



# 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*



## 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026

***"...IF YOU WEED OUT THE DARNEL YOU MIGHT PULL UP THE WHEAT WITH IT.  
LET THEM BOTH GROW TILL THE HARVEST..."***



Alright, I am going to fess up straight away here- the pictures are from Wikipedia. And yes, I used it as a source to confirm what I had previously heard- that Darnel looks almost exactly like Wheat, at least until they ripen in the ear, or in other words, right up until the harvest is almost ready to reap. Up until that moment, a worker could easily mistake the weed for the wheat. And I think that little bit of knowledge is the key we need to understand the parable. Yes, evil will exist in this world, and we must be ready for it. Unfortunately not every person will be moved and motivated by the good, even within the Church; bad seed will be sown by the enemy, it will take root and grow alongside the wheat. The landowner knows this; he will sort the good from bad at the right time. But, in the meantime, let's be just a little humble when it comes to our own power of judgement. We might have it all wrong. What we now judge as darnel, may actually be

wheat. If we rush in too quickly or hastily, we may end up pulling out good wheat. The opposite is true too- what we have initially judged as wheat may actually be the bad seed. Only God truly knows the heart. Only he truly knows where he has sown, and what is the fruit of his planting.

As well as a little humility, we are also of course called to patience and to trust- trust in the goodness of the Sower, in the wisdom of the Landowner, and in their power to see the good wheat safely through to harvest, and an abundant harvest at that. And that is where the other parable can strengthen us too- we do not see the yeast working, and yet it does- we would never anticipate the vitality and tenacity of the tiny mustard seed, and yet stand back and see it take over the whole paddock! Have patience and trust in God, and in his goodness and his wisdom.

### **HAPPY FESTA DELLA MADONNA DEL CARMINE!**

This Sunday in Swan Hill we have the special celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This Feast has had a special place in our Parish and for our Italian Community, and we are glad to celebrate it again today. Please join us in the Parish Function Centre after Mass for a shared lunch and some fun activities- raffles, music and maybe even some dancing! There will also be some traditional Italian biscuits and sweets for sale



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

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

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Website: northeastmallee.org.au

**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+**

Brian Graham

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Moira Higgins, Dot Corridan, Guiseppe Caruso

Rene Devereux, Helen Brown

Colleen Nalder, Giuseppe "Joseph" Pellegrino

**SICK LIST**

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

**THIS WEEKEND 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
**16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**  
Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
**NO MASS Culgoa (Cancelled)**  
Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL THIS WEEK**  
Tues: 5.30pm  
Wed: 10.30am  
Thurs: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5.30pm, Adoration  
**Friday, Quambatook:**  
**2pm Requiem Mass for Brian Graham,**  
Sat: Confessions 10am, Mass 10:30am

**NEXT WEEKEND 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**  
Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**NOTICES**

**HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS**

On **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August** some priests from our region will gather in Swan Hill for a special Holy Hour at **12pm**. Close to the Feast of St John Vianney, the patron saint of Parish Priests, we will offer this time for all priests. If you are able to join us, we would very much appreciate your prayerful presence too.

**CHOSEN 2026 – NATIONAL CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS**

Chosen is a four-day Catholic Conference for young Australians who are open to encountering God in a real and personal way. Hosted by Jesus Youth Australia, the conference brings together teens (16+), young adults (18-35) and young couples (married up to 5 years) from across the country. Over four days, 19-22 November at La Trobe University, Bundoora, you'll experience worship, talks, prayer, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, workshops and more. More info <https://chosenconference.org.au/> or contact Emil Mary Tom Ph: 0406256263, email: [emilmarytom@gmail.com](mailto:emilmarytom@gmail.com)

**PRAYING WITH THE HOLY FATHER**

***Prayer for July – For respect for human life:***

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognising it as a gift from God. Lord, hear us.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

What purpose might the gospel writer have had in placing these three parables so close together?  
What difference does it make to interpret the three parables together rather than individually?

In what ways do these parables challenge 'conventional wisdom' of the time?  
What does this passage tell us about how we should try to bring about the kingdom today?

**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5.7-12

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

**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

## ST MARYS SEA LAKE

Wishing the grade 3-4 students safe travelling and a fun filled time as they attend their school camp at Camp Kookaburra this week.

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER ENRICHMENT DAY FOR COUPLES

Open to all engaged and married couples.

The 5 Love Languages- The Secret to Love that Lasts: Enrichment Day for Couples is based on the international bestseller by Dr Gary Chapman (more than 10 million copies sold).

We all need to feel loved. Men and women have an “emotional love tank”. When it’s full, we feel content, secure, and loved. We all communicate love primarily according to one of five love languages. And the truly life-changing moment comes when we understand and speak each other’s love language.

Your presenters, Deb & Paul Cochran, have been married for 37 years and involved with Marriage Encounter for 27 years. They have presented the 5 Love Languages Enrichment to Couples in Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane. Deb & Paul bring the concepts of the book alive in a humorous and relatable way as they share their own experiences

9 am-5 pm, Sat, 15 August 2026 @ St Eugene’s Retreat & Conference Centre, 45 John Field Drive, Newborough (Gippsland) VIC 3825

Cost: \$60 per couple (includes course materials, lunch and morning & afternoon tea)

More information and booking:

<https://www.trybooking.com/DMSUR>

Enquiries: Maria & Andre Rasquinha

E: andrerasquinha@yahoo.com.au T: 0411 225 992



## NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

BY MARY COLOE PBVM

### ‘GARDENING FOR THE SOUL’

The gospel continues on from the parable of the Sower that we heard last week. Divine Wisdom, now present in Jesus, continues to teach those who would listen. If God, the householder, sows only good seed why is it that there are such mixed results? The parable makes two points. Firstly that an enemy is responsible for the weeds, not the householder; secondly that the householder will deal with these weeds at the harvest time.

It is important to read this parable in its context. Jesus is dealing with why so many do not respond to his teaching, for his ministry receives a very mixed response. In the symbolism of the parable, the reign of God that Jesus announces is met by vigorous opposition from the powers of evil. This is the reality in Jesus’ time, the reality faced by Matthew’s community and it continues to be our reality. The voice of the Gospel continues to struggle to be heard in our present society. Other values are presented as offering a better way of life – if we allow asylum seekers in, our ‘white Australian’ quality of life may change – if we stop embryonic research we may lose our scientists and possible cures for many illnesses.

With many of the complex issues we face it is not easy to discern the weeds from the wheat. On the two issues named above good people of faith hold different views. The parable seems to suggest that the servants need to live with both the wheat and the weeds and leave the task of judgment to God. Jesus offers this teaching to console and encourage his followers. Their task, as servants, is to sow goodness. The task of destroying evil is God’s.

Perhaps an even greater challenge is to realise that the parable speaks about me. The paradox within my own life – I too have to learn to live with the wheat and the weeds within my own heart. Many years ago I read a story of Tony D'Mello's; it goes something like this. The preacher came and asked the class, ‘If all the good people wore white and all the bad people wore black, what would you wear?’ Mary Jane answered, ‘I'd wear polka dots!’ For all our good intentions, and efforts we will probably continue to struggle with some issues all our lives. The garden of our soul will always need a little weeding. These inner struggles will continue to call us to conversion and we will continue to need to call on God and allow God to be the gardener of our souls. Knowing the weeds and wheat within our own individual lives, can help us be a little more patient, or tolerant of the weeds and wheat around us – in our families, communities, our Church. This is not an invitation to complacency but a reminder to ‘get real’ as young people say. © Dr Mary Coloe PBVM

**FIRST READING** Wisdom 12:13.16-19

*A reading from the book of Wisdom*

*In the place of sin, you give repentance.*

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength,  
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.  
You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,

you govern us with great lenience,  
for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people  
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,  
and you have given your sons the good hope  
that after sin you will grant repentance.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

**(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of love to all who call.  
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer  
and attend to the sound of my voice.

All the nations shall come to adore you  
and glorify your name, O Lord:  
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,  
you who alone are God.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,  
slow to anger, O Lord,  
abounding in love and truth,  
turn and take pity on me.

**(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

**SECOND READING** Romans 8:26-27

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

*The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.*

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Matthew 13:24-43

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

*Let them grow together until the harvest.*

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

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