



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



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD: 21ST MAY 2023

Today we celebrate Jesus' Ascension to his Father. It can be a little hard to get our heads around this Feast, and what exactly we are celebrating! On the one hand, there is a real sense of 'going'; Jesus 'going' to the Father is the completion of the journey of his Death and Resurrection. There is a symbolism to the sense of going 'up'... he was ready to be descend 'down' into the depths of our suffering and pain, now he is lifted 'up' once again, and we are lifted up along with him. He has opened up for us the way to the Father. Where he has 'gone', we hope to follow. So with all that, there is a real sense of movement, *but we should not confuse 'movement' with 'departure'*. Christ did not leave us; he became present to us in a different way.

Christ is still with us in his Church; we still hear his word, he still meets us in the Sacraments, we still recognise him in the poor and needy, he still accompanies us as we face our daily toils... Christ has never left us. In fact, far from leaving us, we could argue that he is even closer to us now than he was to the first disciples as they followed him in Galilee. They had not yet received the great gift in which we all share... the gift of his Holy Spirit. His Spirit lives and moves within us, and therefore Christ lives and moves within us.

And that is worth celebrating! Speaking of which...

YOU ARE INVITED:

OUR PARISH PENTECOST PARTY

SUNDAY 28TH MAY AFTER 10:30AM MASS IN SWAN HILL

Next Sunday we are planning a special celebration for the Feast of Pentecost.

We all know the story of the first Pentecost; how the disciples were able to speak in many tongues after the gift of the Spirit, and how they carried the Gospel with them to the ends of the world... so what better way to celebrate Pentecost than to share food from the many cultures in which we share!

Please join us in the Parish Function Centre (Swan Hill) after 10:30am Mass to enjoy all the beautiful food that is being prepared. For the Saturday night crowd- come at 11:30am and you should find the party in full swing!

There will be an abundance of food, but there is always a second stomach for desserts and sweets if you would like to share something special of your own. Please let us know in advance of any dietary requirements, and we will make sure you are catered for.

This year the party will also be an opportunity for us to show our support for the three pilgrims from our Parish who are off to World Youth Day in Lisbon in a few weeks time. We will hear from Anna, Grace and Gerry about what they are looking forward to, and we will offer them a special blessing as they prepare for what should be a fantastic experience. Going to World Youth Day is a big deal for them and their families, and it is also a big deal for us as their Parish. So let's keep them in our prayers, and let's show our support!

Looking forward to seeing you at the party!

Parish Contact Details:

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

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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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Raphael Mollo (1yr Anniversary)
Orazia Ganci, Renata Corbani,
John Wise, Charlie Ficcarra, Noel & Aileen Rogers,
Wayne Cameron, Kevin Byrne, Bill Kelly,
Pat Wilson, Debra Nolen, Martin & Peter Ryan,
Hugh Woodburn, Cornelius Ryan, John O'Bree,
Annie Coughlan, John Joseph O'Loughlin,
Lorna Graves, Haydee Phyland, Sheila Meehan
Michael McNerney, Roy Marsilino, Noreen Scott,

SICK LIST

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

THIS WEEKEND (20TH/21ST MAY)

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Lalbert

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Sea Lake

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday: **Requiem Mass Claire Betts 10:30am**

Tues: 5.30pm (**Vigil Our Lady Help of Christians**)

Wednesday: NO MASS

Thursday: Confessions 5pm Mass 5.30pm
Adoration until 7pm

Friday: **NO 11:30am Mass**

*(Special School Mass for Catholic Education Week,
Jubilee Centre MacKillop)*

NEXT WEEKEND (27TH/28TH MAY)

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES



LET THE WORDS YOU
SPEAK ALWAYS BE FULL OF

Grace COLOSSIANS 4:6

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

This week is celebrated by our schools as Catholic Education Week; a special time to acknowledge the contributions of all who have built up our schools to be the communities they are today, to give thanks for the great work they continue to do, and to renew their Mission into the future.

Let's pray in a special way this week then for our schools; St Mary's Sea Lake, St Mary's Swan Hill and MacKillop College; for all their staff, their students and for the families and community they serve. We give thanks for the great work our schools continue to do; day by day, week by week, year by year!

In a special way I would also like to acknowledge the generous service of our principals; Kate Nunn (who is currently enjoying a well-earned break!), Kate Quin and Michelle Haeusler. There are so many demands placed on our principals, and these only seem to increase every year. We are lucky to have such capable women leading our schools. They really do pour themselves into their Mission with a spirit of love and service. So to our principals; thank you!

St Mary's Sea Lake are going to join with some other schools in Hopetoun for a special celebration this Wednesday (Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians). St Mary's Swan Hill and MacKillop College will come together for a special Mass this Friday.

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



FIRST EUCHARIST UPDATE

We were blessed to have the children preparing for their First Holy Communion in Swan Hill join us for a special retreat this past Thursday. It was a great day, and many thanks to St Mary's Primary for helping to make this day possible, and to our special helpers for their support on the day.

Thank you too for those who are continuing to pray for these children. It is not long now; most will be making their First Communion on the first weekend of June. Some more of the children have returned their special prayer cards, so if you would like to take one and pray for one of the candidates by name, please catch us after Mass.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why was it important for Jesus to 'commission' his disciples to continue his work?

What is the connection between the coming of the Holy Spirit and the disciples being witnesses?

How do you understand 'being a witness to your faith'?

How are you able to witness to what you believe in your everyday activities?

Who is a person you know who could be described as witnessing to their faith?

What have been some of the 'darker moments' of the history of missionary activity of the Church?

How does your local community seek to 'spread the good news' to others?

What are some of the actions of being a witness that might speak louder than words?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

PENTECOST SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: Jn 20:19-23



THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST IS MEANINGFUL FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

ONE

It signalled the end of His earthly ministry. God the Father had lovingly sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem, and now the Son was returning to the Father. The period of human limitation was at an end.

TWO

It signified success in His earthly work. All that He had come to do, He had accomplished.

THREE

It marked the return of His heavenly glory. Jesus' glory had been veiled during His sojourn on earth, with one brief exception at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9).

FOUR

It symbolized His exaltation by the Father (Ephesians 1:20-23). The One with whom the Father is well pleased (Matthew 17:5) was received up in honor and given a name above all names (Philippians 2:9).

FIVE

It allowed Him to prepare a place for us (Jn 14:2).

SIX

It indicated the beginning of His new work as High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16) and Mediator of the New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15).

SEVEN

It set the pattern for His return. When Jesus comes to set up the Kingdom, He will return just as He left—literally, bodily, and visibly in the clouds (Acts 1:11; Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7).

FIRST READING Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **(R)**

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

SECOND READING Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord:

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ