



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 5032 4144

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 and & Faith Group.*



22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 30TH AUGUST 2026



**'IF ANYONE WANTS TO BE A FOLLOWER OF MINE, LET HIM RENOUNCE HIMSELF
AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME...'**

Being a follower of Jesus is not easy. If we are really taking his words seriously, we are constantly challenged to go out of ourselves in love and to hold onto certain truths that are unpopular. This has never been easy but is perhaps more difficult given how high a value our contemporary society places on comfort. Setting down our Cross and giving up the fight has perhaps never seemed so attractive an alternative. And yet, here we are, because we know that would go against our deepest yearnings. We need something more than mere comfort. We can only be fulfilled by Truth and Love, and we firmly believe we find that in following Christ.

The prophet Jeremiah puts it so powerfully. In the face of insult and derision, he decides to shut his mouth, and no longer speak the words God is putting there. But then, "there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones." He just couldn't hold it in any longer. In order to be true to himself, he was ready suffer for the sake of God's ways. And that was some 500 years before Christ's Death and Resurrection. As we face our own trials, we have that awesome mystery to strengthen and encourage us.

Being faithful to Christ calls for sacrifice, even at times a readiness to face suffering- especially the suffering of rejection. But in whatever challenges we may find ourselves, no matter how high a cost love demands of us, we know that Christ has already gone before us and so will surely see us through. We are never on our own.

Parish Contact Details:

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St
Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585
Ph: 03 5032 4144
northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Website: northeastmallee.org.au
Office Hrs: Tues and Fri 10:30 -2:00

Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

Parish Admin Officers:

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+

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Bernie Magee, Elizabeth Burns, Lila Moar
Salva Marotta, Antonino Miceli, Thomas Barry
Cathy Charleson, Barry Kelly, John Foley
Salvatore "Sam" Nastasi, Ned Doyle, Doss Pearson
Nora Ritchie, Jim Bookham, William Thomas Casey
Margaret Stewart, Allan Mathews, Lawrence McNamara
Rose Ann Hernon, Bernard Hubbard

SICK LIST

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

**THIS WEEKEND 30TH AUGUST
22ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Sea Lake followed by talk from Fr James
and his time on Sabbatical

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL THIS WEEK

Tues: 5.30pm
Wed: 10:30am Mass
Thurs: 4pm (Special Sacramental Mass)
Friday: 10.30am
Sat: 10am Confessions, 10.30am Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 6TH SEPTEMBER
23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

**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 at 1.30pm with 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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY – THIS SUNDAY

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has released the second Social Justice Statement for this year ahead of Social Justice Sunday (August 30, 2026), "Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division". This statement invites us to see our current social climate as an opportunity to witness to the Gospel. The Church can and must be a sign of unity: a community where every person feels at home and all are encouraged to use their gifts to build a more just, peaceful and cohesive Australia. The Statement and more information can be accessed at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/service-and-agencies/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement-current/>. The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission will host an online webinar on Thursday November 12, 2026 from 6.30pm-8pm to celebrate the launch of the Statement. Registration details to be advised. The Statement and further resources are also available from this webpage.

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 MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
Ph: 5032 9771
Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin
2 Murlong St Swan Hill
Ph. 03 5033
principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

Collection for Retired Priests – next weekend Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Nineteen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation.

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US – THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Retreat: Eating with Jesus

This Ignatian Retreat will invite participants to prayerfully experience selected Gospel meal stories where Jesus gathered with friends and strangers alike. Led by Spiritual Director Anna Schlooz, meals and materials are provided. BYO journal and bible. The retreat is funded by the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation - no cost for participants. For more information and to register, please

contact Anna E: ecomyriad@gmail.com

October 3 at Swan Hill, 10.00 – 5.00pm.

RSVP by September 28

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

If you were Peter in this story, how would you have reacted to Jesus?

How might the disciples have reacted to Jesus' prediction of his death?

In what ways do people today give up their lives for their beliefs?

In what ways has someone you know had to 'take up their cross' – deal with a great difficulty – and still lived in a positive and hopeful way?

What makes it difficult at times for you to have faith?

PRAYING WITH THE HOLY FATHER

For evangelisation in the city.

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community. Lord, hear us.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel continues the story that began in last week's Gospel. Simon Peter was called the "rock" upon which Jesus would build his Church, and yet Peter continues to show the limitations of his understanding of Jesus' identity. Now that the disciples have acknowledged that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he must suffer and die in Jerusalem to be raised on the third day. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely, calling him "Satan." In opposing this aspect of Jesus' mission, Peter shows that he is no longer speaking based on the revelation from God but as a human being. Jesus then teaches all of the disciples about the difficult path of discipleship: to be Christ's disciple is to follow in his way of the cross.

Peter could not yet understand what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah. It is unlikely that the other disciples understood any better. Messianic expectations were a common aspect of first-century Judaism. Under Roman occupation, many in Israel hoped and prayed that God would send a Messiah to free the Jews from Roman oppression. The common view was that the Messiah would be a political figure, a king that would free Israel from Roman rule. This is perhaps what Peter envisioned when he was led to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In this passage, however, Jesus is beginning to teach his disciples that he would be the Messiah in a different way.

Jesus would be more like the suffering servant described by the prophet Isaiah than the political liberator. Those who would be Jesus' disciples would be called to a similar life of service. Perhaps this is what Peter feared most in Jesus' prediction of his Passion. He whom Jesus had called "rock" would also be called upon to offer himself in sacrifice and service to others. Christian leaders today are still called to sacrifice and serve others as Jesus did.

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LIVING THE GOSPEL. HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;

you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,

I could not bear it.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

SECOND READING Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg
you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering
your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.

Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world
around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by

your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of
God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what
is the perfect thing to do.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION See Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,

that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was
destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the
hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put
to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking
him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven
preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.'
But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You
are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not
God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a
follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his
cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life
will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will
find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole
world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in
exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his
Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward
each one according to his behaviour.'

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

