



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday, 26 July 2020



Parish Priest: Fr James Kerr

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office Hours

Tues, Thurs and Fri

10am -2pm

Parish Admin Officers:

Glenda Klabbers

Mary Kennedy

Child Protection Officers:

Damian and Karen Kelly

Incorporating the Catholic Communities of

Sacred Heart Church, Culgoa

St Michael's Church, Lalbert

St Joseph's Church, Lake Boga

St Joseph's Church, Nandaly

S's Peter & Paul, Quambatook

St Mary's Church, Swan Hill

St Mary's Church, Sea Lake

Notices for Bulletin need to be received at the office by Wednesday morning.

Parish Prayer

God our Father,

Through the intercession of the Holy Family our patron, we pray that you bless this parish so that we may love you more.

Help parents to be a good example to their children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care; to the sick and the weak grant health; to the aged bring serenity; and to those in sorrow joy.

May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily life. Amen.



Recent Deaths

Anniversaries

Salvatore & Concetta Castelli,

Victoria & Rosario Columbro,

Geoff Balsarini, Gavin Polinelli,

Fr Declan Duggan, Anne Kelly, Jack Meney,

Veronica Deagan.

Masses this coming week

Weekdays 27th – 31st July

(no need to book in)

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 5:30pm Swan Hill

Wednesday: 10.00am Swan Hill

Thursday: *5pm Confession*

5:30pm Mass Swan Hill

Friday: 12pm Swan Hill

Weekend Masses: 1st-2nd August

(please book in as per notice)

Saturday:

5pm Swan Hill

6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday

8.30am Sea Lake

10:30am Swan Hill

5pm Swan Hill

(I'll be putting this on for 1st and 4th Weekends of Month while limits on numbers continue)

Schools within the Parish

Primary

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

Secondary

St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

Child Safe Church

Here in the Parish of Holy Family North East Mallee follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office

Sick List

Jarrold Crimmins, Jack Donohue,

Sean Carroll., Ronald Duryea, Jude Lewis,

Yvonne Annan, Sarah Kenny, Michael Bourke

Chris Hall, Allan Mathews.

During these difficult times your continued donations to the presbytery and parish support are greatly appreciated.

If you wish to drop off your stewardship envelopes please leave under door at Parish office or drop off on a Tuesday or Friday.

Finances

1st Collection (Support Clergy)

2nd Collection (Parish Support)

Including C/Cards and D/Debt

Thank you for your generous contribution to the running of the parish and the support of our priests during this difficult time, through your direct deposits, or dropping off at the office. It is greatly appreciated.

Saints / Feast Days

This Week

Mon: Bl Titus Brandsma

Tues: Bl Mary Magdalen Martinengo

Wed: St Martha

Thurs: St Peter Chrysologus

Fri: St Ignatius of Loyola

Sat: St Alphonsus Liguori

The Parish Collections We have had people enquire about how they can contribute to the normal collections.

The First Collection - This looks after Fr James and the running of the Presbytery, this collection is normally taken up first and in the past has been via cash, with the current situation you may wish to contribute to this by either dropping money into the office on a Tues or Fri or you can direct debit to the account.

Name Holy Family Parish BSB- 083874 Account No. 30-816-7018

The Second Collection- this is for the running of the parish, most people either use plan giving envelopes or direct debit, if you would like to contribute to this one the details are

Name: Holy Family Parish BSB 083874 Account No. 30-806-2531

If using direct deposit, please make sure you put your name in the reference box.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

What evidence suggests that the parables of the treasure and the pearl were always intended as a couplet?

Why might Jesus have given dozens of different descriptions of what the kingdom is 'like'?

In what ways can we get 'glimpses' of the kingdom?

In what ways can you be a 'glimpse of the kingdom' for others?

How does this passage speak to our modern reality that not everyone accepts the message of Jesus?

Message from Fr James

COVID 19

Clearly, things haven't quite progressed as we hoped they would. This is leaving some feeling anxious, others frustrated, even angry. These feelings can manifest themselves in many ways. Let's be sensitive to that in others, and perhaps even attune to it in ourselves. These times certainly call for understanding and patience.

Let's continue to pray for our leaders. Whatever we may think of their decisions or performance under fire, undeniably they are carrying a huge burden of responsibility. As we all know from our own experience, no-one is immune to mistakes. We'll still be awaiting a vaccine for fallibility long after one is found for Covid 19!

Let's also pray for all those who are trying to keep our community safe, as well as for those who are suffering as a result of the ongoing restrictions and lockdowns. Loneliness and financial anxieties are among the very real challenges that many are facing.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in regards to our 'booking' system for the Sunday Masses. We'll continue to operate as per Government guidelines. Clearly, if you hear of any change to restrictions after this bulletin is printed, you can presume that we will also change our response accordingly.

Visiting the Sick

Please let me know if there are any housebound parishioners who would appreciate a visit for an Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion. I'd appreciate if you could also help me touch base with them to tee up a convenient time, so that I don't arrive unannounced while they are having an afternoon kip!



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: treasure and delight. The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realise that the treasure is ours. A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others.

The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it.

Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found the pearl of great price. What we have been given, we must now give to others. In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the kingdom of God.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Dianne Bergant CSA was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she taught from 1978 to 2014. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI; an MA and PhD in Biblical Languages and Literature from St Louis University. Amongst other things, she served as President of Catholic Biblical Association of America (2000-2001) and has been awarded honorary doctorates from several other universities. She was an active member of the Chicago Catholic/Jewish Scholars Dialogue (1988-2017) and sat on the editorial boards of *The Bible Today* (1979-2005), *Biblical Theology Bulletin* (1990-2014), *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (1992-2001), *New Theology Review* (1997-2003), *Teaching Theology and Religion* (2003-2005), and *Chicago Studies* (2003-2009). She has taught and lectured in many places in the United States and abroad and has written numerous books, articles and chapters in books.



With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions

MASS IS RESUMING *BUT* WITH RESTRICTIONS:

From now on we will be celebrating weekend Masses. Next weekend, the 1st/2nd August will be according to our usual roster for the 1st Sunday of the month.

To help accommodate some extra numbers, Fr James will also temporarily offer an extra Mass in Swan Hill every Saturday at 5.00pm, and on the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month at 5pm

BUT

According to Victorian Governments directions
only **20** worshippers can attend each service

SO

For Swan Hill, please book your seat **each week** by **Phone ONLY** from **TUESDAY onwards**
by contacting
the Parish Office on 50324144 **after** 10.30am.

Our country churches have been contacted and will make their own arrangements for their scheduled Masses

First Reading 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings:

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97
(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold.

Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight.

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways.

Your will is wonderful; indeed, therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple.

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.**Second Reading** Rom 8:28-30

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

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 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 Mt 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord:

Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: Is 55:1-3

Second Reading: Rom 8:35. 37-39

Gospel: Mt 14:13-21

Can you find the letters that spell the word **TREASURE** hidden in the picture below?

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field."

