



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday, 9 August 2020



Parish Priest: Fr James Kerr

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St

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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.

Return of Stage 3 Covid-19 Restrictions: We are no longer able to gather for Mass

I'm sure you have already heard the news, but from midnight of Wednesday August 5th, Stage 3 Restrictions will return across regional Victoria. This is in response to the concerning rise of infection rates across Victoria, especially the very worrying outbreaks in Aged Care Facilities.

Unfortunately, this means our Parish will once more need to stop the celebration of public Masses until further notice. Funerals will be the only exception, and these will be limited to 10 mourners.

This is not where we wanted to find ourselves, but let's each do our bit to keep the most vulnerable safe. While we cannot meet together physically, please continue to communicate with each other by phone and other media so that no one is left isolated. I will still be available, so please don't hesitate to call.

Let's pray for our leaders. They carry a terrible burden on our behalf. Let's pray for those who are sick and for those caring for them. Let's pray for our school communities; for our staff, our students and their families. Let's also pray for the many who will be hurt by this extended period of isolation; for those facing job loss, poverty, loneliness, isolation or despair. We live in difficult times, but we mustn't lose hope. The Holy Spirit our Comforter, is always near.

I will continue to celebrate Mass each day for your intentions and for the needs of the community. Hopefully we will be able to meet together again from mid-September. In the meantime, persevere in prayer. Look to make each of your homes a little Church, each of your rooms a private sanctuary, each of your kitchen tables an altar of thanksgiving.

Fr James

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

Anniversaries

Geoff Henson, Bernard Nolen, Eileen Siepolt, Timothy McMahon, Concetta Mangiameli, Albert Livingston, Grace Dean, Antonio Miceli, John Linehan, Rosa Milazzo, Lawrence Cloonan, Robert Barry, Theresa Barry, Eileen Conlan, Patricia O'Brien, Florence McDonald, Ellen Clohesy, Leslie Clohesy, Beatrice McLean, Lola Ester Kelly, Florence Wright, Martin Irwin, Albert Cooley, Matthew McInerney, Peter Walsh, Alexander Walsh, Helena Ryan, James Irwin,

Sick List

Jarrold Crimmins, Jack Donohue, Sean Carroll, Ronald Duryea, Jude Lewis, Yvonne Annan, Sarah Kenny, Michael Bourke, Allan Mathews.

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 Presbytery 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:

Why might Jesus have sent the disciples on ahead of him?

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?

In what ways would describing the message of this story as 'have faith' be inadequate?

When have you ever felt separated from Jesus as the disciples were when the storm engulfed them?

Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid!

We've included the readings this week for both Mary MacKillop's Feast Day as well as the Sunday. Both sets of readings speak quite strikingly to the situation in which we find ourselves. Coincidentally, we hear about Elijah in both the First Readings. Just as a bit of background, the two stories both come at key moments in Elijah's ministry. He is feeling dejected and alone. He feels his faithfulness to God has gone unrewarded, or stronger still, that it has caused him great trouble and anguish.

God reaches out to Elijah in the midst of his frustration and sorrow. That's not to say that God had ever been absent. He was with Elijah every step of the way. But now he shows himself so that Elijah might be strengthened. And notice how he does so. Not in thunder nor lightning, not in an earthquake or a cloud or a terrible vision, but in a small loaf of bread and a gentle breeze.

It is our faith that God remains present to us too through these difficult times. It is no point however waiting for claps of thunder or lightning. Instead, recognise God's loving care for us in the simple things; the food on our table and the air that we breathe.



Staying Connected

A few of us have discussed how we might keep connected through this time. We will keep the bulletin going, but we also had a couple of ideas.

Firstly, if you are interested, you might like to link in over the internet on a Sunday for a Liturgy of the Word. We will read the day's Scripture together, share a little reflection and join in some prayer. If you would like to join us, please email me on james.kerr@ballarat.catholic.org.au and I will invite you to a Zoom meeting. If you haven't yet used Zoom you may need to download it, but if I can handle such a technicality I'm sure you can too! I would look to offer two times, firstly on Sunday morning at 9:30am, then in the evening at 5:30pm.

Further, if you know of anyone who would appreciate a call and a chat, please let us know. Some of the Parish Leadership Team and myself are keen to reach out. All we need are names and a contact number.

*Be calm and
full of hope!*

Saints / Feast Days This Week

Mon: St Lawrence

Tues: St Clare

Wed: St Jane Frances de Chantal

Thurs: Sts Pontian & Hippolytus

Fri: St Maximilian Kolbe

Sat: Assumption of Mary

Saint Mary of the Cross, Virgin

First Reading 1 Kgs 17:7-16

A reading from the first book of Kings:

And then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, 'Up and go to Zarephath, a Sidonian town, and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to give you food.' So he went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks. Addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please,' he said 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 63:1-8

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

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.

On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night.

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

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

Second Reading Col 3:12-17

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

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. *The Word of the Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation Mt 27:55

Alleluia, alleluia! Many women were there by the cross, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus and looked after him. Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 6:25-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus said to his disciples:

I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and what you are to wear. Surely life is more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, however much you worry, add one single cubit to your span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin: yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these.

Now if that is how God clothes the wildflowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you have so little faith? So, do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we to wear?" It is the gentiles who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

The Gospel of the Lord

Sunday Readings: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading 1 Kgs 19:9.11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings:
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.

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 Rom 9:1-5

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

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.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 19:38

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

Gospel Mt 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

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.



Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: 1 Kgs 19:9.11-13

Second Reading: Rom 9:1-5

Gospel: Mt 14:22-33