



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

### Sunday, 5 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](mailto: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**

Dominic Carlo

**Weekday Masses**

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 5:30pm Swan Hill

Wednesday: 10am Swan Hill

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

Friday: 12pm Swan Hill

**Anniversaries**

John Moore, Tony Tripodi, Trevor Clohesy,

Antonio Frazzica, Guiseppe Maiuto,

Peter Hoare, Maria Mangiamelli,

Antonio Carpenteri, Alyce Mikes, Zoe Wait,

Win Farrell, Kathy Scott, Michael Hogan,

Leigh Phyland, Ellie Glowrey, Nita Hinton,

John Joseph Bell, Salvatore Giampaolo,

Catherine, Charles & Mary Turner, Kevin

McLoughlan, Ossie Coughlan, John Dunstan

Tom Barry

**Note: Surplus Pews**

Just as a follow up to our earlier 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 had a bit of interest so far, but still have about 3-4 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.

**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, 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**

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 Maria Goretti

Tues: Bl Peter To Rot

Wed: Bl Pier Giorgio Frassati

Thurs: St Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions

Fri: St Veronica Giuliani

Sat: St Benedict

**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:**

For what is Jesus giving thanks to the Father?

What advantage do 'mere children' have over the 'learned and the clever'?

How does this explanation of 'yoke' change your understanding of the passage?

How might people have reacted to Jesus saying, 'My yoke is easy and my burden light'?

In what ways do you try to shoulder the yoke of Jesus?

What message do you take from today's gospel and reflection?

### **Message from Fr James**

Thanks once more to everyone for your patience and understanding around our limitations on numbers at Sunday Mass. We are now seeing in the news that there is certainly reason for us to keep vigilant, but I am still confident it won't be too long before restrictions will be eased once more. Let's continue to keep our leaders and those on the front line in our prayers.

Every day in history has its challenges, and it shouldn't surprise us that ours are no exception. We really do have to fall back on our trust in God and his promises. We have to rely on faith and hope. We celebrated the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle on Friday. Poor Thomas often gets a bit of a bad rap for at first failing to believe that Jesus had indeed risen and come back from the dead. That episode in John's Gospel is of course where the phrase 'doubting Thomas' comes from. But let's not be too harsh on ol' Tom. Sure, he stumbled, but once he had for himself seen the risen Christ, he also had the faith to recognise his true nature as both God and man. Furthermore, his little stumble became the occasion for Jesus to strengthen us on our own journey with the words 'Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet believe.' It is almost like a full stop to the Beatitudes in Matthew and Luke. We cannot always see where God might be leading us, nor can we always recognise easily his abiding presence among us. But faith leads us on. It can be encouraging to let Jesus' words speak directly to us, 'Blessed are *you*, who have not seen, and yet believe.'

Just one update on a bit of parish news. We have heard back from our insurance assessor and repair works to St Michael's Church in Lalbert will commence soon. Hopefully it won't be too long therefore until we can open it again for use.

### **More from "St Mary's Parish Swan Hill, 1893-1993"**

*Quite a few appreciated last week's exert from the Swan Hill Parish History. I thought then I might share this further passage, "The Church is the people". This understanding has been especially important in these last few months. When we can't gather physically as a parish, it certainly pushes our focus back on each of our homes being a little domestic Church.*

The Church is the people and certainly no account of the development of Catholic life in the Mallee, or anywhere else, could be attempted without telling of the faith, loyalty, perseverance and hard work of the early Catholic settlers, their wives, children and even grandchildren in supporting their priests, and, later, nuns- offering their homes for refreshment and rest in the horse and buggy days, lending fresh horses to priests going farther to celebrate more Masses, gathering any neighbours within travelling distance for Mass in their homes, giving what money they could, in good seasons and bad, to build churches, schools and presbyteries as need and opportunity arose.

At the same time, the children were taught about their faith and the Commandments, at home, and the family Rosary was a daily feature of practically every household and played a big part in the strengthening that faith and engendering a love of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the children.

## ***Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter***

When we hear the term, *yoke*, we tend to think about the yoke that is used to harness oxen together or the yoke that someone might carry on their shoulder to balance a heavy load. This yoke across the shoulder was adopted into tailoring and so the shoulder piece set into a shirt is also called a yoke. However, in the Jewish tradition there is a completely different meaning to the term. The yoke of a rabbi was his particular interpretation of Torah (the Law); his particular teaching. Disciples who followed a particular rabbi sought to take on his yoke; his particular interpretation. The yoke of any rabbi was best identified by asking him, 'Which is the greatest commandment?' A rabbi's answer to this question revealed his interpretation of Torah. When Jesus is asked that question, he answers, 'Love God and love your neighbour,' and goes on to say that all of the rest of the Law and the prophets flows on from these two commandments. This is the yoke – the interpretation of Torah – that Jesus taught.

In today's gospel, Jesus calls to him all those who labour and are overburdened. It is the Pharisaic interpretation of the Law that burdens these people. Trying to maintain the Law was burdensome and complicated for the everyday person. Jesus says, 'Shoulder *my* yoke and learn from me ... my yoke is easy.' The yoke of Jesus was easy: Love God and love your neighbour. Compared to the 613 *mitzvot* (commands) set out in the Torah and strictly maintained by the Pharisees, the yoke of Jesus was incredibly easy to understand and adopt. So simple, in fact, that it required a child-like simplicity to accept this yoke

© Greg Sunter

**Greg Sunter** has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.



**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 11/12th July, will be according to our usual roster for the 2nd 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** Zec 9:9-10

A reading from the prophet Zechariah

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!  
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!  
See now, your king comes to you;  
he is victorious, he is triumphant,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
He will banish chariots from Ephraim  
and horses from Jerusalem;  
the bow of war will be banished.  
He will proclaim peace for the nations.  
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,  
from the River to the ends of the earth.'

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 144:1-2. 8-11. 13-14. R. v.1

**(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

I will give you glory, O God my King, I will bless your name for ever. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God.

The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds. The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down.

**(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

**Second Reading** Rom 8:9.11-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Next Week's Readings:**

First Reading: Is 55:10-11

Second Reading: Rom 8:18-23

Gospel: Mt 13:1-23

**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 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Plenary Council Update**

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. While it's in a context more different than we could have ever expected, the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is more important than ever. The six discernment papers have been released and are available to be read. Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. For the month of July we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Missionary & Evangelising?** 'Mission' is God's initiative and proceeds from the Trinity, whose love overflows in creation and redemption. *The Word and Spirit are present and active in the unfolding of the universe and in all human history, as evidenced in the goodness and truth found in all cultures and societies. The incarnate Son of God through his life, ministry, death and resurrection revealed God to us and redeemed us in a unique and unsurpassable way through his paschal sacrifice. His evangelising activity gave birth to the Church which is the visible manifestation of the Gospel command to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations" (Mt 28:19).* Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. We welcome any comments. Please send comments through [jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au). Read the discernment paper. Visit the Missionary and Evangelising theme's page.