



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*



9TH APRIL 2023:

EASTER SUNDAY

**RECEIVE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST! MAY IT BE KEPT BURNING BRIGHTLY!
LET IT SHINE FOR ALL TO SEE!**



At the beginning of the Easter Vigil, the congregation receive the light from the Paschal Candle and then process into the church with their little 'lamps' burning brightly. Remember the parable of the wise bridesmaids who were ready to meet the Bridegroom with their lamps full? All through Lent we have been like the bridesmaids. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving we have been preparing our hearts to welcome Christ our Bridegroom once again. Let's now open them up to receive Him anew! May His light drive away all darkness and despair. May we be filled up once again by His love, His Peace and His joy! He is Risen! He is alive! Rise up to meet him!

With our lamps lit, we then come to a very special moment; the renewal of our Baptismal Vows. With everything else going on during these special ceremonies, this renewal can be very easy to miss. But really, it is at the very heart of the whole season. In our Baptism, we joined with Christ in his first Easter. We died to sin and were buried with him in the waters of baptism, so that we might rise with him to new and eternal life. Today, we relive that mystery. Today, we renew that grace. It is as if we were freshly baptised once again, ready to take the Light of Christ with us and to share it with all those we meet.

So let's receive that Light with joyful hearts! Stoke the flame and let it burn brightly in your lives! Today you are sent out. Christ has called and commissioned each and every one of you to take His Light with you as you go. Take it into your homes and workplaces. Share it with your families, your friends and your neighbours. You have been filled up anew with the joy, peace and love of Christ. Wherever you bring that joy, wherever you take that peace, wherever you live that love; you are sharing the Light of Christ. You are able to take His Light to places that no-one else can. You are able to share it in ways that are unique to you.

You have a special role to play, a one-off vocation to live out. Christ is with you. His life is in you.

May His Light forever burn brightly in your hearts, and may it shine out for all to see.

Parish Contact Details:

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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

Peter Mullan
Mario Raudino

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Sam Costa (1 month), Carmeno Pellegrino,
Bub O'Bree, Cath Baker, Pat Dillon,
Jane McInerney, Vincent Lavey, Mary Anne Foott,
Ian McKay, Michael Clohesy, Moira Ryan,
Kathleen Ledwich, Mary McMurtie

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 8/9TH APRIL

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Vigil Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Chaplet of Divine Mercy after Mass each day
Tuesday: 5.30pm Mass
Wednesday: 10am Mass
Thursday: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass
Friday: Requiem Mass Peter Mullans 1:30pm

NEXT WEEKEND 15/16TH APRIL 2023

**2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER
OR DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

Friday 5pm Culgoa
Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Lalbert
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Divine Mercy Holy Hour- 2-3pm Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Sea Lake

NOTICES

THANK YOU!

A massive thank you to all who helped make our Holy Week and Easter Celebrations run so smoothly; for cleaning and decorating our churches, for preparing the palms, flowers and candles, for the music and slides, for the servers, sacristans, readers and welcomers... so much work just happens quietly in the background to help make these days such prayerful ones for all... thank you, your efforts are certainly noticed!



PROJECT COMPASSION: SPECIAL COLLECTION

Thank you to all who donated to the Project Compassion collection last weekend. We will share the final tally after the school holidays. You can still support Project Compassion either by placing your donation in an envelope marked "Project Compassion" in the collection basket or going to the website caritas.org.au

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What emotions do you think Mary might have experienced upon discovering the tomb?
Why did the gospel writers portray the disciples' initial disbelief and doubt about the resurrection?
What belief/s flow from the resurrection of Jesus?
In what ways does the account of Jesus' resurrection inspire hope in Christians?
In what ways is Jesus still present in the world?
Why is the passion, death and resurrection central to Christian belief?
Why do you think the cross became the symbol of Christianity, rather than the empty tomb?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER
First Reading: Acts 2:42-47
Second Reading: 1 Pt 1:3-9
Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

1st (Presbytery): \$ 1070
2nd (Parish): \$ 1255

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

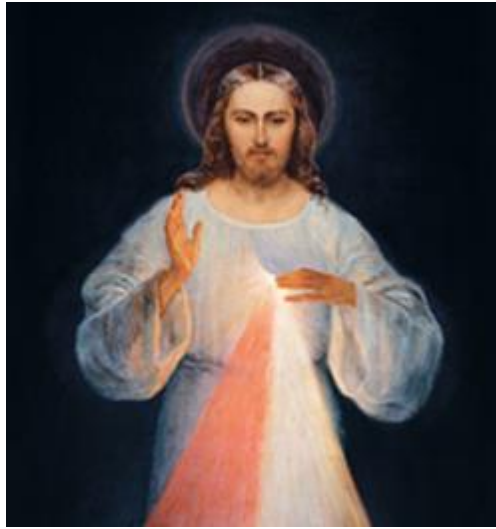
Principal: Kate Quin
2 Murlong St Swan Hill
Ph. 03 5033 2541

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



Divine Mercy Sunday – Sunday 16th April

The Sunday after Easter is observed as a special celebration of Divine Mercy. To commemorate this great feast, we will pray together as Parish Community the Divine Mercy Chaplet after our weekend Masses. For those who would like to join, an additional, special observance for Divine Mercy Sunday will be held from 2pm - 3.30pm.

The schedule is as follows:

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

Divine Mercy Sunday falls on the Second Sunday of Easter. What's so great about Divine Mercy Sunday? Well, look at it this way: What's the most important feast day of the year? Easter, right? And how many days is Easter? We celebrate it for eight full days, which is why we call it the Octave of Easter. But the last day is the greatest of all. The eighth day. It's the climax of the whole feast. Well, Divine Mercy Sunday is the eighth day of Easter, the climax of the entire Easter celebration. In a sense, it's the most important day of the most important feast!

Divine Mercy Sunday existed way before St. Faustina. In fact, it has its roots in the Easter celebrations of the early Church. When Jesus told Faustina that He wanted the feast celebrated, she asked some priests and theologians about it, and they told her, "There already is such a feast." So, Faustina went back to Jesus and told Him, "They tell me that there already is such a feast, and so why should I talk about it?" Jesus responded, "And who knows anything about this feast? No one!" (Diary of St. Faustina, 341). In other words, the great feast of mercy had been forgotten and was almost completely unknown. So, you can imagine Jesus saying to Faustina, "Look, I want people to know and celebrate this feast. And to sweeten the deal, I promise to give great graces on Divine Mercy Sunday." Specifically, he told her: "On that day [Divine Mercy Sunday], the very,

depths of My tender mercy are opened. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. ... On that day, all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. (Diary of St. Faustina, 699)"

Thousands upon thousands of people attest to the super-power of prayer offered on Divine Mercy Sunday. But we still haven't gotten to our favourite part of Divine Mercy Sunday, what we call "the clean slate grace." Regarding Divine Mercy Sunday, Jesus told St. Faustina, "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (699). Now, that's a big deal. It means that if we were to die right after receiving this grace, then we wouldn't have to go to purgatory! In other words, our slate is wiped clean. In fact, the theologian who was assigned by the future Pope John Paul II to investigate the question "What is the grace of Mercy Sunday?" likened the grace to a second baptism. Of course, it's not the same as Baptism, but it is an extraordinary grace of being cleansed of sin and the punishment due to sin.

Unfortunately, a lot of people confuse the great grace of Divine Mercy Sunday with a plenary indulgence. It's not the same thing. To get a plenary indulgence, you need to do the indulgenced act, pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, go to confession (within 20 days), receive Holy Communion, and be detached from all sin. That last one is the kicker. Are we detached from all sin? Saint Philip Neri was speaking to a large crowd of people who had gathered for some Church event to receive a plenary indulgence, and the Holy Spirit told St. Philip that only two people in the whole crowd were going to receive the plenary indulgence: Philip himself and a seven-year-old boy – presumably because everyone else was attached to sin.

Now, the good news about the grace of Divine Mercy Sunday is that to receive it, you simply need to go to confession before or on the feast – the experts say that sometime during Lent suffices – be in the state of grace (no mortal sin), and receive Holy Communion with the intention of obtaining the promised grace. Of course, we should also do acts of mercy such as forgiving people, praying for others, and having the intention to be more merciful to our neighbour.

This introduction draws from Fr Michael Gaitley's book Divine Mercy Explained (see marian.org/whatwedo/divinemeracy.php)



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

The Readings for the Easter Vigil are special to the night Mass. The Psalms will be on the slides.

FIRST READING Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

SECOND READING Col 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians
Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 28:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee.

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ