

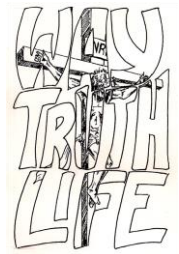


Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER: 7TH MAY 2023

SO THAT YOU TOO MAY BE... LIVING STONES MAKING A SPIRITUAL HOUSE



St Peter teaches that with Christ as our Cornerstone, we are called to be 'Living Stones making a Spiritual House.' In other words, each of us has a special part in the building up of God's Church. Do you find that hard to believe? We can often be the harshest judges of ourselves, and so it is not easy to recognise the great work that Christ is doing through us. So let's encourage one another!

Looking back on the past week, I have witnessed so many of you building up God's House through acts small and large. Sometimes this is in the context of your job; a teacher looking out for a student who is struggling to fit in... a carer giving their full attention and special care to the residents of a Nursing Home... but more often it is just in the day-to-day circumstances in which we find ourselves... moving house for a few days to help care for the grandkids... checking up on a mate who is having a tough time... supporting a relative who is sick... taking pride in your work and doing it to the best of your ability... all different ways we can build up God's House.

But hang on you might say, those don't sound like 'holy' acts. That is just ordinary-everyday stuff that anyone can do. And that is true. But you are no longer just anyone... through your baptism you became part of "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." Through your baptism, you were united to Christ and so now share in His Priestly Mission. And that means everything you do now takes on a Priestly character; your ordinary-everyday efforts can become truly Holy. We are called to offer up all our efforts; big and small, successful or not. We are called to consecrate those efforts through the Eucharist, where they are united to Christ's Great Work of Love on the Cross. And by doing so, little by little, Christ's Work is brought to completion as all Creation is consecrated through Him. And brick by brick, His House is built up.

This work of love has been going since the day of Pentecost, and it continues on today.

Never underestimate the awesome work that Christ can do through you!

"Set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house."

Parish Contact Details:

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Phone: 03 5032 4144

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Francesco Miceli (1year)
Desiree Smith, Michael Condi,
Neil McKerrow, Pat Jobling,
Raffaele Guastlegname
Marie Craig, Jeff Learmonth, Pat Lange

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 (6/7TH MAY)

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday: 5pm
Tuesday: 5.30pm
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday: Confession 5pm and Mass 5.30pm
Adoration until 7pm
Friday: 11am Rosary & Adoration, 11.30am Mass
Saturday: (Our Lady of Fatima)
Confessions 9:30am, Mass 10am

NEXT WEEKEND (13/14TH MAY)

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Friday 5pm Culgoa
Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

NOTICES

CUPPA AFTER MASS THIS SUNDAY 7TH MAY

All are welcome for a Cuppa after 10:30am Mass



PRAYERS FOR OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS

We have asked our candidates to fill out a little prayer card for parishioners to pray for them as they prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time. If you are happy to take one of these cards to pray for a particular child in a special way, please let us know and we can pass one on.

The first week of the program has focused on thanksgiving. We have so much to give thanks for, and so many people we owe thanks too, but none more than God for the very gift of life itself. And not only just life, but his love and grace so that we may live that life to the full.

Everything we have comes from him... so how can we even begin to thank him? Psalm 115 tackles just that question; "How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me? The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name!"

The first Christians recognised those words as an anticipation of the great gift of the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, Christ invites us through the Holy Spirit to unite ourselves with his great act of thanksgiving to the Father. As we see the gifts taken forward to the altar, we see our thanks placed into the hands of Christ. As we see the chalice raised, we see our thanks lifted up.

We have invited the children to consider all the things they are thankful for. Perhaps you might also like to do the same? Name all the things you are thankful for and bring those thanks to 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

Please continue to keep these children and their families in your prayers, and encourage them if you see them around the traps! Please also 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.



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 the 17th May; if you are interested in attending let us know in the Parish Office 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.

COLLECTIONS:

Thank you for your contribution!

1st (Presbytery): \$ 900

2nd (Parish): \$ 760

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

6th Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

Second Reading: 1 Pt 3:15-18

Gospel: Jn 14:23

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY FR MICHAEL TATE

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: 'Let not your hearts be troubled.'

Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers.

How does this come about?

At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.'

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can participate in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: 'God became human so that humans might become God.'

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion!

Alleluia! © Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What is it that Jesus wants the disciples to trust in God about?

What do we learn about the disciples from the questions asked by Thomas and Philip?

What truth does Jesus make clear to the disciples about himself and the Father?

What message can young people today take from this gospel passage?

Why does this passage work as both a Last Supper speech and a pre-Ascension discourse?

What does the image of the many rooms in the Father's house seek to convey?

Why does Jesus need to return to the Father for the disciples to live out their potential?

FIRST READING Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

SECOND READING 1 Pt 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men

down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;

if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,

and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,'

said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,

so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ