



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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Website: northeastmallee.org.au

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 as well as the Lake Boga Families & Faith Group



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 15TH MAY 2022

"LOVE ONE ANOTHER; JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU"



We all know the words at the heart of today's Gospel; 'Love one another.' They are written on our hearts. They are a foundation and framework for our lives. If you hear those words and nothing else today, it is probably enough. But just in case you are needing a little more, let's consider the words that come before them.

Firstly, we are given the context, 'When Judas had gone...' Where has he gone? To betray Jesus and hand him over to his persecutors. What does this then mean for Jesus? His time of suffering, his Passion, is upon him. Next, we hear Jesus' response. He immediately begins speaking of being glorified. His time of glory has come. What does this mean? He is soon to be proved worthy and clothed in God's blessing and grace, to be lifted up and exalted. How will this come about? He will be condemned as a criminal, abandoned by his friends, stripped naked and hung from a cross, left feeling utterly forsaken... there is a stark paradox here isn't there? It is not immediately obvious to us how glory and cross go hand in hand. The only way to make sense of this mystery is through the lens of love.

Jesus' Passion is a victory because he embraced it and endured it out of love. He refused to abandon us because he loves us. He was ready to bear the cost of that choice out of that same love. His being raised up on the cross is the ultimate testimony to his love. For that reason, it is also his glory. "There is no greater love than this—that a man should lay down his life for his friends." But it wasn't only his love for us that held Jesus there on the cross, it was also his love and trust in the Father. And so Jesus' glory also gives glory to the Father, who then "in turn will glorify him in himself" by raising him up from the dead, so that love's victory is complete. Love has transformed history's greatest injustice into its greatest triumph.

This then is the context for Jesus departing command, "Love one another as I have loved you." He is about to show his friends just what he means by 'as I have loved you.' Such a love calls for steadfast endurance and a readiness to sacrifice. Such self-giving love costs. It means being united with the depth of Jesus' forsakenness on the cross. But that love will also bring about the ultimate victory, and indeed is the only means by which the suffering and brokenness of this world can be healed and transformed. Our second reading today carries a glimpse of that future, where there "will be no more death, and no more weeping or sadness." We are not there yet, but the path is clear, and that path is love. "Love one another, just as I have loved 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

Raffaella Guastalegname
Carmel Marie Craig
Paul Ben Tran (Melbourne)

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Eris Tuohey, Michael Kelly, Matt O'Halloran,
Lyn Stutley, George Scott. Patrick Lynch,
Catherine Kelly, Thomas Brady, Thomas Burns,
Leslie Woodburn, John McLoughlan, Herbert Robert.

SICK LIST

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

THIS WEEKEND (14TH/15TH MAY)

*Confessions available from 5:30pm Saturday with
Fr Stephen, visiting priest*
Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill
Sunday: 8.30am Lalbert
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Sea Lake

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday Requiem Mass
Raffaella Guastalegname 1:30pm
Tuesday 5.30pm
Wednesday Requiem Mass Carmel Craig 1:30pm
Thurs: Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm
Also Adoration 6-7pm
Fri: Adoration 11am Mass 12 Noon
Sat: Confessions 9-10am

NEXT WEEKEND (21ST/22ND MAY)

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 1000
2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 1277

NOTICES

PROJECT COMPASSION

Last call for all project compassion boxes and envelopes. These will be counted and banked this week before I go away. Once again a big thank you to all who have so generously contributed.

MASS COUNTS will continue this weekend at all Masses.



WELCOME TO FR STEPHEN

Fr Stephen Kulathumkarott is joining us from Adelaide this week for a special First Holy Communion celebrated in the Syro-Malankara Rite. We welcome Fr Stephen and his companions and thank them for visiting.

While here, Fr Stephen will be available for confession on Saturday evening before 6pm Mass. I know sometimes it can be hard going to a priest who you know, so this is a good opportunity if you appreciate some 'anonymity'.

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

NOTICES CONTINUED...

SOCIAL CARDS STARTING AGAIN

There will be cards (500) in the smaller meeting room of the Parish Function Centre on the first Monday of the month, starting 6th June at 1:30pm

HEADS UP- APPROACHING HOLIDAY

From next Sunday, the 22nd, Fr James will head away for a couple weeks holiday. Fr Peter will come back for the two weekends and the weekdays in between. There will be a few days in between though with no priest in town. Thankfully it is becoming easier to visit Aged Care Homes, so I have been able to visit a number of the sick and elderly at the request of friends and family. If there is anyone you know of who needs an anointing and perhaps can't wait for Fr Peter to arrive, please let me know so I can visit them this week before I leave.



Anointing of the sick

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why did Jesus give this speech immediately after revealing the betrayal of Judas?

In what way/s is this commandment to love a new commandment?

What are some of the characteristics of Jesus' model of love?

How would demonstrating love for one another reveal you to be a disciple of Jesus?

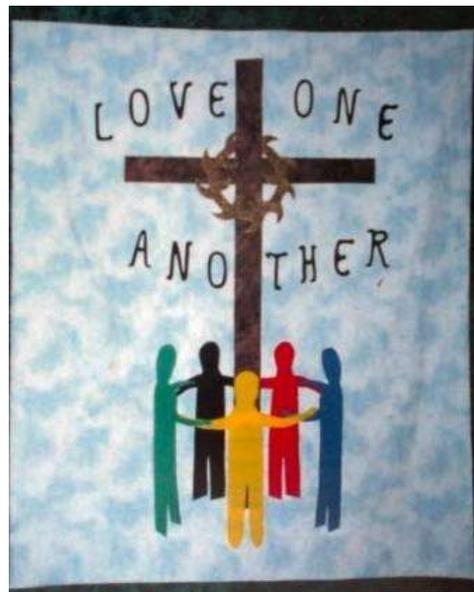
Where in your life do you need to show more love?

What is the glorification to which Jesus refers?

Why was it at this particular time that Jesus chose to give his disciples the new commandment?

In what ways does 'love' get misused today?

How does the command to love as Jesus loved challenge you?



REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

Everything is new! There is a new law of love, a new heaven and earth that is established in the church, a new depth of communion there, and a new glory of God that shines forth from its members.

The new commandment that Jesus announces is more than tolerance or mutual respect. It requires self-sacrificing love. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to this love is the diversity discussed last Sunday. It is hard enough to love those who are like us; how can we possibly love those who are different? And how can we love those who do not love us? It is no wonder that the commandment is called new. It calls for something completely different.

The new commandment is the law of the new heaven and the new earth that are established in the new Jerusalem. Standards are entirely different there. The greater ones serve; the meek possess the earth; happy are the poor; woe to those who laugh. This is clearly a city that comes down from heaven, not one made by human hands. It is a city that embraces all who come to it. God dwells in the midst of this city, in the heart of this people. God dwells with them and they dwell with God.

Through this new love, this new heaven and new earth, this new depth of communion, the glory of God is manifested in a new way. The eschatological future is anticipated in the present. The age of fulfilment has dawned.

First Reading Acts 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign.

Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age.

(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Second Reading Rv 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now,

and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 13:31-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon.

My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Readings Next Week: 6TH Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 15:1-2. 22-29

Second Reading: Rv 21:10-14, 22-23

Gospel: Jn 14:23-29