



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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

### Sunday, 19 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

Bill Ladson

#### Anniversaries

Maria Lolicato, Lorna Kennedy, Leonardo Caccavello, May Lewis, Grace Scalora, Kathleen Phyland, Adrianna Klabbers, Michael Tuohey Sheila, Dorothy, & Kath O'Bryan, , Jim Curran, Kathleen Magee. Adele, Concetta & Pasquale Colombo

#### Masses this coming week

**Weekdays 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July**

*(no need to book in)*

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 5:30pm Swan Hill

Wednesday: 9.00am Swan Hill

Thursday: **10:15am Sea Lake**

*5pm Confession Swan Hill*

5:30pm Swan Hill

Friday: 12pm Swan Hill

**Weekend Masses: 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July**

*(please book in as per notice)*

Saturday:

5pm Swan Hill

6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday

8:30am Lake Boga

10:30am Swan Hill

**5pm Swan Hill**

*(This weekend only)*

#### 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)

#### 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

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 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 Apollinaris

Tues: St Lawrence of Brindisi

Wed: St Mary Magdalene

Thurs: St Bridget of Sweden

Fri: St Sharbel Makhloof

Sat: St James, tapostle

**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 purpose might the gospel writer have had in placing these three parables so close together?

What difference does it make to interpret the three parables together rather than individually?

In what ways do these parables challenge 'conventional wisdom' of the time?

What does this passage tell us about how we should try to bring about the kingdom today?

What problems may arise from quoting a short gospel extract out of its intended context?

### ***Message from Fr James***

#### **Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

Many thanks to all those who helped prepare for our 'miniaturised Festa' of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The flowers were beautiful. Thank you too for the offerings. They will go towards covering the cost of the new chairs.

#### **Note on Masses this coming week**

Just to note, Wednesday Mass this coming week will be at 9am, not 10am. I will also celebrate an extra Mass on Sunday evening in Swan Hill. I intend to do this on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weekends of the month until our restrictions on numbers are eased. This will give a few more parishioners a chance to attend the Mass.

#### **Visiting the Sick**

Please let me know if there are any housebound parishioners who would appreciate a visit for an Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion. I'd appreciate if you could also help me touch base with them to tee up a convenient time, so that I don't arrive unannounced while they are having an afternoon kip!

#### **The Kingdom of Heaven**

Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom is central to his teaching. He speaks of it again and again, so we know it must be important. However, it is not always so easy to pin down what he means. Part of our difficulty is one of translation. When we hear 'kingdom', we think of a territory or patch of land that is bound by borders. It is something, static, dead. This is clearly not what Jesus means. But if we start thinking instead of a kingdom in terms of the king's sovereignty or lordship, and the loyalty and fidelity due to him, then we start getting closer to the mark. When Jesus speaks of the Kingdom of Heaven or Kingdom of God (the meaning is the same), he is really just speaking of God's living presence and action in our midst. Or to put it even more simply, he is proclaiming the 'God lives!'

When we hear of the images he uses in this Sunday's Gospel, let us keep that wider picture in mind. The images of the wheat and the weeds, the mustard seed and the leaven are all different ways for us to understand how God acts even today and to recognise his works among us. We will hear three more images next week. Each image helps us to see more clearly and in its own way challenges us to faith.

That last bit is important. Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom is not a static teaching, but an ongoing call to conversion and living faith.

## 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 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> July, will be according to our usual roster for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

To help accommodate some extra numbers, Fr James will also temporarily offer an extra Mass in Swan Hill every Saturday at 5.00pm, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 5pm

### **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** Wis 12:13.16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom:

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

**(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice.

All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God.

But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me.

**(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

**Second Reading** Rom 8:26-27

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

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**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 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

**Next Week's Readings:**

First Reading: 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

Second Reading: Rom 8:28-30

Gospel: Mt 13:44-52