



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, 22 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

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

Gordon Moar

River Purtell

Anniversaries of Death

Jim Romeo, George Livingston, Shirley Vains, Alexander Irwin, Margaret Cleary, Catherine Spry, Robert O'Meara, Arthur O'Bree, Monica Brady, Jack Barry, Mary Robbins, Geoffery Johnston, Molly Curran, Robert O'Meara, Alice Shanahan

Weekday Masses

Monday No Mass

Tuesday: Christmas Eve Timetable

Wed: Christmas Day Timetable

Thursday: No Mass

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 (1st Sun) 5pm (3rd Sun)

9.30am Assembly (2nd, 4th)

Ecc Ser. (5th) 10am

St Joseph's Lake Boga 8.30am (4th Sun)

St Joseph's Nandaly 5pm (2nd Sun)

9am Assembly (1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sun)

Sacred Heart Culgoa 5pm (2nd Friday)

9.30am Assembly (1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th)

S's Peter and Paul Quambatook

2nd Sun 8:30am 3rd Sat 6.30pm

1st and 4th Assembly 9:30am

5th Ecc Service 9:30am

St Michael's Lalbert

3rd and 5th Sun 8:30am

1st 2nd and 4th Assembly 9.30am

As our school begin holidays may this be a time of relaxation and enjoyment.

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,

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

1st Collection (Support Clergy)

\$875.20

2nd Collection (Parish Support)

Including C/Cards and D/Debt

\$1020.50

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 John Kanty

Tues: St Peter Nolasco

Wed: Christmas, the Birthday of Jesus

Thurs: St Stephen

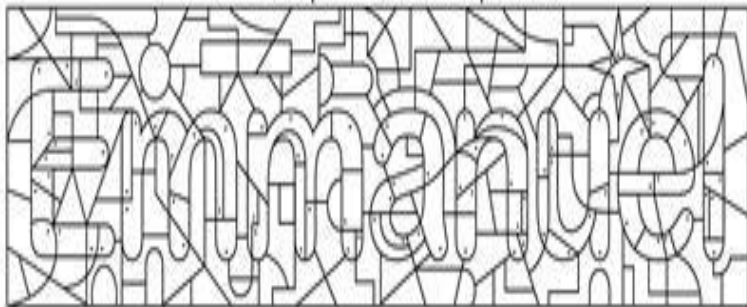
Fri: St John the Apostle

Sat: The Holy Innocents

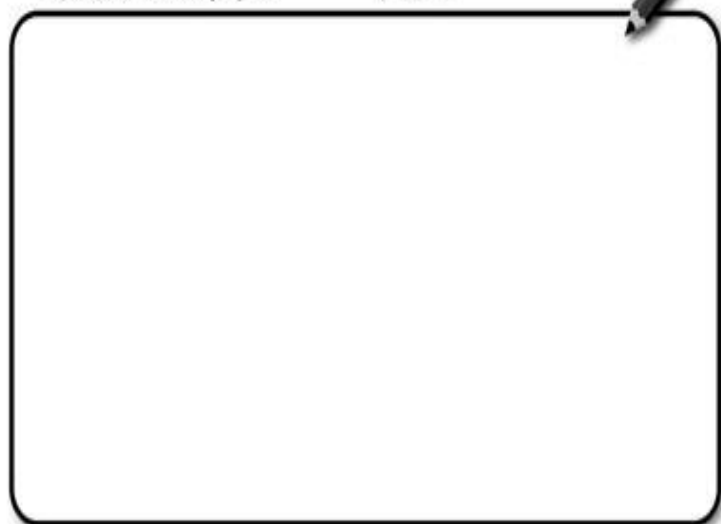
Child Safe Church

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

Color in the shapes with dots to reveal a special name.



At Christmas time we celebrate the birth of Jesus by doing special things. Draw a picture of yourself doing something special for your family or friends during Christmas.



Follow the branch that extends from King David to the birth of Jesus.

Living the Gospel – Advent

Emmanuel; God-is-with-us – that’s what we celebrate through Christmas and that’s what we’ve been preparing for during Advent. We celebrate God-with-us in a particular time and place through our celebration of the birth of Jesus. But we remember it every year because we also use the Christmas celebration to remind ourselves that God continues to be with us. That is what is so remarkable about the Christmas season: that God-is-with-us **now**, not just in a stable in Palestine so many years ago, but now! Advent is the time to remind ourselves of this incredible truth and prepare ourselves to acknowledge it once again.

Food for Thought

How do you think Joseph felt when he learnt that Mary was pregnant?

What social and cultural issues do you think Joseph and Mary may have had to overcome?

How might a belief that God-is-with-us impact upon our actions and attitudes?

Where do you see signs that God-is-with-us?

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:

Adeline Robinson

child of

Timothy and Lyndal.



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.

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. Last practise today Sunday, 22nd 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	Sun 9.30am Quambatook	Lalbert
Minister of the Word	G 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	Fr Matt	TBA	
Music Ministry	J Taverna	B Wood	M Dorigo		
Counting Team	R Hoare	M Hoare			
Cleaning Team			L Durie & K McKenzie	Glenda	

Next Week's Roster 29th December

	Sat 6.30pm Swan Hill	Sun 10.30am Swan Hill	Sun 10.00am Sea Lake	Sun 9.30am Quambatook	Lalbert
Minister of the Word	T McRae H Hogan	Y Richardson D Kelly	ECUMENICAL SERVICE	ECUMENICAL SERVICE	No Services at the moment
Minsters of Communion	M Hoare, C Page B McCartney, H Lewis,	D Dacey, D Kelly, B Ford, M Kiley, T Brady.			
Presentation of Gifts	J & E Elliott	H Tuntar L Slattery		n/a	
Leader	Fr Matt	Fr Matt		TBA	
Music Ministry	J Taverna	B Grace & C Smith	M Dorigo		
Counting Team	B Ford	P Rosaia			
Cleaning Team			T Tait & B Alday	Glenda	

First Reading Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah;

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7, 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob.

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

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

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord.



Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David. This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Word of the Lord.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Today's first reading is from the prophet Isaiah and contains the prophecy that is quoted in the gospel passage. The book of Isaiah was written at a time when the people of Israel were under threat and had once again fallen away from their covenant with God. Isaiah's prophecy is one of the 'Messiah' prophecies but despite the future-focus is a promise to the people of the time that God-is-with-us. The promise is that God-is-with-us now, despite the conditions we find ourselves in, and God-will-be-with-us in the future when God's Messiah is born of a young woman.

Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

Second Reading: Col 3:12-21

Gospel: Mt 2:13-15. 19-23

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