



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

Incorporating the Communities of

St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Michael's Lalbert, St Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill
northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 50324144

Website: northeastmallee.org.au



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER 1ST MAY 2022



GROWTH IN THE SPIRIT: RECOGNISING PROGRESS ALREADY MADE

It is a bit of a side note perhaps, but when reading the Gospel I was caught by a subtle thread woven through the story. Here we are, after the Resurrection, and the apostles still have a lot of growing to do... and yet... if you compare a few details to earlier days, we will see just how far they have already come. Firstly, Jesus calls them to cast their nets. They do it straight away, without any protest or hesitation. There is no grudging 'we have laboured all night' this time around. Secondly, the huge haul of fish immediately alerts them to his presence. 'It is the Lord!' says the beloved disciple. No more 'who is this?' or 'could it be'? My favourite though is the response of Peter. As soon as he hears 'It is the Lord' he puts on his good jocks and dives straight in. There is no more 'Leave me Lord!'; this time around he wants nothing more than to be in the presence of Christ. And he doesn't wait for Jesus to call him out over the waters either. He just dives in. Once in the water he doesn't sink down in fear. He keeps his eyes fixed forward with his heart set on Jesus alone. Sure, Peter still has a long way to go... but how far has he already come?

Maybe I am reading too much into the stories, but I think the Holy Spirit might want us to pick up on a lesson here. It is good every now and again to take stock of how far we have already come, because the progress we have made is a mark of the Spirit's action in our lives. How much work has the Spirit already accomplished in our personal lives? How far have we already grown in understanding? How many virtues have been strengthened and vices left behind? How much deeper are the roots of faith, hope and love implanted into our hearts? Every step of progress made is a victory won, and victories should spur us on to thanksgiving. I say all this because one of the strongest temptations we face is that despairing voice, 'Why should I even bother? I never seem to get anywhere.' To that I say, don't let the Devil get you down! And don't lose sight of how far you already come. Yes, we may still have a long way to go, but Christ has already brought us so far and will surely lead us on. Dive into the waters with your eyes fixed on him!

Parish Contact Details:

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St
Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 03 5032 4144

Website: northeastmallee.org.au

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

John 'Sully' O'Sullivan (*Birthday Remembrance*)
Mary Deilby, Joh Rohan, Matthew Patching,
Victor Bryant, Mervyn Bryent, Dot McGregor,
William Byrne, Bernard Francis Kelly,
Margaret Ledwich,

SICK LIST

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

THIS WEEKEND (30TH APRIL/1ST 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)

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 5.30pm

No Wednesday Mass (Fr away for funeral)

Thurs: Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

Adoration 6pm-7pm

Fri: Adoration 11am Mass 12 Noon

Sat: Confessions 9-10am, Mass 10am (1st Sat)

NEXT WEEKEND (7TH/8TH MAY)

Friday 6th Culgoa 5pm

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

(Please note change of time)

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Nandaly

Last Weekend's Collections

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 890

2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 650

Easter Offerings: \$ 55

NOTICES

SATURDAY MASS TIME CHANGE NEXT WEEK

From *next* Saturday 8th we will move our vigil Mass thirty minutes earlier, to now start at 6pm.



JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS – USED STAMPS

On behalf of Mary MacKillop Today, we thank you for your generous support in assisting us with used stamps. We have had another wonderful year (2021) raising approximately \$34,000. A great effort from many, many people. Since 2001 the total raised is \$443,500. It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today. So please leave your used stamps in the shoe box at the back of the church.

Many thanks from the Josephite Companions.



PROJECT COMPASSION PLEASE RETURN BOXES

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 by May 15th.

CUPPA AFTER MASS

Being the first Sunday, all are welcome for a cuppa in the Parish Function Centre after Mass.

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

Ph. 03 5033 2541

principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

GOSPEL REFLECTION: MARY COLOE PBVM

The imagery in this story is highly significant. The disciples set out to fish at night and in the darkness they catch nothing. Then, when the dawn comes they see Jesus, named in this Gospel the Light of the world. Relying on the word of Jesus, the disciples' efforts bear fruit and in the wonder of this bountiful result, the presence of the Lord is recognised.

The breakfast by the lake recalls the earlier feeding miracle in John 6 where Jesus took five loaves and two fish and fed a great crowd. The miracle in John 6 and this meal are Eucharistic in their symbolism. Jesus is present in the midst of the disciples even though his presence is not immediately recognised. Jesus is the host inviting his disciples to eat the food he has prepared for them/us.

This lakeside feeding reflects the living experience of the Christian community. When they gather for Eucharist, they are in touch with the Risen Jesus who continues to guide and nourish them. Can we also recognise the Risen One present in our lives and nourishing us in the Eucharist? © Mary Coloe



THE 153 FISH

The number of fish caught – one hundred and fifty-three – has long puzzled commentators. The best explanation is probably that which sees it as a reflection of an ancient belief that the sum total of separate nations in the world amounted to 153. The number, then, foreshadows the worldwide mission of the Church. © Brendan Byrne SJ

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why do you think the disciples had gone back to fishing at this time?

Why did the disciples fail to recognise Jesus at first?

What metaphoric or symbolic words and actions can you identify within the text?

What is the significance of the 'Do you love me?' conversation between Jesus and Peter?

Why is it the amazing catch of fish that lets Peter recognise Jesus?

Why might this event sometimes be described as a Eucharistic meal?

What hope for us lies in Jesus' selection of flawed Peter as the one to carry on his work?

... GOSPEL CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE ...

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.'

In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.' *The Gospel of the Lord.*



Readings Next Week: 4th Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52

Second Reading: Rv 7:9, 14-17

Gospel: Jn 10:27-30

FIRST READING Acts 5:27-32. 40-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We are witnesses of these words, and so is the Holy Spirit.

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. 'We gave you a formal warning,' he said 'not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man's death on us.' In reply Peter and the apostles said, 'Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.' They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name. *The Word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v.2

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. Alleluia!

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, give thanks to his holy name. His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life. At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

The Lord listened and had pity. The Lord came to my help. For me you have changed my mourning into dancing; O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever.

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. Alleluia!

SECOND READING Rv 5:11-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, wealth, glory, and blessing.

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense

number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, 'The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.' Then I heard all the living things in creation – everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, 'To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever.' And the four animals said, 'Amen'; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship. *The Word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation; he has shown pity on all people. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 21:1-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John *Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.*

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No', he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord', Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

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