



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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Website: northeastmallee.org.au



EASTER SUNDAY 17TH APRIL 2022



DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?

Suffering could not daunt him.

Death could not defeat him.

Love won over fear.

Life over death.

Christ is Risen!

Christ is alive!

So come now and awake!

Let us rise with him today!

Cast aside all fear,

Take courage and rise up!

Trust in Life! Trust in Love!

Trust in Grace! Hope in Him!

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Gerrard Magee, Kealan Snowden, Tim Power,
Margaret Walsh, Agnes Burns, Matthew O'Brien,
Irene Cattran, Danny Lavey, John O'Brien

SICK LIST

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

THIS WEEKEND: EASTER (16/17TH APRIL)

Sacred Triduum

HOLY THURSDAY

Confessions 5-6pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper 6:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Confessions 9-11am, Stations & Chaplet 11am

Passion of Our Lord: 3pm

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)

EASTER WEEK IN SWAN HILL

Chaplet Divine Mercy each day at 3pm

Tuesday: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5.30pm

Wednesday: Mass 10am, Confessions 5-6pm

Thursday: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5:30pm

Friday: Adoration 11am, Mass 12pm, Conf 5-6pm

Saturday: Confessions 9-10am & 5-6pm

NEXT: DIVINE MERCY (23RD/24TH APRIL)

Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

TO ALL OUR VISITORS... WELCOME!

To all those who are visiting, we wish you every welcome and thanks for joining us as we celebrate Easter. May it be a blessed time for you and your loved ones.

PROJECT COMPASSION

A big thank you to all who have already brought in their giving envelopes. If there are any boxes, could you please bring them in over the next couple of weekends.

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.

The schedule 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!)

Readings Next Week: 2nd Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 5:12-16

Second Reading: Rv 1:9-13, 17-19

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

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

Ph: 03 5070 1272

Principal@smsealake.catholic.edu.au

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

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

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Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au



DIVINE MERCY CONTINUED: THE GREAT FEAST!

Divine Mercy Sunday falls on the Second Sunday of Easter. What's so great about Divine Mercy Sunday? Well, look at it this way: What's the most important feast day of the year? Easter, right? And how many days is Easter? We celebrate it for eight full days, which is why we call it the Octave of Easter. But the last day is the greatest of all. The eighth day. It's the climax of the whole feast. Well, Divine Mercy Sunday is the eighth day of Easter, the climax of the entire Easter celebration. In a sense, it's the most important day of the most important feast!

Divine Mercy Sunday existed way before St. Faustina. In fact, it has its roots in the Easter celebrations of the early Church. When Jesus told Faustina that He wanted the feast celebrated, she asked some priests and theologians about it, and they told her, "There already is such a feast." So, Faustina went back to Jesus and told Him, "They tell me that there already is such a feast, and so why should I talk about it?" Jesus responded, "And who knows anything about this feast? No one!" (Diary of St. Faustina, 341). In other words, the great feast of mercy had been forgotten and was almost completely unknown. So, you can imagine Jesus saying to Faustina, "Look, I want people to know and celebrate this feast. And to sweeten the deal, I promise to give great graces on Divine Mercy Sunday." Specifically, he told her: "On that day [Divine Mercy Sunday], the very depths of My tender mercy are opened. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. ... On that day, all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. (Diary of St. Faustina, 699)"

Thousands upon thousands of people attest to the superpower of prayer offered on Divine Mercy Sunday. But we still haven't gotten to our favourite part of Divine Mercy Sunday, what we call "the clean slate grace." Regarding Divine Mercy Sunday, Jesus told St. Faustina, "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (699). Now, that's a big deal. It means that if we were to die right after receiving this grace, then we wouldn't have to go to purgatory! In other words, our slate is wiped clean. In fact, the theologian who was assigned by the future Pope John Paul II to investigate

the question "What is the grace of Mercy Sunday?" likened the grace to a second baptism. Of course, it's not the same as Baptism, but it is an extraordinary grace of being cleansed of sin and the punishment due to sin.

Unfortunately, a lot of people confuse the great grace of Divine Mercy Sunday with a plenary indulgence. It's not the same thing. To get a plenary indulgence, you need to do the indulgenced act, pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, go to confession (within 20 days), receive Holy Communion, and be detached from all sin. That last one is the kicker. Are we detached from all sin? Saint Philip Neri was speaking to a large crowd of people who had gathered for some Church event to receive a plenary indulgence, and the Holy Spirit told St. Philip that only two people in the whole crowd were going to receive the plenary indulgence: Philip himself and a seven-year-old boy – presumably because everyone else was attached to sin.

Now, the good news about the grace of Divine Mercy Sunday is that to receive it, you simply need to go to confession before or on the feast – the experts say that sometime during Lent suffices – be in the state of grace (no mortal sin), and receive Holy Communion with the intention of obtaining the promised grace. Of course, we should also do acts of mercy such as forgiving people, praying for others, and having the intention to be more merciful to our neighbour.

This introduction draws from Fr Michael Gaitley's book Divine Mercy Explained (see marian.org/whatwedo/divinemeracy.php)



GOSPEL REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The discovery of the empty tomb – although so simply told – is an astounding event that completes the Paschal Mystery: the passion, death AND resurrection of Jesus. Whilst Christ's willingness to go to his death on the cross was an extraordinary statement of God's love for humankind, it is his rising again from death that offers all Christian people hope. It is the second disciple – the one whom Jesus loved – who is the first to grasp the meaning of what has happened inside the tomb. The gospel tells us that upon entering the tomb and seeing Jesus' burial cloths lying there, 'he saw and he believed'. Unlike the later encounters with the risen Lord, this disciple recognised the truth and significance of what he saw in the empty tomb. He didn't need to see the risen Lord to believe. Perhaps it is he that we today can best identify with. Not in a position to physically encounter the risen Christ, we are capable of seeing the signs of his resurrection and continuing presence in the world and choose to believe. © Greg Sunter

First Reading Acts 10:34, 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23. R. v.24

R This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

R This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Second Reading Col 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us; they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.