



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday, 12 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

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

Anniversaries

Angelo Berlingeri, Tom Barry, Rosaria Taverna, Margaret Williamson, Jack Meehan, Ian Smyth, Sam Marsolino, Jack Phyland, Frank Mangiameli, Katherine Livingston, Charlie Taverna, Bernard Foott, Patrick Hogan, Ted Meney, Owen Stanley,

Masses this coming week

Weekdays 13th-17th July

(no need to book in)

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 5:30pm Swan Hill

Wednesday: **12pm** Swan Hill
(This week only- I have to be in Lalbert at 10am)

Thursday: **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

10am Swan Hill

5pm Confession Swan Hill

5:30pm Swan Hill

Friday: 12pm Swan Hill

Weekend Masses: 18th-19th July

(please book in as per notice)

Saturday:

5pm Swan Hill

6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday

8:30am Swan Hill

(This week only)

10:30am Swan Hill

5pm Sea Lake (School Mass)

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

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 during this difficult time, through your direct deposits, or dropping off at the office. It is greatly appreciated.

Saints / Feast Days

This Week

Mon: St Henry 11

Tues: St Camillus de Lellis

Wed: St Bonaventure

Fri: Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sat: St Leo 1V

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 explanation does Jesus give for speaking in parables?

What reason/s can you suggest for Jesus not teaching in a more explicit way?

What are the 'thorns' in your life that fight for your attention with your faith?

What is a contemporary metaphor that might adequately replace the image of a sower?

What opportunities exist in your life to be the sower who scatters the seed?

Message from Fr James

Only a couple of weeks ago we were hopefully anticipating the loosening of restrictions so that 50 of us could gather at a time. How quickly circumstances can change. Thankfully in our shire we can still gather with the limit of 20. We will continue on as we have been, but clearly the outbreak is a reminder to us of just how seriously we need to take the precautions. And it goes without saying, that if you hear on the news that our shire or indeed the whole State is going into lock down, we will then have to cancel our public Masses. But let's hope it doesn't come to that.

Let's keep our fellow Victorians who are returning to lock down in our prayers, especially those for whom this will be particularly burdensome. Some will be hit particularly hard by the isolation. Some may dread the acute sense of loneliness, some will fear losing their businesses or jobs, some will be missing out on the level of care they need. For others, the struggle won't be quite so intense, but will be very real nonetheless. Not every parent will be looking forward to another round of home schooling! And for others even boredom can bring its challenges. Let's also be particularly mindful of our fellow parishioners. Some will be hit harder by border closures, and some will be cut off for the time being from family and support in Melbourne. Let's look out for one another.

As difficult as the new rounds of isolation will be, let's also see in them opportunities for growth. Our Gospel this Sunday is the Parable of the Sower. At first reading, it helps us make sense of why some receive God's Word, bearing fruit in their hearts, whereas for others the shoot seems to falter. There is another layer though too- it can help us to recognise what we might do to better prepare our own hearts for the seed of the Gospel. The quiet of this time is a perfect opportunity to reflect. Where are the hard places in our hearts where the seed cannot take root? What are the weeds of distraction and anxiety that stifle their growth? How might we better till the soil of our hearts? Because truly, God does the rest. He plants the seed, he sends the rain and the sun and gives the growth. Our part is to ready ourselves. Let's use this extended time of limited movement for just that. Let's embrace the silence and stillness. God can be found there.

There is a beautiful passage of scripture telling of how Elijah encountered God in just that.

Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave.

That encounter occurred on Mount Carmel. Coincidentally, this Thursday sees the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. In other circumstances, we would be celebrating this with a great Festa. Unfortunately that is not an option this year. I am however putting on an extra Mass. May Our Lady of Mount Carmel's protection be over drawn over all of us.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Creation Set Free

Here is Jesus telling another story about nature, in this case about soil good enough to bear a crop. Is he just a keen observer of the farmers of his time? No.

Throughout the Gospels there is a harmony between Jesus and the natural creation of a profound kind. But St Paul intuited that link at a profound level in the case of the Risen Lord. This led him to make the most amazing claim that:

'The creation itself would be set free from its slavery to decay in order to share the freedom associated with the glory of the children of God.'

We, and the whole cosmos, share the legacy of a common destiny brought about by the powerful victory of Christ over the final instance of decay, destruction and every type of death.

We could pause a moment to pray with the angels as we do at every Mass:

'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven *and earth* are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is currently Vicar General in the Archdiocese and is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

Living the Gospel – Scatter that seed!

The teaching of the parable of the sower is as true for us today as it was in its original context. The word of the kingdom continues to fall on people who are at various stages of readiness to receive it. What Jesus suggests to his disciples – and to us – is that the 'good soil' can't always be predicted. Jesus doesn't tell his disciples to only sow the word in people who are receptive. Rather, he wants them – and us – to scatter the word everywhere and to rejoice when it does find good soil and yields a rich harvest.



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 18/19th July, will be according to our usual roster for the 3rd 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, and this coming weekend **only** at 8:30am Sunday as well.

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 Is 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.

Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain.

And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Second Reading Rom 8:18-23

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

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!



Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: Wis 12:13.16-19

Second Reading: Rom 8:26-27

Gospel: Mt 13:24-43

Gospel Mt 13:1-9 (longer version Mt 13:1-23)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

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. Read the discernment paper. Visit the Missionary and Evangelising theme's page.