



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

## Third Sunday of Advent

### Sunday, 15 December 2019



**Parish Priest:** Fr Matthew Thomas

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

[northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Office Hours**

Tues, Thurs and Fri

10am -2pm

**Parish Admin Officers:**

Glenda Klabbbers

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**

Sheila Kelly

Thao Nguyen

**Anniversaries of Death**

Aileen Fleming, Arthur O'Bree, Brian Chanter, Charlie Taverna, Columbina Cutri, Monica Brady, Jack Barry, Mary Robbins, Geoffery Johnston, Molly Curran

**Weekday Masses**

Monday No Mass

Tuesday: 5.30pm Swan Hill

Wed: 10am Swan Hill

Thursday: 10.15am Sea Lake

Friday: 11am Holy Hour Exposition

12 noon Swan Hill

**Weekend Mass Times**

**St Mary's Swan Hill**

Sat 6.30pm Sun 10.30am

**St Mary's Sea Lake**

Sun 8.30am (1<sup>st</sup> Sun) 5pm (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun)

9.30am Assembly (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>)

Ecc Ser. (5<sup>th</sup>) 10am

**St Joseph's Lake Boga** 8.30am (4<sup>th</sup> Sun)

**St Joseph's Nandaly** 5pm (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun)

9am Assembly (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sun)

**Sacred Heart Culgoa** 5pm (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday)

9.30am Assembly (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>)

**S's Peter and Paul Quambatook**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun 8:30am 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat 6.30pm

1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Assembly 9:30am

5<sup>th</sup> Ecc Service 9:30am

**St Michael's Lalbert**

3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sun 8:30am

1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Assembly 9.30am

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au)

**Sick List**

Jarrold Crimmins, Jack Donohue, Sean Carroll, Ronald Duryea, Jude Lewis,

Yvonne Annan,

**Prayer for Rain:**

Loving God,

Maker of all things

And protector of your people,

In you we live and move and have our being.

In your mercy come to our aid, send us the

rain we need, and teach us to seek your

lasting help on our journey through life.

We ask this blessing through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

**Finances**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection (Support Clergy)

\$

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Adelaide

Tues: St Olympias

Wed: Bl Anna Rosa Gattorno

Thurs: Bl Urban V

Fri: St Dominic of Silos

Sat: St Peter Canisius

**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

# Advent Wreath

Each Sunday during the season of Advent, we light a candle on the Advent Wreath. The candle which is lit on the third Sunday of Advent is pink. All the other candles are purple. Color in the Advent Wreath.



Jesus told John the Baptist's followers to tell him all they had seen and heard. How did Jesus help the following people?

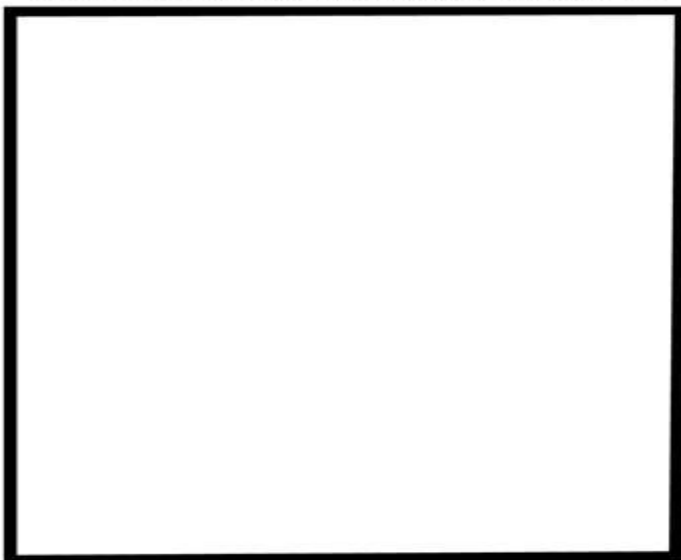
**Blind People**

**Deaf People**

**Lame People**

**Lepers**

Draw Jesus bringing the good news to the poor



Josephite Associates have sent 7 boxes of 'Wraps with Love' to Sydney to be sent to those in need. Many thanks to everyone for their ongoing support.



## Living the Gospel – Gaudete!

The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word, gaudete, (pronounced gow-day-tay) is from Latin and means *Rejoice!* The name was given to this Sunday because the entrance antiphon for the day is: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.' When Advent was observed as a more penitential season, this third Sunday was a break from the sombre mood and was more celebratory. The rose-coloured candle in the Advent wreath and rose-coloured vestments convey a mood of joy and celebration.

## Food for Thought

If a prophet were predicting signs of the coming of the Messiah today, what might those signs be?

What do you think John's messengers did after they left Jesus?

Why might the gospel writer highlight the fulfilment of prophecies about John?

What role does John serve in the Jesus story?

What evidence can be found in this passage to indicate that Jesus admired John the Baptist?

## National Prayer Campaign

*for the gift of rain, for the people affected by drought, for support services.*

Eternal God, In wisdom and love you created our earth to sustain us and give us life.

We turn to you now in faith, hope and love, asking you to look with favour on our drought stricken land, on our starving animals, on our failing crops.

Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them.

In your loving providence, send abundant rain and restore our parched earth.

Father of all compassion, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son, in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life: Renew your faithful people; Renew the face of the earth.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, help of Christians- Pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us



We welcome through Baptism into our parish family and the faith community:

**Mason Clarke**  
child of Reece and Jade



### St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

St Vincent de Paul receives very little government funding so your donation assists our conference to enable Vinnies to help those experiencing hardship. Throughout Victoria Vinnies has helped provide over \$18.3 million in material assistance. Envelopes are available at the back of the church if you wish to help.

**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers**  
Donations of unwrapped children's gifts and non-perishable food items are gratefully accepted in the baskets at the front of the church. Thank you for your support.



### Rosters for Christmas Masses

In the foyer at St Marys Swan Hill there are clipboards with the Mass times and ministries for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day that require filling. If you can assist at any of the Christmas Masses that would be gratefully appreciated.

### Columban Calendars and Majellan Christmas Cards

2020 Columban calendars are available for \$8 and Majellan Christmas cards \$10 pack of 10 available from the parish office or for country centres the sacristy.

**Baptism Preparation** – the last meeting until February 2020 will be this Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. If you are having your child baptised in January or February now is the time to attend.

### Nativity Play St Mary's Swan Hill

There will be a practice for those who wish to be in the nativity play for the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass. Practises will be on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> December during the 10.30am mass in the Parish Function Centre.

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

### Christmas Eve

6pm St Mary's Swan Hill

St Marys Sea Lake

8.30pm St Mary's Swan Hill,

St Peter and Paul's Quambatook

10.30pm St Mary's Swan Hill

### Christmas Day

9.30am St Mary's Swan Hill

### This Weeks Roster

	Sat 6.30pm Swan Hill	Sun 10.30am Swan Hill	Sun 5.00pm Sea Lake	Sat 6.30pm Quambatook	Lalbert
Minister of the Word	M Haeusler G Klabbers	B Murray J Caccavello		J Cameron	No Services at the moment
Minsters of Communion	J Klabbers, M Foley M Haeusler, + 1	S Colombo, R Jager, E Milazzo, Y Richardson, J Renda		M Stephenson	
Presentation of Gifts	J & K Noble	Bowd Family		G Cummins	
Leader	Fr Matt	Fr Matt		Fr Jose	
Music Ministry	A Woolstencroft	B Grace & B Murray	M Dorigo		
Counting Team	P McDonald	K McCosh			
Cleaning Team			K Nunn & J McLean	Glenda	

### Next Week's Roster 22nd December

	Sat 6.30pm Swan Hill	Sun 10.30am Swan Hill	Sun 9.30am Sea Lake	Sun 9.30am Quambatook	Lalbert
Minister of the Word	Glenda Klabbers	Kate Quinn Ginny Gook		N Ryan	No Services at the moment
Minsters of Communion	M Derham, T McRae, K Hoare, C Billing	F Fogarty, C Alderuccio, K smith, J Ingram +2		L Graham	
Presentation of Gifts	S Pearse C Palmer	G Harrower T Brady		n/a	
Leader	Fr Matt	Fr Matt		TBA	
Music Ministry	J Taverna	B Wood	M Dorigo		
Counting Team	R Hoare	M Hoare			
Cleaning Team			K Nunn & J McLean	Glenda	

**First Reading** Is 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

**(R.) Lord, come and save us.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

**(R.) Lord, come and save us.**

**Second Reading** Jas 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James;

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation** Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**Gospel** Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew;

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Next Week's Readings:**

First Reading: Is 7:10-14

Second Reading: Rom 1:1-7

Gospel: Mt 1:18-24

# SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

## John the Baptist

*Jesus is not recorded as asking the messengers about John's wellbeing. He doesn't appear to express any concern about John's imprisonment. Yet Jesus must have felt this situation very deeply. John the Baptist and Jesus were related; they were cousins. The depth of his feeling is reflected when Jesus speaks so positively and powerfully about John. It reads almost as a eulogy that might be given at a funeral; praising the greatness of the deceased. Yet regardless of John's greatness, Jesus assures his audience that even the least in the kingdom is greater than John.*