



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 50324144

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*



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 29TH MAY 2022

A teacher told me recently that when she asked her grade fours to draw a picture of the Ascension, not unsurprisingly most of them did a fairly conventional portrait of Jesus rising up on a cloud. One of her students, David, who is a particularly gifted artist, had Jesus blasting off into the sky. Down the side of Jesus' pure white garment was the word NASA and David provided all the sound effects for how he imagined the scene of the first Ascension. He concluded, without a hint of irony, that, 'the Ascension must have been a real blast!'

None of us can blame David for marrying our modern culture with an ancient story. In fact if some of us are honest, David's 'space shuttle Jesus' is not far from what we think as well.

The Ascension stories, however, are not primarily interested in how or when Jesus got back to heaven. John and Paul never mention it at all. Mark and Matthew have it happening on the same day as the Resurrection and Luke has it occurring 40 days after Easter on the same day as Pentecost. The one thing, on which all the New Testament writers agree, is where in heaven Jesus went and where he is presently – at God's right hand.

Even to this day, being on someone's right is a place of honour. In the Old Testament being on the right hand of David, Samuel or Elijah was to be the anointed and favoured one, the true son or daughter. In telling us, then, that Jesus is now at God's right hand, the Gospels use a formal phrase to announce that God affirms everything Jesus said and did on earth and that he is the way for us to follow.

That can be all well and good, but Jesus goes one step further and that's why this feast is so important. Jesus taught us that where he is, so shall we be, that he was going to prepare a place for us and that, in and through him, we will have life and have it to the full.

The feast of the Ascension is the day, each year, where we remember and we celebrate that, just as Jesus was welcomed to God's right hand, so, too, shall we be welcomed to the right hand of Jesus. This is his promise, this is our faith, and this is the hope we are called to proclaim to the world. And let's be clear about the invitation. There is nothing we have ever done, are doing, or will do, that will get our name removed from the invitation list to the feast of Christ's kingdom. The challenge is accepting that we have a standing invitation and living lives worthy of the love that places our name on the list. The feast of the Ascension announces that Jesus will faithfully accompany us no matter how far we lose our way and that by our fidelity to Christ we accept or reject the standing offer.

And because the Ascension is an Easter feast it develops even further that there is nowhere, bar evil, where God does not dwell. Because of the Resurrection and Ascension, we can find God everywhere we want to: in our homes, our work, our suffering, our old age, our emotional, sexual or financial turmoil – and even in our death.

Even though the writers of the New Testament are not too clear on the details of how the Ascension happened, what we initially see in this wonderful feast is not what we get. Thanks be to God; it is so much more.

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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

Maria Colombo, Giovanni Edera,
Michael Tuohey, Maxine Gaylard,
Margaret Scarce, George Giddings,
Bernice Ledwich, John McDonald,
Michael Considine, Clem Kelly,
Mary McInerney, Bridget Maloney,
Pat Ladson, Betty Lescke,
Jean Webb, Bridget Maloney,

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 (28TH/29TH MAY)

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 5.30pm
Wednesday: 10 am
Thursday: 5.30pm
Friday: 12noon

Church will be open for prayer during the day.

Sat: Confessions 9.30-10am

NEXT WEEKEND (4TH/5TH JUNE)

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

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

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

NOTICES

WELCOME FR PETER

Fr Peter joins us this weekend and next weekend to cover whilst Fr James is on holidays. Thank you Fr Peter 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 isolated with Covid.

DAILY GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

During the height of COVID in 2020, the Archdiocese of Brisbane's Adult Formation Team launched a daily gospel reflection resource to help Catholics stay connected with God whilst they couldn't attend Mass. The resource has been so well received that the offer is extended to all who may find it useful. The Daily Gospel Reflections are delivered each weekday morning to your email inbox, and will take just a few moments to read but will centre you in relationship with God for the rest of the day. To find out more or subscribe go to <https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/daily-reflections/>

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.

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

In what way does Jesus make sure that the disciples (and we) aren't left feeling abandoned?

Why was the Ascension a 'necessary' event?

In what ways are you able to be 'a witness' of Jesus?

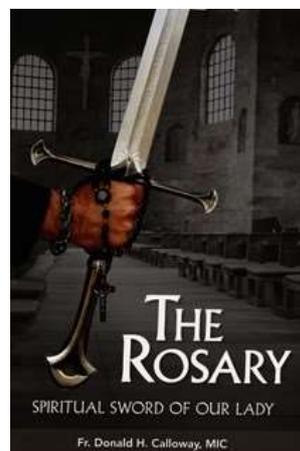
Why is it really impossible to be a believer but not a witness?

How might the disciples have reacted to the Ascension of Jesus?

Why might Luke's gospel emphasise the need to preach the good news to all the nations?

What situations in your life make it difficult to be a Christian witness?

What hope does Jesus' Ascension give all Christian people?



**THE ROSARY: SPIRITUAL SWORD OF OUR LADY
DVD VIEWING, ROSARY AND CUPPA
Wednesday 8th June 10am in the Parish Meeting Room.**

In this innovative presentation, Fr Donald Calloway, MIC explains the power of Our Lady's favourite devotion: the rosary. Surveying the entire history of the Rosary, including its greatest victories and champions, Fr Calloway will make you want to unsheathe the spiritual sword of the rosary and become a champion of the rosary yourself! With the rosary in your hand and the sacred mysteries of Christ in your mind and heart, you will have the power to transform the future, defeat the enemies of Christ and His Church and be a warrior for truth!

Cuppa after 10.30 am Mass next Sunday 5th June

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.' *The Word of the Lord.*

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne.

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 24:46-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God. *The Gospel of the Lord.*

Readings Next Week:**Pentecost Sunday**

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: Jn 20:19-23