



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



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER: 14TH MAY 2023

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

We give thanks today for all our Mothers and Grandmothers, and for all those women who have cared for us in a special way. In the very, very least, we all owe our lives to our mother. As we were formed within her, her very body was our first home, and as we grew, we were nourished by her very life. But it doesn't stop there! We count on our mother's for so much! They are called to nurture and care for us, especially when we aren't able to care for ourselves. As our first teachers, they are the first to correct us. But as our fiercest advocates, they are the last to abandon us. So often they are asked to put our good before their own. Their very example of devotion, sacrifice and unconditional love teaches us life's most important lessons; that we are loveable, that we are loved, and that we ourselves are called to love in our turn.

I know I am blessed, because I have always had my mum by my side, and still do. I realise though that for many this is not the case. As we pray for and give thanks for all our mothers, we also pray in a special way for those who are no longer with us. We pray too for all mothers who themselves are missing their children, and for any who might be grieving a relationship that was wounded or broken. For a while we may suffer the pain of separation, but with the eyes of faith, we live in the sure hope that love always has the final word.

"I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS"



It is no accident that Jesus gave us his own Mother as his last act before he died. All of us can find in Mary a comforter and guide. In a deeply symbolic way, this act also pointed in Mystery to his gift of the Church, who we also look to as our Mother. It was the Church who gave birth to the life of Christ within us, and it was She who formed and continues to nurture our faith.

But even over and above these tremendous gifts, he also left us His Spirit. It was the Spirit who breathed across the waters to give life to all Creation. It was the Spirit who breathed life into each of us as we were formed in the womb. And it is from the Spirit that we all continue to draw life and strength.

The Holy Spirit is our Paraclete; our tireless Helper and most faithful Advocate, our safest Refuge and firmest Defender, our closest Comforter and deepest Consoler. How special is it that we had this Gospel today? For many of us, it was our mothers who first taught us what these words truly mean. And so, once again, let us pray for all our mothers, and for all who like mothers give life and keep us in their loving care.

Parish Contact Details:

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

Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

Parish Office:

Glenda Klabbbers & 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

John Smith (*Horsham*)

Moira Harrison

Claire Betts

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Ange Pellegrino (1yr anniversary)

Jack B Loughran, Eris Tuohey, Percy Lewis,

Michael Kelly, Matt O'Halloran, Lyn Stutley,

George Scott, Maurie Coughlan, Patrick Lynch,

Catherine Kelly, Thomas Brady, Thomas Burns,

Leslie Woodburn, John McLoughlan,

Herbert Roberts, William Byrne

SICK LIST

Yvonne Richardson, Paul Donohue,

Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott,

Jarrold Crimmins, Michael Bourke, Jack Donohue,

Jude Lewis, Susan, Yvonne Annan,

Bridget Phyland, Carmel Ryan, Leo Clarke

THIS WEEKEND (13TH/14TH MAY)

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Friday 5pm Culgoa

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Nandaly

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

(Mass times quite different this week!)

Tuesday: 10am

Wednesday: NO MASS

Thursday: Mass 2pm

(Eucharist Retreat)

Friday: NO MASS

NEXT WEEKEND (20TH/21ST MAY)

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Lalbert

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sea Lake 5pm

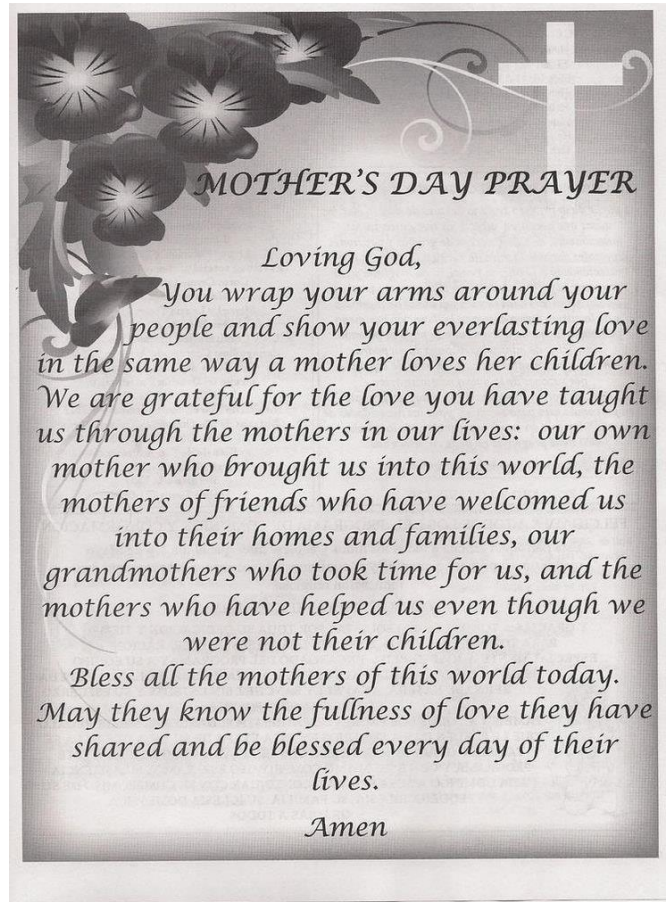
NOTICES

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

TO ALL OUR MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS

AND TO ALL WHO HAVE GUIDED US

ON OUR JOURNEY



FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT

We are looking forward to welcome the children for a special retreat this Thursday in preparation for their

First Holy Communion (first weekend of June).

Please continue to keep these children and their families in your prayers, and please pray for us as we prepare for and host this special retreat. May we faithfully and joyfully pass on the good news of the awesome treasure that is the Eucharist.

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



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: REFLECTION DAY WARRACKNABEAL 24TH MAY

The Catholic Women's League is organising a special Day of Reflection on **Wednesday 24th May** (Feast Day of Mary Help of Christians) at St Mary's Church **Warracknabeal**. This day will begin with Mass (10:30am) and include presentations from guest speakers Marie Shaddock (Ouyen) and Anna Krohn (Ballarat). Lunch will be at a cost of \$17.

All are welcome to attend the whole or part of the day. Organiser Frances Casey is asking for numbers by 17th May; so if you are interested in attending please let us know after Mass this Sunday or via the Parish Office by Tuesday 16th so we can register you.

There are already some ladies planning to travel from Swan Hill, so there may be a lift available if you need one. Alternatively, if you are keen to go and able to drive others, please let us know.

WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY

This Sunday we welcome Raphael & Remy Scalora who will be presented by their parents Ben and Gretchen for Baptism. May God bless and keep you!

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What does the sending of the Spirit say about the relationship between God and the world?

Why might Jesus have felt the need to tell the disciples that the Spirit would come to them?

How might the disciples have reacted to Jesus' words when they first heard them?

What are some of the ways Christians believe the Holy Spirit acts in the world today?

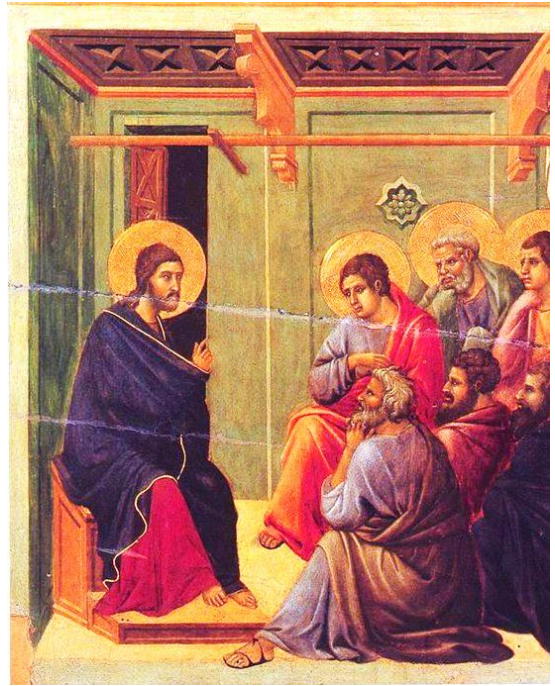
How can you be an agent of the Holy Spirit?

How might this passage have contributed to the teaching of God as Trinity?

In what ways did Jesus fulfil the role of a paraclete or advocate?

What are the commandments that Jesus refers to as 'his commandments'?

What does this passage tell us about Jesus' vision of what it is to be a disciple?



GOSPEL REFLECTION BY FR MICHAEL TATE PARALLEL TRUTHS

Today's Gospel speaks of an advocate. This translates a Greek word: 'paraclete'. Our Lord says: 'I will send you another Paraclete to be with you forever.' Our Lord was a Paraclete, and he would send another.

What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, parallel. They run alongside each other. A paraclete is a person who stands alongside someone and pleads their case.

That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor par excellence.

Our Lord promises another Paraclete dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, assisting us to live Truth-fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. This Paraclete particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the two Paracletes, constantly pleading our case before the Throne of Mercy.

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COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Thank you for your contributions

1st (Presbytery): \$ 820

2nd (Parish): \$ 825

FIRST READING Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!' Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men.

He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod. Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might.

Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul: Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me.

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING 1 Pt 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a

good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

The Ascension of the Lord

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23

Gospel: Mt 28:16-20