



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

Incorporating the Communities of

St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Michael's Lalbert, St Joseph's Lake Boga, St Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill
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PALM SUNDAY 10TH APRIL 2022

LUKE'S SPECIAL PERSPECTIVE: MERCY

Holy Week is here. Once again we immerse ourselves into the awesome Mystery of Our Lord's Passion. Each Gospel helps shed a special light on his journey to the Cross. This year we hear from Luke. There are some details that are unique to it. Some of these are small and easy to miss. For example, each Gospel tells of Jesus' prediction that Peter will betray him, but only in Luke do we also get a glimpse of his subsequent reconciliation, to the time when he will return "to strengthen your brothers." And again, during Jesus' arrest, one of his disciples strikes the high priest's servant and cuts off his ear. This detail is in all the Gospels, but only in Luke do we also hear that Jesus then touches the man and heals him.



Some other details seem a little odd. Only in Luke do we hear of the prisoner exchange between Pilate and Herod during Jesus' trial, and their subsequent reconciliation and friendship. Still other details are so dear to us that we can hardly imagine the Passion without them. The words "Father, forgive them" are so engrained in our hearts that we almost subconsciously add them in when we hear the other accounts... and yet they only appear in Luke. And the good thief crying out "Jesus, remember me!" to then be comforted with the promise, "Today, you will be with me in paradise" ... again, this is only found in Luke.

If you take all these details together, can you begin to see what is so special about Luke's depiction of the Passion? These little side accounts of reconciliation, forgiveness and healing... or if we were to choose just a single word... MERCY.

Luke paints this picture of Mercy in a way no one else can. When we think of the Cross we think of Mercy, and we can thank Luke for that. Tradition holds that he was a doctor, and in large part this is simply reading back from his Gospel's clear depiction of Jesus as the Divine Physician and Merciful Healer. Just like the good thief crucified beside him, Luke invites us again and again to entrust ourselves to Jesus and his mercy, without any fear or hesitation. With arms stretched out wide, He stands always ready to embrace us.

Parish Contact Details:

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Office Hrs: Tues, Wed and Fri 10:30 -2:30

Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

Parish Admin Officers:

Glenda Klabbers

Mary Kennedy

Child Protection Officers:

Damian and Karen Kelly

Child Safe Church

Here in the Parish of Holy Family North East Mallee we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office.



Please keep in your prayers

Recent Deaths

Betty Currie

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Carmeno Pellegrino, Bub O'Bree, Cath Baker,
Pat Dillon, Vincent Lavey, Mary Anne Foott, Ian McKay,
Kath Hogan, Jane McInerney, Michael Clohesy,
Moira Ryan, Kathleen Ledwich, Mary McMurtrie,
Michael Upton,

SICK LIST

Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott, Jarrod Crimmins, Jack
Donohue, Jude Lewis, Yvonne Annan, Sarah Kenny,
Michael Bourke, Bridget Phyland, Carmel Ryan

THIS WEEKEND (9TH/10TH APRIL)

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

Friday 5pm Culgoa
Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

HOLY WEEK (SWAN HILL)

Tuesday: Confession 5pm, Mass 5.30pm
Wednesday Mass 10am (*With Anointing of the Sick*)

EASTER TRIDUUM (SWAN HILL)

HOLY THURSDAY:

Confessions 5pm,
Mass of the Lord's Supper 6:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY:

Confessions 9-11am, Stations & *Chaplet* (in Church) 11am

Passion of the Lord 3pm

Confessions 5pm-6pm

HOLY SATURDAY:

Confessions 9-11am, 2-3pm; *Chaplet Divine Mercy 3pm*

Easter Vigil 6:30pm

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 8.30am Lalbert
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Chaplet Divine Mercy 3pm Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Sea Lake
Also 5pm Swan Hill (Syro-Malabar Rite)

NOTICES

FOR ALL WHO ARE TRAVELLING

Many of you will be heading away for Easter. We wish you safe travels and a blessed and joy-filled few days. See you when you are back!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – Sunday 24th April

The Sunday after Easter is observed as a special celebration of Divine Mercy. To commemorate this great feast, we will pray together as Parish Community the Divine Mercy Chaplet after our weekend Masses. For those who would like to join, an additional, special observance for Divine Mercy Sunday will be held from 2pm - 3.30pm.

A schedule for the celebration is as follows:

- 2pm - 3pm Adoration with Reconciliation available
- 2.30pm - Rosary
- 3pm - Divine Mercy Chaplet in Song with Benediction to finish
- Drinks and nibbles to follow (anything you can bring to share will be greatly appreciated!)

'Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to my mercy.' (Diary 300)

Readings Next Week: Easter Sunday

First Reading: Acts 10:34. 37-43
Second Reading: Col 3:1-4
Gospel: Lk 24:1-12

COLLECTIONS LAST 2 WEEKENDS

1st Presbytery: \$ 1790
2nd Parish: \$ 1837

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.

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake

Principal: Kate Nunn
47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake
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St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin
2 Murlong St Swan Hill
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St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler
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DIVINE MERCY CONTINUED: IMAGE & NOVENA

The Image of Divine Mercy. Jesus told St. Faustina to have an image painted just as He looked when He appeared to her. She obeyed and had it painted by a Polish artist, Eugene Kazimirowski. It took him more than 12 tries before Faustina accepted it as satisfactory.



As you can see from the image right here to the right, Jesus' right hand is raised in blessing. Also, He's taking a step toward us, and two rays of light issue from His Heart: a red ray and a pale ray, representing the blood and water that gushed forth from His pierced side on the Cross. At the bottom of the image, Jesus wanted a prayer to be written, "Jesus, I trust in You." He also promised to give great graces through it. For instance, one time, He said: "I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces ... that vessel is this image with the signature, 'Jesus, I trust in You.' By means of this image, I shall be granting many graces to souls."

We've received countless testimonies from people who have experienced special graces through the Divine Mercy image. One grace that comes through the image is this: It heals the way people often mistakenly view God. Here's what we mean. People too often have a false image of God. They're afraid of Him and see Him as some mean ogre just out to ruin their fun. Well, the Image of Divine Mercy helps to change that. In it, we discover our Merciful Savior who surely calls us to conversion but who also blesses us, loves us, and is deserving of all of our trust.

The Novena to Divine Mercy. A novena is basically nine days of prayer in a row. Jesus taught St. Faustina a novena that He wanted her to pray and that we can all pray. Each day He asked that a different group of people be entrusted to Him (for example, "all sinners" on day one and "all priests and religious" on day two). Before moving to the next point, we'd just like to answer a question that people often ask about the novena: "When should I begin?" Well, it can be prayed at any time, but a special time to pray it is in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday. The starting date for the novena, combined with praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, is Good Friday, and it ends on the Saturday after Easter Sunday, the day before Divine Mercy Sunday. (Novenas typically end the day before the feast.) While you don't have to pray this novena to obtain the grace of Divine Mercy Sunday, it is a good way to prepare, and Jesus promised, "By this novena, I will grant every possible grace to souls."

NEXT WEEK: THE FEAST

(Note from Fr James: These prayers are available for anyone who would like to observe this novena. They can be prayed anywhere, but if you like you can join me in the Church at the times advertised in the bulletin)

First Reading Is 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.'

Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet.

I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.'

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Second Reading Phil 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

TODAYS READING BEGIN OVER THE PAGE

GOSPEL Lk 23:1-49

Shorter version (Longer version will be read during Mass)

The elders of the people and the chief priests and scribes rose, and they brought Jesus before Pilate.

They began their accusation by saying, 'We found this man inciting our people to revolt, opposing payment of tribute to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king.' Pilate put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'It is you who say it' he replied. Pilate then said to the chief priests and the crowd, 'I find no case against this man.' But they persisted, 'He is inflaming the people with his teaching all over Judaea; it has come all the way from Galilee, where he started, down to here.' When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man were a Galilean; and finding that he came under Herod's jurisdiction he passed him over to Herod who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Herod was delighted to see Jesus; he had heard about him and had been wanting for a long time to set eyes on him; moreover, he was hoping to see some miracle worked by him. So he questioned him at some length; but without getting any reply. Meanwhile the chief priests and the scribes were there, violently pressing their accusations. Then Herod, together with his guards, treated him with contempt and made fun of him; he put a rich cloak on him and sent him back to Pilate. And though Herod and Pilate had been enemies before, they were reconciled that same day.

Pilate then summoned the chief priests and the leading men and the people. 'You brought this man before me' he said 'as a political agitator. Now I have gone into the matter myself in your presence and found no case against the man in respect of all the charges you bring against him. Nor has Herod either, since he has sent him back to us. As you can see, the man has done nothing that deserves death, so I shall have him flogged and then let him go.' But as one man they howled, 'Away with him! Give us Barabbas!' (This man had been thrown into prison for causing a riot in the city and for murder.)

Pilate was anxious to set Jesus free and addressed them again, but they shouted back, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' And for the third time he spoke to them, 'Why? What harm has this man done? I have found no case against him that deserves death, so I shall have him punished and then let him go.' But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices, demanding that he should be crucified. And their shouts were growing louder.

Pilate then gave his verdict: their demand was to be granted. He released the man they asked for, who had been imprisoned for rioting and murder, and handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they pleased.

As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and

made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus. Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too, who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days will surely come when people will say, "Happy are those who are barren, the wombs that have never borne, the breasts that have never suckled!" Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!"; to the hills, "Cover us!" For if men use the green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry?' Now with him they were also leading out two other criminals to be executed.

When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said, 'Father forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.' Then they cast lots to share out his clothing.

The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it; we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' With these words he breathed his last.

All kneel and pause a moment.

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he gave praise to God and said, 'This was a great and good man.' And when all the people who had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they went home beating their breasts.

All his friends stood at a distance; so also did the women who had accompanied him from Galilee, and they saw all this happen.

The Gospel of the Lord.