



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 21ST JUNE 2026:

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"IN YOUR GREAT LOVE, ANSWER ME, O GOD, WITH YOUR HELP THAT NEVER FAILS"

This weekend we are very excited to welcome the large number of children who will be receiving the Holy Eucharist for the first time. This is a very special day; the end of the time of preparation, but the beginning of a lifetime walking with Jesus in the Eucharist. Now, I will be honest; when I first saw today's readings, especially the first one and the psalm, I thought, hmph, maybe a little full-on? All that about being denounced, abandoned by his friends... aren't we supposed to be celebrating? But then, it made me think of what Jesus did for us on the Cross. And then I realised, that takes us right back to where we started this journey. If you remember, we began with the great story of God's love for us. We were made to share love with him, to share Communion. That Communion was broken when we rejected God's love, but while we may have turned our back on God, he never gave up on us. He patiently prepared us, and when the time came, God sent us his Son, Jesus, who was ready to go all the way to the Cross for us. He was rejected by the crowds, condemned by the authorities, abandoned by his friends... but he never turned his back on us. He gave everything for us, so that we might have life in him. He gave everything for us, so that we might know God's awesome love. He gave everything for you, and today in the Eucharist you receive that gift. Jesus is giving his whole self to you. He is sharing his whole life with you, holding nothing back, so that you might know his love and share in Communion with him. And not just with him, but with his Father and the Holy Spirit, and also with his Body the Church. This is what we were created for; to know his love, to share in his love, and to live in Communion. And that love for us will never stop. Remember, the Eucharist is the Sign of the New and Eternal Covenant. It is the Sign of God's Unbreakable Promise to walk with us always, to be with us even when we feel all alone, to help us whenever we call on him in our need. Every time we come back to the Eucharist, we renew that Covenant, and repeat our yes, our 'Amen' to God. Children, Jesus is with you in a special way today, but remember he will continue to be with you in all the days ahead, walking beside you every step of the way, always there whenever you call. Keep your heart open to him, keep renewing your yes to his love here in the Eucharist, and carry him with you everywhere you go!

FIRST EUCHARIST CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS

We thank all the families for your participation in the program. Your child wouldn't be here without your support. We would also like to thank St Mary's Primary School for their support of this program, especially in making the retreat day possible. The generous support of our teachers and leadership is greatly appreciated.

Finally, we thank all the parishioners who have played a special role in the program and in the celebration today... but especially for your prayers and encouragement; your prayers for the children as they prepared for this special day, and your prayers for us who have been helping to prepare them.

Parish Contact Details:

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Office Hrs: Tues, and Fri 10:30 -2.00

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+

Carmel Ryan
Pam Keighran

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Veronica Gleeson, Ellen Giddings
Mavis O'Halloran, Immacolata Capone, Anne Walsh
Francis Loughran, Leo McLoughlan, Martin Egan
Thomas Considine, Frank Powell, Brian O'Bree
Des Rinaldi, Valda Hickmott, Mary Kelly

SICK LIST

Robyn Kiley, Sheila Templeton, Shane Ryan,
Pat Jeans, Yvonne Richardson,
Jayden Williams, Margaret Fottt, Jarrod Crimmins,
Michael Bourke, Jack Donohue, Jude Lewis,
Bridget Phyland, Peter Amezdroz, Ken Duryea,
Helen Duryea, Pat Croft, Geoff Duryea

**THIS WEEKEND 21ST JUNE
12TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill (First Communions)
Sunday 8:30am Culgoa
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill (First Communions)

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL THIS WEEK

Tues: 1pm Carmel Ryan Funeral
Wed: 10.15am Hearts and Hands Mass MacKillop
Thurs: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5:30pm, Adoration
Friday: 10.30am Mass
Sat: Confessions 10am, Mass 10:30am

**NEXT WEEKEND 28TH JUNE
13TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8:30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES



THE FESTA DELLA MADONNA MONTE CARMELO

We invite everyone to join us as we celebrate the
Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
on Sunday the 19th of July
Place: St Mary's Catholic Church Swan Hill.
Time: 10.30 Mass with Shared Lunch to follow
Bring a plate to share after Mass at the Parish
Function Centre.



**ST JOSEPH'S NANDALY 100TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS – SAVE THE DATE!**

All are welcome to celebrate the 100th anniversary of
St Joseph's Church, Nandaly on Sunday, October 11,
2026. We plan to celebrate Mass and a meal to
follow (to be organised). For planning purposes,
please contact one of the following people to register
your attendance: Jo Brady, ph. 0427 572 752; Sam
Brady, ph. 0427 781 244; Barb Hall, ph. 0408 059
784. We would be grateful for any photos,
documents, or historical information you may have to
help commemorate this wonderful milestone. All
items will be returned following the day. Please
contact the above listed people if you can
contribute. Accommodation is available at Nandaly
(limited), Sea Lake and Ouyen.
More information at a later date.

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake

Principal: Kate Nunn
47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake
Ph: 03 5070 1272

St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
Ph: 5032 9771

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin
2 Murlong St Swan Hill
Ph. 03 5033 2541

EUCHARIST28 UPDATE

The International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028 ('Eucharist28') will be a global gathering of the Church centred on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be a festival of faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music – a truly 'once in a lifetime' experience, and a transformative moment for our nation. But this is more than an event in Sydney. It is a national journey, an invitation to renewal for the whole Church, wherever we are. The journey begins now, in our own hearts, in our own parishes. Across the Easter weekend, thousands of catechumens and candidates throughout Australia were baptised and received into full communion with the Church. Our churches were alive with faith—pews filled, hearts renewed. It was a beautiful witness to what the Church is called to be every week, not only at Christmas and Easter. The great gift of the Eucharist is that it is not merely a story remembered over a few sacred days. At every Mass, we encounter the reality itself: we offer ourselves to God alongside Christ, truly present in our midst. For more information and regular updates on Eucharist28, please register on the website www.eucharist28.org or click or scan the QR code.



HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why do you think 'Do not be afraid' is so frequently repeated in the Bible?

Why might this passage be titled in some versions of the Bible as 'Bold Confession'?

In what ways can this message to the disciples be interpreted in a modern context?

What are some of the obstacles that make it hard to proclaim what you believe 'from the house-tops'?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16

Second Reading: Romans 6:3-4. 8-11

Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

GOSPEL REFLECTION

'Do not be afraid' is one of the most commonly repeated sentences in the Bible. In one form or another, the command to 'be not afraid' or 'fear not' appears several hundred times throughout the Old and New Testaments. Today's gospel passage is part of the sending out of the Twelve that occupies all of Chapter 10 in the gospel. It follows a little later in the chapter from last week's reading in which Jesus called the Twelve and sent them out as Apostles. The remainder of the chapter provides an extended teaching on what it means and what it costs to take the message of Jesus out into the world. Jesus teaches the Twelve that the message they bear will not always be well received and there will be those who will seek to silence the Apostles through violent means. But then the teaching comes to the section of today's passage and Jesus commands the Twelve, 'Do not be afraid'.

The message to not be afraid is as much for the original intended audience of the gospel as it was for the apostles. The community for whom this gospel was written were on the verge of being 'squeezed out' and forced into secret. The passage reminds them to have courage and to have the courage of their convictions; to shout from the house-tops their message, not whisper it in darkness. It is a reminder of the abundant love of God who cares for them and sees all their efforts to continue to live out the message and ministry of Jesus.

It is equally a message for us, today. We are called to continue the spread of the gospel message; continuing the work of those early Christian communities, the Twelve and Jesus himself.

GOSPEL FOCUS – FEAR

When scripture uses the term fear, it tends to fall into one of two meanings. When used in the context of 'do not be afraid' or 'fear not', it is a command to not be daunted by the woes and trials that the world imposes. The other use tends to be a command that we should fear God. In this context, the word does not mean to be frightened of God but rather to show proper reverence. To fear God is to stand in wonder and awe rather than to cower and hide. So, fear God, but do not be afraid!

LIVING THE GOSPEL – FROM THE HOUSE-TOPS

One of the messages of Jesus to his disciples and, through him, of Matthew to the original community, is to have courage and to have pride in their belief. No matter what threat or persecution they are to endure, the command is to proclaim the message of Jesus from the house-tops. They are to be proud of what they believe and be prepared to share it with others. In a world today that is not always open to the message of Jesus, we too are called to be proud of what we believe and not whisper it in the darkness.

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FIRST READING *Jeremiah 20:10-13*

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

Jeremiah said:

‘I hear so many disparaging me,

“Terror from every side!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”

All those who used to be my friends

watched for my downfall,

“Perhaps he will be seduced into error.

Then we will master him

and take our revenge!”

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;

my opponents will stumble, mastered,

confounded by their failure;

everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,

who scrutinise the loins and heart,

let me see the vengeance you will take on them,

for I have committed my cause to you.

Sing to the Lord,

praise the Lord,

for he has delivered the soul of the needy

from the hands of evil men.’

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14*

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,

that shame covers my face,

that I have become a stranger to my brothers,

an alien to my own mother's sons.

I burn with zeal for your house

and taunts against you fall on me.

This is my prayer to you,

my prayer for your favour.

In your great love, answer me, O God,

with your help that never fails:

Lord, answer, for your love is kind;

in your compassion, turn towards me.

The poor when they see it will be glad

and God-seeking hearts will revive;

for the Lord listens to the needy

and does not spurn his servants in their chains.

Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,

the sea and all its living creatures.

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

SECOND READING *1 Cor 11:23-26*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Each time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the death of the Lord Jesus.

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, ‘

This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.’ In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said,

‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.’

Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming to his death.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *John 15:26. 27*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord,

and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 10:26-33*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

‘Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

‘So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.’

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