



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*



19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: 9TH AUGUST 2026

ST MARY MACKILLOP: CELEBRATING OUR AUSTRALIAN SAINT



This Saturday we celebrated the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, our very own Australian Saint. It is a great day for our Church in Australia, and an extra special one for St Mary MacKillop College- Happy Feast day! It is also a very special day for the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the order founded by Mary and Fr Julian Tennison Woods. The Josephites had strong associations with our Parish and links to our three schools. There is so much in Mary's life that we can draw from; her great courage and generosity of spirit in being so ready to undertake the mission she was called to; her tremendous love for the poor and those in need; her perseverance and resourcefulness when faced with so many challenges; and above all her unwavering trust in God's providential care. This patient trust was often needed, because as well as the usual challenges faced in a mission to the poor, Mary unfortunately often faced opposition and antipathy from figures within the Church herself.

The worst example of this was her attempted excommunication at the hands of Bishop Shiel of Adelaide, an invalid sanction that seemed to stem from

petty jealousies and narrow-minded prejudice, or even worse still, in revenge for actions Mary and Fr Julian had taken to uncover crimes of abuse. It was clearly an unjust action, and was later withdrawn by Shiel on his deathbed. Sadly, tales of corrupt clergy are all too common, but what is inspirational is the example of Mary's response. In this instance, as in so many others, she never forgot the demands of justice and truth, and did all she could to bring them about. But over and above this, she also never forgot that everything was in the hands of the Father and in his care. She always encouraged her sisters to *"See the protecting ... hand of God in all that is happening."* This helped Mary and her companions to remain hopeful and at peace, despite all the challenges that were thrown at them. *"Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them bravely, remembering Whom you are trying to follow. Do not be afraid."*

We can so easily forget that God has us firmly in his care. We can think that we have to do it all, and that if we can't fix or change a situation that all is lost. So often the root of our crippling anxieties and fears is our forgetting that Christ has us firmly in his care. May Mary's example help us to always trust in God and his plans of love for us. *'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.'*... *Jesus put out his hand at once and held him...*

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+

Carol Frieling
Ken Allen (Dalby QLD)
Jacqueline Power

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Geoff Henson, Lola Ester Kelly
Jim Meehan, Anna Mancinelli, Florence Wright,
Martin Irwin, Albert Cooley, Malcolm Kanizay,
Matthew McInerney, Peter Walsh, Avis Curthoys,
Tim McInerney, Andrew Walsh, Helena Ryan,
James Irwin, Bill Woodhouse, Mark McMahon
Lawrence Cloonan, Robert Barry,

SICK LIST

Bill Free, 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 9TH AUGUST
19TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL THIS WEEK

Tues: 5.30pm
Wed: 10.30am

Thurs: **St Mary's Primary Swan Hill 9:15am Mass**
Also, Confessions 5pm, Mass 5.30pm, Adoration
Friday: **6pm Vigil of the Assumption**
Sat: **10.30am Assumption**

**NEXT WEEKEND 16TH AUGUST
20TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

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

NOTICES



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

This great feast falls on a Saturday this year (15th August). We will celebrate a Vigil Mass on Friday evening (6pm) in anticipation, as well as the usual Saturday morning Mass (10:30am). The Saturday evening Mass will be of the Sunday.



WRAP WITH LOVE

Preparing for the Northern Winter

We would like as many people as possible to knit eight- or ten-inch squares in plain knitting (garter stitch) to be sewn into rugs to send to the Ukraine in readiness for their cold winter. We would be so grateful for your help, thank you.

Josephite Companions Swan Hill

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WINTER APPEAL

With fuel, the cost of living and rental prices higher than ever, an unexpected bill, the loss of a job or a relationship break down can be enough to push someone into homelessness. For more and more people, homelessness is just one sudden crisis away. And this winter, more people than ever before are facing homelessness and poverty in Australia. Your generous gift today can help people at risk of or experiencing homelessness get the support they need to find and keep a safe place to stay. To donate online, go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal> or phone 131812.

SPECIAL MASS SEA LAKE: 30TH AUGUST

There will be a bonus Mass in Sea Lake on Sunday 30th August at 5pm, followed by a presentation on my Sabbatical and a shared dinner in the church.

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

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why might Jesus have sent the disciples on ahead?

Why is the disciples' first reaction one of fear rather than relief at seeing Jesus?

Which emotions might Peter have experienced throughout this episode?

What is it that prompts the disciples to make their declaration of faith?

What message for your own life do you take from this passage?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1.6-7

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

by Mary Coloe PBVM

The episode in today's gospel follows on immediately after the feeding on the Jewish side of Lake Galilee. It may be helpful to recall the sequence used by Mark and then Matthew.

Matt 14:13-21 – Feeding on the Western (Jewish) side of Lake Galilee (Mark 6:30-44)

Matt 14:22-35 – Miracle on the Sea (Mark 6:45-52)

Matt 15:21-28 – The Canaanite Woman (Mark 7:24:30)

Matt 15:29-31 – Jesus on the Eastern (Gentile) side, teaches the people (Mark 7:31-37)

Matt 15:32-39 – Feeding on the Eastern (Gentile) side (Mark 8:1-9)

The sequence of the feeding in the wilderness and the miracle on the Sea alludes back to the foundational events of the Exodus. Mark uses the Sea quite deliberately. Whenever Jesus crosses the Sea from the Jewish side to go to the Gentile side there is trouble. The wind and seas beat against the boat, (look back to Mark 4:35-41 and 6:45-51). Whenever they travel in the opposite direction there is no problem (Mark 5:21). In Mark this is a deliberate narrative strategy symbolising the difficulty and even danger of the mission to the Gentiles. Matthew follows Mark but without this same emphasis since Matthew's community is thought to be Jewish.

Matthew's account of this episode differs from Mark since Matthew adds the account of Peter wanting to walk on the water. We read this as a miracle story, which it is, but it is also a revelation of Jesus' identity. In the Old Testament only God is the one who has mastery over the sea. 'You rule the raging of the sea; when it waves rise you still them' (Ps 89:9), 'Your way was through the sea, yet your footprints were unseen' (Ps 77:19).

Matthew's Jewish community would be well aware of the many references in the Scriptures to God's power over the sea. When Jesus comes walking on the waves he is displaying to the disciples his divine identity for he shows that he now exercises power over the sea that belongs only to God. Later he even speaks to them using the Divine Name which God revealed to Moses, 'I AM who I AM' (Exod 3:14). When Jesus speaks to the disciples, he says literally from the Greek, 'Take heart; I AM. Fear Not.' This is often translated, 'Courage, it is I. Do not be afraid.' This English translation misses the force of the original Greek which uses the term for the Divine Name in the Old Testament, Ego Eimi, I AM. With this understanding the miracle story becomes a revelatory event, which most nature miracles in the Gospels are. They point to the identity of Jesus, in terms of Israel's God.

The Exodus story continues to lurk in the background – the feeding in the wilderness, the revelation of the divine name, the crossing of the Sea. For his Jewish community Matthew is teaching that in becoming a follower of Jesus, they have not left behind their traditions and scriptures, rather, they are being brought to fulfilment. Jesus of Nazareth, now the living Christ in their community, is in continuity with the God of their ancestors. This is a wonderful pastoral strategy to show that there is continuity with the past, even though there is radical transformation.

But what about Peter? Peter can be both representative of Matthew's community and also represent all disciples as he displays both courage and frailty. Called by Jesus to come to him, Peter shows courage in venturing out of the boat's security into the stormy waters but then reality sets in and his faith wavers. Most of us are caught somewhere in Peter's story, living within the courage of Christian commitment, and the doubts that unsettle our faith. Thinking of our Church today as we prepare for fifty years since the opening of Vatican II, our Church is in much the same position. It stepped out boldly into the renewal called for by the Council fathers, but then individuals from all states of life began to waver. Some past securities were lost. We were, as a Pilgrim people of God, stepping out into new waters and it was turbulent. Peter's cry is our prayer, 'Lord! Save me!' And Jesus reaches out his hand – to Peter, and to us. 'Take heart. I AM. Fear not.'

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FIRST READING 1 Kings 19:9.11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the

covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Psalm 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

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

