes go up,

the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel’s law it is,

there to praise the Lord’s name.

There were set the thrones of judgement

of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:

‘Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls,

in your palaces, peace!’

For love of my brethren and friends

I say: ‘Peace upon you!’

For love of the house of the Lord

I will ask for your good. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *Romans 13:11-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our
salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted.

The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give
up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark;

let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live
decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no

promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy.

Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Psalm 84:8*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,

and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 24:37-44*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be
when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the

Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking
husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they

suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It
will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men

in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the
millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your
master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the

householder had known at what time of the night the burglar
would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have

allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house.
Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man

is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

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

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YR A

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12