



# 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*



## 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### *THE RAISING OF LAZARUS*

I should probably stop drawing attention to this, but today's Gospel is again on the longer side. We hear that Jesus' friend Lazarus is sick. He dies before Jesus arrives. What follows is something extraordinary.

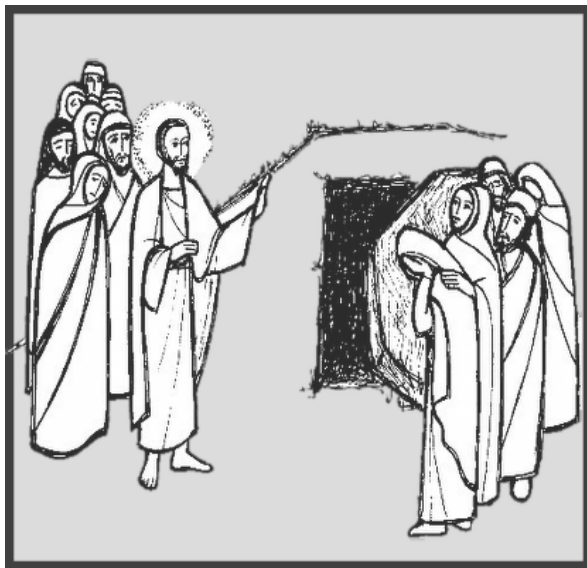
#### **"JESUS WEPT"**

As Jesus is asking to be taken to where Lazarus is buried, we hear the shortest sentence in all of Scripture; "Jesus wept." It is extraordinary isn't it? "Jesus wept." There are different explanations of what exactly moves him so deeply; the death of his friend... the agonising grief of his loved ones... the cutting words 'if you had been here'... the lack of trust on the part of so many of his closest followers and their failure to recognise him for who he is... even after all this time... or a combination of all the above.

What is left in no doubt is this; Jesus is cut to the heart. Even as they complain of his absence, he is right there in the midst of their pain and suffering. And the same is true for us. Suffering can feel terribly lonely, but faith helps us to see that we are never truly abandoned. Whatever trials we face, whatever sufferings we endure, he is right there beside us. When we hurt, Christ hurts with us. When we weep, he weeps too.

#### **'YES, LORD,' SHE SAID 'I BELIEVE'**

In the midst of all these tears comes something else; the extraordinary act of faith of Lazarus' sister Martha. You know what it is like when your eyes are full of tears... life becomes a blur and it is hard to focus on anything. But Martha manages to focus her eyes and her heart on Jesus. She at least is able to recognise him, if even only for a moment, for who he truly is. And recognising him for who he truly is, she is able to reach out in faith and trust. 'Yes Lord, I believe!' Of all the people in the story, we would have excused Martha for losing heart and faltering in faith. Could we blame her? She had lost the most. And yet it is like the gaping wound of her loss opens up the space for her to welcome Christ as Healer in an extraordinary way. And that is so often true isn't it? The deepest faith is so often found in those who have suffered and lost the most.



#### **'LAZARUS, HERE! COME OUT!'**

And finally comes the extraordinary sign. The door of the tomb is opened, and the Lord of all Life commands the dead man to rise. 'Lazarus, come out!' And he does. Lazarus rises, and comes out before them all. Jesus then issues his second command, to unbind him and set him free. Just imagine; it was probably the very same people who wrapped his lifeless body in the cloths for burial who now unbind him. How their hands must have trembled! Could they really believe what they were seeing right there in front of them? And the question then comes for us... dare we hope that he might raise us up as well? And not just from death into eternal life, but from our daily struggles too? Can we dare to hope that Christ is able to unbind us and set us free from any burden that weighs us down, or any sin that shackles us? He stands ready. 'Yes Lord, I believe!'

#### **Parish Contact Details:**

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

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Website: northeastmallee.org.au

**Office Hrs:** Tues and Fri 10:30 -2:30

#### **Parish Priest**

Fr James Kerr

#### **Parish Office:**

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**

Sebastiano (Sam) Costa

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Olive Burns, Bill Kelly, Gloria Langerak  
Joe Wilkinson, James Peter Maher, Martin Walsh  
Michael Brennan, Greg McKerrow, Mary Lloyd,  
Patricia Jackson, Vince Carpinteri, Vincenzo  
Fazzalori, Sr Dawn Power, Bernard Ryan (Bernie)

**SICK LIST**

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

**THIS WEEKEND 25<sup>TH</sup>/26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

***5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT***

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook (with Anointing)

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Monday: First Reconciliations 5pm & 6:30pm

Tuesday: Funeral Domenica Salvo 10:30am

First Reconciliations 5pm & 6:30pm

Wednesday: 10am Mass followed by Stations

Thursday: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass

Adoration until 7pm

Friday: 11am Rosary & Adoration, 11:30am Mass

Confessions 5:30, Stations of the Cross 6pm

Saturday: Confessions 9:30am,

Mass 10am

**NEXT WEEKEND 1<sup>ST</sup>/2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2023**

***PASSION SUNDAY***

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**NOTICES**

**WELCOME INTO GOD'S FAMILY**

A special welcome to **Isabella Louise Foley**, who is being presented for baptism by her parents Craig and Catharina. May God fill you with his love and grace and watch over you always!



**PRAYERS FOR FIRST RECONCILIATIONS**

Please pray for all the children preparing for their First Reconciliations on Monday and Tuesday of next week, for their families supporting them and for Mary and I as we do our best to help prepare them and make this encounter a beautiful experience of God's mercy and love.

**ADVANCE NOTICE: ANOINTING MASS SWAN HILL**

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick in Swan Hill at two Masses during Holy Week- Tues 4<sup>th</sup> April 5:30pm and Wed 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am.



**PROJECT COMPASSION: SPECIAL COLLECTION**

We missed out on our Project Compassion materials this year, but that does not mean we need to miss out on our contribution! As previously stated, you can give directly via their website [caritas.org.au](http://caritas.org.au) or place your contribution on the collection plate in an envelope marked 'Project Compassion'. **We will also hold a special leaving collection after Masses in Swan Hill next weekend, the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of April.**

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND**

1<sup>st</sup> (Presbytery): \$1025

2<sup>nd</sup> (Parish): \$1180

***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)



## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND "LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE IN LOVE"

**28 – 30 APRIL 2023 IN MELBOURNE**

Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This weekend gives married couples the tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome.

Please check our website for more details.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

### Information/Bookings:

Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Website: wwme.org.au

*PS- Note from Glenda and Mary: We have been part of these encounters in the past. They were a good experience and we drew a lot from them. Happy to speak to any couples with any questions.*

### RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOR LENT

- ❖ Write thank you cards to people that help you.
- ❖ Spend less time looking at screens and concentrate on the people around you.
- ❖ Listen to religious music while doing a task you have been putting off
- ❖ Light a candle at church and pray for someone in your life.
- ❖ Pray the Rosary (or even just a decade) as a family.

### HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why do you think Jesus did not respond immediately on hearing of his friend's illness?

How would you describe the attitude with which Martha and Mary first speak to Jesus?

Why might this action of raising Lazarus have angered the Jewish authorities so much?

In what aspects of your life do you feel 'bound up' and in need of release?

In what ways can the story of Lazarus be applied to the need for reconciliation with self and others?

### BEGINNING OF SCRIPTURE READINGS...

#### FIRST READING Ez 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The Word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 129. R. v.7

**(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

**(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

#### SECOND READING Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The Word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION See Jn 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL ON BACK PAGE...**

## TODAY'S READINGS BEGIN OVER THE PAGE

### GOSPEL Jn 11:1-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*I am the resurrection and the life.*

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still

at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



### READINGS NEXT WEEK: 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Is 50:4-7

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Gospel: Mt 26:14 – 27:66