



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday, 28 June 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

Frank Powell

Weekday Masses

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: No Mass due to funeral

Wednesday: 10am Swan Hill

Thursday: **5:30pm** Swan Hill

Friday: 12pm Swan Hill

Anniversaries

Giovanni Marsili, Kevin Agius, Celie Flanagan, Marcelle Thompson, John Ugbejie, Joan Blore, Michelle Hogan, Florence Cahill, Kevin Hogan, Iris Pye, John Jack Taylor, Louisa Aiello, Klay Stevens, Joseph Maher, Luke O'Bryan, Margaret Fitzgerald, Veronica Butler, John Phyland, Matthew Noone,

Note: Surplus Pews

Just as a follow up to last week's notice about the new chairs. We had to shuffle around a few pews to make them fit. This means we have a few surplus pews that we no longer have room for. The Parish leadership team are happy for people to put in an offer if you would like one.

We have about 4-5 of the pews from the Nyah West Church that were in the baptismal chapel. They are 1.8m long, and so small enough to fit inside. There is also one that is 2.4m long.

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

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

Saints / Feast Days

This Week

Mon: St Peter & St Paul

Tues: First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

Wed: Bl Junipero Serra

Thurs: St Oliver Plunket

Fri: St Thomas the Apostle

Sat: St Elizabeth of Portugal

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

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 was your immediate reaction to hearing or reading this passage?

How do you imagine Jesus' original audience might have reacted to this teaching?

When have you had to choose between conflicting priorities in your life?

How might you 'offer a cup of water' and welcome a disciple who comes in an unlikely form?

How might you discuss these 'hard teachings' of Jesus with a modern audience?

How might a person's faith place them in conflict with their family?

Message from Fr James

So we've had a set back on the easing of restrictions. Hopefully the outbreak will be nipped in the bud. I personally don't feel it is any reason to become anxious or afraid, but it is perhaps a helpful reminder of our need for vigilance. Let's keep praying for our leaders and for all those involved in caring for us.

As far as our response goes, not too much changes. We will just have to remain with the attendee limit of 20 for the time being and see what changes after the next round of announcements scheduled for mid July. Once again, thank you for your ongoing understanding and patience.

You might be interested in the following passages from the 'St Mary's Parish' history, detailing parish life under the threat of the Spanish flu. It seems these times aren't as 'unprecedented' as they are made out to be! I promise I'll do my best not to get cross like Fr Brazil!

Finally, please see the notice about our surplus pews. You may know someone who will be interested.

Our Parish in the time of the Spanish Influenza pandemic.

The following passages are taken from the letters of Mr Jack North, as recorded in 'St Mary's Parish Swan Hill, 1893-1993

Masks for Church-goers: "As usual I went to Church- not many present. I suppose they were afraid of getting influenza. I did not see many people wearing masks. It was very hot and the choir did not sing. Fr Brazil announced there would be no Rosary or Benediction."

Church Closure: "All the churches were closed down today however I believe the Church of England intends having an open air service tonight."

Attendance at Mass: "Mass at nine o'clock this morning, well attended and most wore masks after being requested to do so last Sunday. Father Brazil was very cross with the six or seven who did not, and announced from the altar that he would not be allowed to celebrate Mass at all if everybody did not conform."

Community Reactions: "Another case of Influenza reported- he came back from Melbourne by train. Many locals have cut short their holidays and returned home due to the influenza raging in Melbourne. The Moulamein police have been stationed on the Murray Bridge since Thursday night. They will not allow anyone to pass into Victoria from NSW and vice versa. About thirty farmers were stranded there yesterday and their provisions were handed to them by police. Great inconvenience experienced by many people."

*The Guardian also reported extension of school holidays, closure of schools from February 18 to March 10, church services limited and restricted to **20 people**.*

Bishop Foley issued an edict dispensing Catholics from the law of fast and abstinence during the epidemic.

Gospel Reflection

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we are faced with the cost of discipleship, but we are also comforted by the promise of the providence of God. Baptism is for us both death and life. Through it we enter into Christ's death and we die to lives of selfishness and sin. Through it we rise with Christ to a new life freed from everything that previously held us down. As glorious as this new life might be, it requires death to our old ways of living, and this is always difficult.

The cost of discipleship cuts right to the core of our beings, it lays bare the very structures of kinship. Baptism recreates us as children of God; through it we are given a new life and born into a new family. The bonds of discipleship are now even stronger than the bonds of blood. Discipleship requires our very lives. As disciples we can no longer put ourselves first. We must be willing to spend ourselves and to be spent, to serve others in the day to day unfolding of life. We may find such commitment very demanding, but that is part of the cost of discipleship. God promises that if we lose our lives in this way, we will really gain them. If we are unselfish in the way we share ourselves with others, we will be enriched through our generosity. If we spend ourselves and are spent in our service of others we will be filled with blessings unimaginable.

© 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 4th/5th July, 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 on Saturdays at 5.00pm.

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 2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16

A reading from the second book of the Kings:

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-3. 16-19. R. v.2**(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss.

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel.

(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**Second Reading** Rom 6:3-4. 8-11

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

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Pt 2:9

Alleluia, alleluia! You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 10:37-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.'

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.'

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.'

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: Zec 9:9-10

Second Reading: Rom 8:9.11-13

Gospel: Mt 11:25-30

