



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

03 50324144

Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://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*



## THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST SUNDAY 12TH JUNE 2022

At the end of my second year in the seminary I was sent to the Bicol Province of the Philippines for 5 weeks as a type of immersion or exchange experience. The people who welcomed me were very warm and caring, especially my fellow seminarians, but as my first real trip away from family I was still struck by homesickness and left feeling very lonely at times. It was getting close to Christmas and I knew party time was just starting to ramp up back home, with all the family coming together ready for the big celebration to come... and here was I stuck on the other side of the world on my own.



One Sunday morning during Mass I was feeling particularly weighed down by this sadness when at Communion I was suddenly overwhelmed by a sense of nearness and intimacy. My family, on the other side of the world, would also be sharing in that same heavenly Bread, and sharing in that heavenly Bread we were united together as one in the one Body of Christ. I felt this Communion as something real, something living and true. Though far apart, we were held together as one in Christ. Jesus is really and truly present to us in the Eucharist, and by sharing in his Body he unites us together as one.

We share in this mystery every time we come to Mass; but today we celebrate it with special focus and attention. Christ is true to his word and continues to make himself present to us in the gift of the Eucharist. In this Sacrament he lays down everything that is his; his Body and Blood, his Soul and Divinity. He holds nothing back, giving his whole self. What more could we ask? What more can he give?

To recognise and accept this mystery demands a huge leap of faith. Our senses mostly fail us; all we have to go on is the promise we hear; 'This is my Body... This is my Blood'. From time to time, God gives witness to the reality of these words by special Eucharistic miracles, when Christ's presence is no longer hidden to sight but revealed for eyes to see. It was one such miracle in fact that inspired the beginning of this Feast. But even the most striking of miracles still call on us to leap forth in faith and trust. And even then, they only affirm a truth that is there for us to experience each time we come to the Eucharist; that Christ is here with us!

Just think about it, is this mystery of Christ's presence really that far from our experience? Does he not leave us hints or traces so that we might recognise him working here among us still? Have we never experienced his comfort or his peace? Have we never felt the gentle touch of his healing hand? Have we never been overcome by joy, or at least been filled with the strength to carry on when our own strength is spent? They may be subtle signs, but aren't these truly miracles nonetheless? Don't these very real experiences of Christ's love and grace point to his living and active presence in the Eucharist? I certainly feel they do, and through them I am blessed to see our Lord carry on his saving work among us day by day. For me, these real encounters serve as an ongoing witness to his real presence in the Eucharist.

### **Parish Contact Details:**

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

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

Phone: 03 5032 4144

Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://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**

Margaret Jirik, Des O’Sullivan, Mary Flannery,  
Isabella Rinaldi, Margaret Cloonan, Edna Parsons,  
Veronica Gleeson, Ellen Giddings, Mavis  
O’Halloran, Anne Walsh, Francis Loughran, Leo  
McLoughlan, Martin Egan,

**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 (18<sup>TH</sup>/19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE)**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Lalbert  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill  
Sunday 5pm Sea Lake

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday: **NO MASS**

*(Fr James down in Ballarat o’night for a meeting)*

Wed: **5.30pm Vigil Nativity John the Baptist**  
Thurs: Confessions 5pm,  
Mass 5.30pm (*Vigil Sacred Heart*), Adoration  
Friday: Adoration 11am  
Mass 12noon (*Feast Sacred Heart of Jesus*)  
Sat: Confessions 9am-10am

**Mass 10am (*Immaculate Heart of Mary*)**

**NEXT WEEKEND (25<sup>TH</sup>/26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE)**

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

**LAST 3 WEEK’S COLLECTIONS**

1st Collection (Presbytery): \$ 2415  
2nd Collection (Parish- Planned Giving): \$ 2998

**NOTICES**

**ROSTERS** for ministries are available at the back of the church. Some families will have received their roster via email. We are in **NEED OF MORE VOLUNTEERS** in all ministries, so if you can assist one Saturday evening/Sunday at Mass a month please contact the office.

**CORPUS CHRISTI ADORATION VIGIL**

As discussed last week, we will keep Vigil this weekend with a period of Adoration in Swan Hill starting after Sat 6pm Mass into the night and again in morning before 10:30am Mass. There may still be some places on the roster, but you are also welcome just to pop in at any time to join in the prayer. Jesus is really present to us in the Eucharist, and we celebrate this in a special way during this Feast of Corpus Christi. Time spent in Adoration is time spent with Jesus.

**JOHN CANAVAN SPEAKING ON DIVINE MERCY: FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 6PM**

We are lucky to have John Canavan speaking in Swan Hill on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 6pm (Parish Function Centre). A former comedian, John has been a powerful messenger of Divine Mercy here in Australia and will share from his own story and experiences, with a lot of jokes and laughs along the way. Dinner (Soup and rolls) to follow his talk. All are welcome to this night- feel free to invite friends and family. Numbers would be appreciated for catering- contact the office.

*...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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au)

## **Notices Continued...**

### **SPECIAL THANKS: CHILDREN'S RETREAT**

It was truly a terrific day last Saturday with Sr Mary Sarah OP and her helpers. I was glad so many families could be part of it and would like to thank them for making the special effort to attend, for our children for joining in so well with the activities and prayers and for our parents and grandparents for stepping in so enthusiastically to help with the running of the day. I also need to thank Mary Kennedy for the huge amount of work she did in the lead up to the day. I hope we can continue to repeat these experiences going forward to help strengthen the great families we have here in our parish.

### **HOLY FAMILY MINI PIETY STALL**

We now have a little stock of prayer and devotional items available for purchase from the Parish. They are available anytime the office is open. We are also open to special requests if there is something special you are after. If we can find a few volunteers we could also look to set up a table after weekend Masses once or twice a month.

### **PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE**

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



### **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: FR MICHAEL TATE TASTING THE FUTURE**

The feeding of the five thousand in today's Gospel is one of those anticipatory sharings in the heavenly banquet of the age to come. We say this feeding is

miraculous, and it was. A major part of the miracle is in the transformation of the Twelve. Our Lord did not personally feed the five thousand. He required his followers to get involved in alleviating hunger: 'You give them something to eat,' rather than leaving the crowd to fend for themselves, or resort to market economics. When they shared the food he had blessed, the miracle of the hospitality of God was multiplied throughout the crowd – extravagantly.

And so Our Lord gave his followers and the crowd a real taste of the future generosity of God in the heavenly banquet. But, it would not have happened had the inner groups of disciples not shared Jesus' vision and got involved in what seemed to be an impossible task.

The Last Supper was the greatest anticipatory meal which Our Lord shared with his disciples. And, at Mass, we are eating and drinking the glorified humanity of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ: the life of the future.

We could pause for a moment to identify the myriad of hungers in this world and resolve to fulfil Our Lord's Command: 'You give them something to eat!' so that Divine Generosity might transform human history.

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### **HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

What is significant about the first sentence of the gospel in light of what follows?

How would the disciples have felt when Jesus told them to give the people something to eat themselves?

Why is this gospel story referred to as 'eucharistic'?

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

What does the story say about the disciples' understanding of Jesus' mission and message?

Why do you think this particular story appears in all four gospels?

What is the metaphoric meaning of the feeding of the five thousand?

**First Reading** Gen 14:18-20

A reading from the book of Genesis  
*Melchizedek brought bread and wine.*

Melchizedek king of Salem brought bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High. He pronounced this blessing: 'Blessed be Abraham by God Most High, creator of heaven and earth, and blessed be God Most High for handing over your enemies to you.'  
 And Abraham gave him a tithe of everything.  
*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 109:1-4. R. v.4

**(R.) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.**

The Lord's revelation to my Master: 'Sit on my right: I will put your foes beneath your feet.'

The Lord will send from Zion your sceptre of power: rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth on the holy mountains; from the womb before the daybreak I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change. 'You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.'

**(R.) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.**

**Second Reading** 1 Cor 11:23-26

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the death of the Lord.*

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.' In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.' Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming to his death.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

**Gospel** Lk 9:11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*They all ate and were filled.*

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.

It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, 'Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here.' He replied, 'Give them something to eat yourselves.' But they said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, 'Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.' They did so and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



**Readings Next Week:**

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

First Reading: 1 Kgs 19:16. 19-21

Second Reading: Gal 5:1. 13-18

Gospel: Gal 5:1. 13-18