



# 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  
[northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au) 03 50324144

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## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

*PEACE BE WITH YOU!*



Our Gospel takes us back to the very first Easter Sunday, 'the first day of the week'. Firstly, let's set the scene. The disciples have already heard Mary Magdalene's *double* testimony. The first time she had run full of tears to tell them that she had found the tomb empty. Perhaps someone had stolen the body? Peter and the beloved disciple went to see for themselves, found everything as she said and returned back to base. Mary stayed in the garden by the empty tomb, and so became the first to encounter the Risen Christ. He sent her running back to the other disciples to tell them the good news, which she did straight away. They heard her... but did they believe her? They certainly didn't go running back to the tomb like the first time. Something held them back. Fear still hung over them like a dark cloud, and they did not yet understand "from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead." And so they stayed in the room, locked away from the world.

Is it impossible to imagine that shame may have also weighed them down? The apostles had promised to stick by Jesus, even unto death. How did that work out for them? Peter had denied him, and Thomas, well, where is he? A few days earlier, when Jesus was asked to come save his friend Lazarus, a journey which ultimately led him to the Cross, it was Thomas who had boldly declared, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." Has he now fled in shame?

So, that is the scene when the Risen Jesus steps into the room. Whatever the disciples themselves may have been feeling, Jesus' own desires for them are very clear. He wishes them PEACE! Whatever has been before, this is a day of new beginnings, of new life. It is the first day of the week, the first day of a New Creation. Just

as the Spirit blew over the waters in the first Creation, so now Jesus breathes his Spirit on the disciples, creating them anew and filling them with his life and with his love. Whatever their failings have been, they encounter his healing mercy and are filled with his peace. Whatever has held them back, they are now sent forward and commissioned to go out as apostles of his mercy to the world, to be agents of his forgiveness.

Would they still have faced fears? For sure. But filled with the Holy Spirit and made new by the Father's mercy, they were strengthened to step out, trusting that Christ would be walking with them.

And that is our trust too. We also face our fears and moments of darkness. But made whole by the Father's healing mercy and filled with the Spirit, we too step forward with trust in Christ. *Jesus, I trust in You!*

#### 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**

Teresa Prochilo (1 month) Joe Prochilo (2 yr),  
Tony Massara, Bernard Walsh, Catherine Ledwich,  
Catherine McEwan, Trevor Hogan, Teresa Kelly,  
Angela McKay, Giuseppe Raco , Michael Walsh,  
Max Sewell,

**SICK LIST**

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

**THIS WEEKEND (23/24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL)**

Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday: 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

*Special Celebration of Divine Mercy: 2pm Swan Hill*

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday 5.30pm

Wednesday 10am

Thurs: Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

Fri: Adoration 11am Mass 12 Noon

Sat: Confessions 9-10am

**NEXT WEEKEND (30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL/1<sup>ST</sup> MAY)**

Saturday 6:30pm Swan Hill

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**Sunday Sea Lake 1.30pm**

*(Please note this one off change due to Baptism)*

**Readings Next Week:3rd Sunday of Easter**

First Reading: Acts 5:27-32. 40-41

Second Reading: Rv 5:11-14

Gospel: Jn 21:1-19

**Last Weekend's Collections**

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$1884

2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$981

Good Friday Holy Places: \$450

Easter Offerings: \$480

**NOTICES**

**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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 (Including Rosary at 2.30pm)
- 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!)

**A BIG, BIG THANK YOU!**

My heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to our celebrations in any way over these last few weeks; for all the work in preparing material (whether palms or handouts), in cleaning and decorating (and re-decorating) our Churches, for all those who took on some task or ministry for the liturgies themselves (from leading in music to putting out fires), for all those who spread the good word and brought along family and friends, and for everyone for bringing their open hearts as we gave our thanks to God for all he has done!

**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**

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## DIVINE MERCY: THE CHAPLET & HOUR

Today's section will complete our series on Divine Mercy. The introduction has drawn from Fr Michael Gaitley's book *Divine Mercy Explained* (see [marian.org/whatwedo/divinemercy.php](http://marian.org/whatwedo/divinemercy.php))



**The Chaplet of Divine Mercy.** This is a prayer that's prayed on ordinary rosary beads, and it's pretty popular today – perhaps because it can be prayed in a short amount of time (about seven minutes). I think another reason why the chaplet is so popular is because it's such an incredibly powerful prayer. Why is it so powerful? Because it draws its strength from the holiest and mightiest prayer there is: the Mass. In other words, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is a kind of extension of the prayer of the Mass. In fact, it's a kind of extension of what we'll call the "supercharged moment of the Mass." Here's what we mean: It's an extension of that moment when the priest at the altar takes the Body and Blood of Christ into his hands and offers it up to the Father with these words: *"Through Him, and with Him, and in Him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours forever and ever. Amen."*

That's supercharged because, at the Mass, Jesus is giving Himself Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity into our hands: literally, in the hands of the priest and spiritually, in the hands of all the lay faithful who are uniting their own sacrifices to the offering of the priest at the altar. Together, each in his own way, we offer Jesus' infinite sacrifice of love to the Father. That's the power of the Mass. It's Jesus' own sacrifice of love in our hands, held up to the Father, and the Father can't resist such a perfect sacrifice of love. It really is the perfect prayer.

Now, the chaplet is an extension of that moment of the Mass, because on the "Our Father" beads of the rosary, we pray, "Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ in atonement for our sins and those of [what? ... my family? ... my city? ... no, not just that ...] for the whole world." So, it's a bold prayer: It's for the whole world! And it can be bold, because it relies on infinite merits: Christ's infinite sacrifice of love on the Cross. Alright, so this explains the "Our Father" beads.

On each "Hail Mary" bead, we pray, "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." In other words, as we're holding up to the Father His Son's infinite sacrifice of love, we keep repeating:

"Mercy, mercy, mercy." More specifically, we keep praying, "Have mercy on us and on the whole world." And this is powerful. And you know who it's most powerful for? The dying. Our Heavenly Father said to St. Faustina: *"When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person ... unfathomable mercy envelops the soul, and the very depths of My tender mercy are moved for the sake of the sorrowful Passion of My Son."* (811)

Also, Jesus made several comforting promises to those who pray the chaplet: *"Say unceasingly the chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. ... Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy."* (687)

*"The souls that say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death."* (754)

*"Oh, what great graces I will grant to souls who say this chaplet; the very depths of My tender mercy are stirred for the sake of those who say the chaplet."* (848)

*"My daughter, encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given to you. It pleases Me to grant everything they ask of Me by saying the chaplet. When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one."* (1541)

**The Hour of Mercy.** What hour? The Hour of Great Mercy. Because Jesus died on the Cross for us at 3 p.m., every day between 3-4 in the afternoon is known as the Hour of Great Mercy. During this hour, Jesus asked St. Faustina to pray the Stations of the Cross, provided her duties permitted it.

But He went on to say: *"If you are not able to make the Stations of the Cross, then at least step into the chapel for a moment and adore, in the Blessed Sacrament, My Heart, which is full of mercy; and should you be unable to step into the chapel, immerse yourself in prayer there where you happen to be ... and if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony."* (1572, 1320)

What Jesus wants above all, through this devotion, is that we have mercy on Him! In other words, He wants us to recall His sacrifice of love. He wants us to think about what He did for us on the Cross. He simply wants our love. So, let's get "the three o'clock habit" and remember Jesus' sacrifice of love for us, even if only for a moment.

Oh, and one other thing about the Three O'clock Hour: Jesus promised that it's a huge time of grace: "This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. ... I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion" (1320). Thus, we can look at this hour as a kind of mini-Mercy Sunday that we have every day. So, it's also a great time to pray for our loved ones, especially for the conversion of unrepentant sinners, and to recite the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

**First Reading** Acts 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.*

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured. *The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 117:2-4. 22-27. R. v.1

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.'

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord grant success. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; the true God is our light.

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

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

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

*I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.*

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

**Gospel** Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name. *The Gospel of the Lord.*