



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



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER 16TH APRIL 2023

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

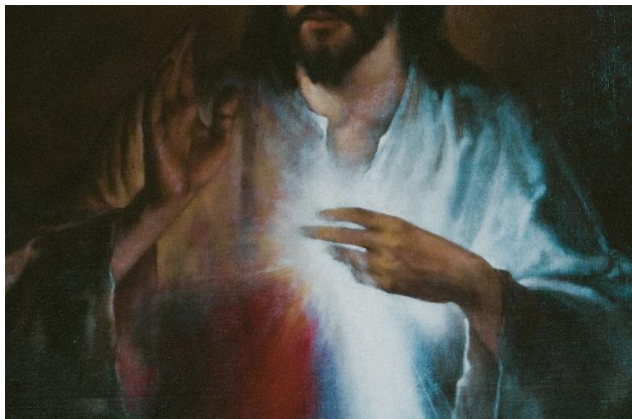
"THE WHOLE COMMUNITY REMAINED FAITHFUL TO THE TEACHING OF THE APOSTLES, TO THE BROTHERHOOD, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND TO THE PRAYERS."

At Easter we renewed our Baptismal Vows; strengthening anew the life and grace that each of us received through our baptism so that we might live out the special vocation God has planned for us. But while each of us has a unique role to play, we are always called to live out our calling within the community of the Church. Together, as members of his One Body, we carry on his great Mission of Mercy. And this shared life is more than just being able to support and strengthen each other; the very Love we have for each other and the Communion we share is itself at the very heart of Christ's Mission and Work.

The short sentences we hear in the first reading from Acts are easy to miss, but they tell us so much. They are a little summary of life in the earliest days of Church, right after receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. And what are the early believers doing? They are being shaped by the Teaching of the Apostles, hearing Christ's own words speaking through them and remaining faithful to those words by acting on them. Christ's words call them together into a new family, sharing 'Brotherhood' and living in Communion. As we read on we hear that they also share their food generously so that no-one goes hungry and no-one is without. And finally, we hear that they were faithful to 'the Breaking of Bread and to the Prayers'. In other words, from the earliest days, the celebration of the Eucharist was at the heart of the Church's life.

Just think of it, each of the actions of the early Church are ways of meeting the Risen Christ. We hear his voice in his Teaching. We serve him in the poor and needy. We can find him in each other and in the life we share together. And we meet him in the Eucharist, recognising him in the Breaking of the Bread. The Risen Christ remains Present to us. We may not see him as Thomas did, nor touch his wounds, but we can encounter him just as truly in the life we share together. Lord, give us the faith we need to see you!

PEACE AND MERCY



In the Gospel, we hear Jesus greet his disciples with the gift of Peace. Think about it, each of his apostles had failed him badly in one way or another. They were not only afraid of what others may do to them, they must also have been weighed down with shame and self-loathing. So when Jesus meets them, he gives them just what they need; his Peace, a Peace that can only flow from his great Love and Mercy. And then what does he do next? He sends them out as he himself was sent by the Father. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they are commissioned to

forgive sins in his name and so extend the same Mercy they themselves had received. In doing so, they will carry his Peace to the ends of the world. Mercy and Peace. They go together! It is so special then that this Sunday we celebrate Christ's gift of Divine Mercy. Like the apostles, we may have stuffed up. But we know he is always ready to forgive. And by relying on his Mercy, we can know his Peace. Jesus, I trust in You!

Parish Contact Details:

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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

Brian Carty

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Teresa and Joe Prochillo,

Domenica Salvo (1 Month)

Kath Hogan, Michael Upton, Gerrard Magee

Irene Learmonth, Kealan Snowden, Tim Power

Margaret Walsh, Agnes Burns,

Matthew O'Brien, Irene Cattran

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 (15/16TH APRIL)

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER OR

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Lalbert

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Sea Lake

A Special Celebration of Divine Mercy:

Holy Hour 2pm Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 5.30pm

Wednesday 10am

Thursday: Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

Friday: 10:30am Requiem Mass for Brian Carty

NEXT WEEKEND (22ND/23RD APRIL)

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook.

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES



AN HOUR OF MERCY

To commemorate this great Feast, we will pray some of the Divine Mercy Chaplet together as a Parish Community during our weekend Masses.

For those who would like to extend that commemoration, you are invited to join us for a Holy Hour of Mercy from 2pm-3.15pm in Swan Hill.

The schedule is as follows:

- 2pm - 3pm Adoration with Reconciliation available (Including Rosary at 2.30pm)
- 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction to finish
- Drinks and nibbles to follow (anything you can bring to share will be greatly appreciated!)

WELCOME INTO GOD'S FAMILY

We are lucky to celebrate two baptisms this weekend. Thank you to our families for presenting your child.

We welcome **Jaxon Thomas Prochilo**, who is being presented for baptism by his parents Joey and Gabby.

We are also delighted to welcome **Marlow Grace Schwan**, presented by her parents Anika and Rudy.

May God fill you both with his love and grace and watch over you always!

CONFIRMATION CONGRATULATIONS!

We also welcome Vann for Confirmation, in preparation for his First Holy Communion in June. Congratulations Vann and thank you to your family for supporting you today.

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

ALL ABOUT DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Divine Mercy Sunday is a significant time for reflection on the Christian faith. As Pope John Paul II stated, "It is a time where we are blessed with divine mercy as it reaches us through the heart of Christ crucified." Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gifts that flowed from Christ's death, burial, and resurrection — his mercy and love that were so freely given to humanity after such a betrayal. Divine Mercy Sunday concludes the Easter celebrations and welcomes the ultimate gift that Christ gave after his crucifixion.

Divine Mercy Sunday is a space specifically designated for those who feel unworthy of God's love and Jesus's acceptance. In a vision, he told St. Faustina, "I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy." Divine Mercy Sunday, from its advent, has been a source of reconciliation with faith and God's mercy. It provides a specific day on which people from all walks of life can humble themselves before God, and ask for his mercy, love, and forgiveness, which he grants to all those who are willing to ask for it. It is also about forgiveness and mercy, how Jesus offered his to us, and how we should act in kind throughout our lives.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why were the disciples in hiding at the start of this passage?

Why do you think Thomas was reluctant to believe what his friends told him about the Risen Jesus?

How might the other disciples have reacted to Thomas' unbelief?

Despite his earlier demand, why doesn't Thomas touch the wounds of Jesus?

How do you respond to disbelief and doubt within yourself or others?

Which phrase or word from this gospel passage particularly stands out to you? Why?

Why does Jesus particularly focus the mission of the disciples on the forgiveness of sins?

In what situations do you most need to hear Jesus' words, 'Peace be with you'?

In what ways can you relate to Thomas' experience?

In what ways does Thomas personify elements of our own culture and society?

READINGS NEXT WEEK: 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

Second Reading: 1 Pt 1:17-21

Gospel: Lk 24:13-35



REFLECTION BY FR MICHAEL TATE UNDOUBTABLE WOUNDS

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'

Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the identity of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

Pope Francis says we can only join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

Sometimes we struggle with our faith — after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith.

We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.' © Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

(R) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.'

I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

(R) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

SECOND READING 1 Pt 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than

gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.'

Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!'

Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Word of the Lord. **ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**