



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



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 22ND MAY 2022

"WE SHALL COME TO HIM AND MAKE OUR HOME WITH HIM"

We hear in today's Gospel that if we love Christ, we will keep his word. His Father will love us, and they will come to us to make their home in us. What a beautifully simple expression of what it means to be Christian! Each of us, as little or as unworthy as we may feel, can become a home for God. We receive God's presence and carry it with us wherever we go. Luxurious Palaces and gilded Temples could never contain him, but our hearts most certainly do. What an awesome mystery!

Now I am going to go on a little tangent here, but bear with me. Isolation gives you lots of time to daydream! Do you remember the story about when Mary and some other members of Jesus' family are trying to reach him through the crowds? The message is passed on to Jesus, who replies, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." It is worth pondering for a moment just how these words would have made Mary feel. She is after all the one who bore him in her womb, who nursed him and nurtured him and cared for him. And now, she hears, anyone of the crowd can be counted as her Son's 'mother'! Jesus' words must have challenged her. They quite probably hurt her as well, at least until she was able to understand them. Being the Mother of God didn't spare her any pain! Eventually though she must have come to see the point; she was only able to carry Jesus in her womb because she first bore the Eternal Word in her heart. And in that vocation, making a home for Christ in her heart, she stands firmly alongside us as a fellow disciple. She is the first and model of all disciples, but our companion nonetheless. It is a similar idea to today's Gospel isn't it? By keeping God's word, we become Christ's true family, or in other words he makes his 'home' with us. And more than just his brothers and sisters; by embracing his word with all our hearts we quite truly become his 'mother' by bearing *the Eternal Word* anew in our day.

May is often observed as a special month for Mary. Some of us come quite naturally and easily to a relationship with Mary, but for others it can be a struggle. Perhaps this is because there is so little of Mary's story and personality recorded that it can be difficult to relate to her in the way we might with other saints whose lives are better known. When it is so hard for our imagination to form a firm picture of her as an individual, it can be a challenge to lay hold of just what exactly we are called to imitate. But perhaps that is just the point; her vocation in its purest essence is that of every Christian. She is not above or aloof, but alongside.

I was shown a beautiful quote from Caryl Houselander this week that puts this far better than I can. "When we are attracted to a particular saint it is usually the little human details which attract us... of Our Lady such things are not recorded. We complain that so little is recorded of her personality, so few of her words, so few deeds, that we can form no picture of her, and there is nothing that we can lay hold of to imitate. But it is Our Lady- and no other saint- whom we can really imitate. All the canonised saints had special vocations, and special gifts for their fulfilment: presumption for me to think of imitating St Catherine or St Paul or St Joan if I have not their unique character and intellect- which indeed I have not. Each saint has their special work: one person's work. But Our Lady had to include in her vocation, in her life's work, the essential thing that was to be hidden in every vocation, in every life. She is not only human; she is humanity. The one thing she did and does is the one thing that we all have to do, namely, to bear Christ into the world."

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

1 Year Anniversary: Renata Corbani

Percy Lewis, Maurie Coughlin, Charlie Ficcaro, Noel and Aileen Rogers, Wayne Cameron, Bill Kelly, Pat Wilson, Debra Nolen, Martin and Peter Ryan, John O'Bree, Annie Coughlin, Haydee Phyland, Renata Corbani, Orazia Ganci, Roy Marsilino, Noreen Scott, Sheila Meehan, Elizabeth Iannucci, Cheryl Hind, John Wise, Kevin Byrne, Hugh Woodburn, Cornelius Ryan, John Joseph O'Loughlin, Lorna Graves, Michael McInerney, Patrick Conlan.

SICK LIST

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

THIS WEEKEND (21ST/22ND MAY)

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

No Weekday Masses this week with Fr James away.

Church will be open for prayer during the day.

Sat: Confessions 9-10am

Weekday roster will resume the following week with Fr Peter available

NEXT WEEKEND (28TH/29TH MAY)

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

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 997
2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 1288

NOTICES

WELCOME FR JOHN MONAGHAN

Fr John joins us this weekend to cover whilst Fr James is in isolation with Covid-19. Many of you will remember Fr John from his time serving the Quambatook and Sea Lake communities. Thank you Fr John for helping us out.

Fr James would like to thank everyone who has reached out with offers of support and help getting supplies, and for your prayers as he isolates with Covid. He will still be going on leave for three weeks once out of isolation, with Fr Peter coming to assist with Masses over the following two weekends.

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 1.3pm. All welcome.

THANK YOU: PROJECT COMPASSION

Thank you for your contributions this year to the Project Compassion appeal. We collected \$900 in cash which will be banked and forwarded to Caritas, as well as \$850 in cheques which have been mailed on. Many parishioners would have also contributed through the school-based appeals as well as through direct giving via credit card, so this is a great result. Thank you for your generosity.

Notices continued overpage...

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...



SAVE THE DATE:

KID'S RETREAT SATURDAY 11TH JUNE

Sr Mary Sarah OP has kindly agreed to come up to Swan Hill to run a children's retreat day on Saturday 11th June, together with some helpers from the Melton South and Bacchus Marsh parish youth group. This retreat will have a special focus on the gift of the Eucharist. It will be aimed at primary school aged children and will be of benefit especially for those who are preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time. Families are welcome and encouraged to be part of the day. The day will run from 11am-4pm and will include many fun activities (and food of course). Even if your child can't be there for the whole day, they are still very welcome to attend part of it.

To register for the day, or if you have any questions, please contact Mary Kennedy via the parish office.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What is meant by, 'If anyone loves me (they) will keep my word'?

How might the disciples and 1st century believers have understood Jesus' promise to return?

How is that 1st century understanding different from a 21st century understanding?

In what ways does the Holy Spirit act in the world today?

What is the peace of Jesus that 'the world cannot give'?

How do you understand, 'we shall come to (them) and make our home with (them)'?

How do people act on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit?

How can you strive to bring about the peace of Christ in your immediate community?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

BY FR MICHAEL TATE

God's home is where the heart is.

Some people have the idea that God is awfully remote, dwelling beyond the edge of the cosmos. We make contact by sending a prayer like a long-range rocket, hoping it will find its target.

This is far distant from Our Lord's teaching in today's Gospel. 'If anyone loves me and keeps my word, my Father and I will make our home with that person.' It is not in outer space, but in inner space that Divine Love will make a home.

What turns a house into a home? It is in sitting around a table sharing a meal. So, Jesus created a sacred meal for us and invites us to share in the Heavenly Bread and Spiritual Drink.

When we do so, we find, in the words of St John Paul II, that we 'digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection'. We take into ourselves the Real Presence of the Risen Lord who makes his home with us.

Coming to Communion, even after a long time away, satisfies the yearning of the human heart because it is made to be the habitation of Divine Love. We could pause for a moment to reflect on the gracious fact that God chooses to dwell in our hearts. Let us respond wholeheartedly.

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Readings Next Week:

The Ascension of the Lord

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23

Gospel: Lk 24:46-53

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

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to burden you beyond what is essential.

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them: 'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly, we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him.

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

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

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord.