



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



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER: 23RD APRIL 2023

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS: WERE NOT OUR HEARTS BURNING WITHIN US?



"Emmaus Road" by Mike Moyers

So here we are in the Easter Season; the most joyful time of the Church's year...

Alleluia, He is Risen!! Aren't you feeling the joy?

Or maybe not?

The liturgical seasons are wonderful, but our personal feelings and circumstances don't always line up with the celebrations. Yes, this might be the most joyful time of the Church's year, but that doesn't necessarily mean you or I as individuals are floating on cloud nine!

That is not how these things work is it?

For a million different reasons, we might be feeling a bit flat at the moment. Maybe we are worn out and tired, or frustrated, or disappointed, or empty, or grieving, or just plain hurting... *maybe we are feeling just a bit like those two disciples who Jesus met on the way to Emmaus.* They were so close to the most momentous event in all of human history, they had even heard the word that He had Risen, and yet, in their sadness they weren't ready to believe that good news, and so they were walking away.

But here is the crunch; Jesus sought them out and came to meet them in their sadness and disappointment. And coming to them, just as they were, he was able to lift them up. He opened up their understanding and warmed their hearts as he explained the Scriptures to them. Then, when he blessed and broke the Bread, they finally recognised him present among them, and they were filled with a new hope and joy.

And that is what we still do in the Eucharist. We hear his Word and we break the Bread. And in doing so we recognise Jesus coming to meet us in the here and now, no matter how we might be feeling about the whole thing right at the moment! Just like those two disciples, sometimes the only thing we can offer are our disappointments and sadness. Don't be afraid to unload them! If they got away with it on that first Easter Sunday, we have nothing to be afraid of. Our Lord knows our struggles deeply. He comes to help us in our need, not for applause and congratulations. Whatever we are feeling, open up and be honest with the Lord. And take heart that sometimes it is precisely at our lowest point that He is closest to us.

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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

Elizabeth Williamson

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Danny Lavey, James O'Brien, Bernard Walsh
Tony Massara, Catherine Ledwich
Catherine McEwan, Trevor Hogan,
Angela McKay, Giuseppe Raco,
Teresa Kelly, Michael Walsh

SICK LIST

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

THIS WEEKEND (22ND/23RD APRIL)

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday (ANZAC DAY) 5.30pm

Wednesday

Funeral Mass Elizabeth Williamson 10:30am

Thursday: Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

Adoration until 7pm

Friday: 11am Rosary & Adoration. 11.30am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND (29TH/30TH APRIL)

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

COLLECTIONS: EASTER & DIVINE MERCY

Thank you for your generosity

1st (Presbytery): \$2630

Easter Offering: \$500

2nd (Parish): \$2780

Special Collections

Caritas (Project Compassion): \$1080

Good Friday: \$510

(This helps to support Christians in the Holy Land)

NOTICES

WELCOME INTO GOD'S FAMILY

We welcome **Vinnie Matteo Ian Wilkinson**, who is being presented for baptism by his parents Matt and Aimee. May God fill you with his love and grace and watch over you always!

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

Thank you to our wonderful knitters and crocheters. With you hard work we have sent 7 boxes of rugs to "Wrap with Love" headquarters in Sydney.

PRAYERS FOR FIRST COMMUNIONS

Next week we will welcome our candidates and their families as we begin final preparations for their First Holy Communion (first weekend in June). Please keep these children and their families in your prayers, and encourage them if you see them around the traps! Please offer some prayers for all of us who are helping to prepare them as well, that we might faithfully and joyfully pass on the great treasure we have ourselves received.

THANK YOU!

We have a final tally for **Project Compassion; \$1080** was contributed through the Parish. Thank you for your generous support, especially given the delay in resources.

Thank you too for your support of the **Good Friday Collection: \$510** was collected in support of Christians living in the Holy Land.

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

The Easter mystagogical instruction continues. Today we reflect on life as a journey. This theme expresses well the fact that life is not static, but is a movement from one point to another. Actually, we do not so much make the journey as we join one that is already in progress. Nor are we alone on it. We have companions who share their encouragement and support, their talents and insight. Like the two disciples

Our Parish Schools

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travelling to Emmaus, we have certain expectations which Jesus does not seem to fulfil. They did not realise that through his death he had accomplished everything. They did not realise that the Risen Lord himself was their travelling companion.

As with them, so with us. We may not see the extraordinary in the ordinary. We may not see the hand of God in our lives. Perhaps we need someone to interpret for us both the tradition and the events of life. Despite appearances, something is happening beneath what we are able to observe. God is at work beneath and within our lives. Once we realise who this unique travelling companion really is, our hearts too will burn within us, our eyes too will be opened, and we too will look at life with the assurance of faith. Easter faith will transform our disillusionment into missionary zeal. Some of us may be called upon to give public witness, as did Peter. Most will preach with the example of our lives. All can enter this mystery as we recognise him in the breaking of the bread.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What is significant about the two disciples walking away from Jerusalem to Emmaus?

What did they do once they realised they had seen the Risen Jesus?

What might have prevented the disciples from recognising Jesus on the road?

Why might the act of breaking bread have been the catalyst for them to recognise Jesus?

How is it possible to become more aware of the presence of Jesus in your own life?

What does it reveal about Jesus that he allowed the disciples to tell the story of their grief?

Why was it necessary for Jesus to refer to Moses and all the prophets in his explanation?

What insight does this event reveal about the nature and significance of Eucharist?

How does this episode reflect the key elements of the Mass?

READINGS NEXT WEEK: 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 2:14. 36-41

Second Reading: 1 Pt 2:20-25

Gospel: Jn 10:1-10

GOSPEL CONTINUED...

'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



FIRST READING Acts 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: 'I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.'

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.'

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my

soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever.

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

SECOND READING 1 Pt 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter:

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION See Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked.

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE.