



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*



PENTECOST SUNDAY: 28TH MAY 2023



"THE ONE SPIRIT... WORKING IN ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT WAYS IN DIFFERENT PEOPLE"

It never ceases to amaze me to look out from the altar and see all the many people that are called together into the family of the Church. We come from all different walks of life, each with our own story to tell. We range from babes to ninety-seven year olds, and hail from every corner of the earth. Our weeks are filled with many different activities; from cropping to care-giving, from mowing lawns to reconciling accounts. We are each blessed with our particular gifts, and each of us carry our particular burdens. We might move in different circles, our lives following different rhythms. The reality is, for many of us, Sunday Mass is perhaps the only time we see each other. And yet, here we all are, united together, called together into the One Body. Here we are, animated and strengthened by the one Spirit. And week after week, from here we go out again, moved by same Spirit to continue to do the special work God has allotted us.

The Spirit is invisible. We can't see Him. But we *can* see His works. And what greater evidence is there of His Power to Unite and Strengthen than this miracle of the Church? It is the Holy Spirit that calls and holds us together. There really is no other way to explain it.

SO LET'S GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT!

And so today, we give thanks in a special way for this awesome gift. The Holy Spirit is in each of us. He continues to Heal, to Strengthen and to Guide. He continues to breathe life ever anew, filling us each with special gifts to share. And that is why we are throwing a party!

SEE YOU AT THE PARTY!

Once again, we look forward to the special celebration after the 10:30am Mass in Swan Hill; a chance to share cultural foods from the many of the different groups the Holy Spirit has called together within our Parish, and a chance to share some music and fun as well.

In a special way, we also offer our prayers and support today for Gerry, Grace and Anna as they prepare to head to Portugal for World Youth Day in a few weeks time. God bless you all for your pilgrimage!

Parish Contact Details:

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

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

Orazia Ganci (30 yr),

Sheila Meehan, Patrick Conlan, Elizabeth Iannucci
Cheryl Hind, Maria Colombo, Giovanni Edera
Michael Tuohey, George Giddings,
Bernice Ledwich, Alan Gerard McGrath,
John McDonald, Maxine Gaylard Margaret Scarce,
Michael Considine, Mary McInerney
Clem Kelly, Bridget Maloney

SICK LIST

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

THIS WEEKEND (27TH/28TH MAY)

PENTECOST SUNDAY

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tues: 5.30pm
Wednesday: 10am (Feast of the Visitation)
Thursday: Confessions 5pm Mass 5.30pm
Adoration until 7pm
Friday: 11am Adoration 11.30am Mass
Saturday 10am (First Saturday)

NEXT WEEKEND (3RD/4TH JUNE)

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill
First Holy Communions
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
First Holy Communions

NOTICES



SWAN HILL FIRST EUCHARIST: ALMOST THERE!

We are looking forward to celebrating First Communions in Swan Hill next weekend, the 3rd and 4th of June. Thank you for all those who are continuing to pray for these children. 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?

In what ways was the Pentecost experience, 50 days after Easter, the 'right time' for the disciples

What emotions may the disciples have felt on that day?

How would you have reacted if you were in the disciples' place?

What is the relationship between Jesus and the Holy Spirit?

Where in your life could you use the guidance and strength of the Spirit?

What was different about Jesus breathing the Spirit on the disciples and the Pentecost experience?

What was significant about the disciples being heard to speak in many different languages?

Why might Pentecost sometimes be regarded as the birth of the Church?

Have you ever had an experience of being aware of the Spirit's presence/action?

Where in your life could you use the guidance and strength of the Spirit?

CUPPA AFTER MASS NEXT SUNDAY 4TH JUNE

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



SIX REASONS TO CELEBRATE PENTECOST

Daniel Threlfall: Christian Lifestyle, Leadership, Resources

Many Christians around the world will celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Some, however, may not understand the meaning of this traditional Christian celebration. Whether you have been observing Pentecost for years, or whether it is a completely new concept to you, here are a few reasons why celebrating Pentecost this year might be a good idea.

1: PENTECOST REMINDS US OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PERIOD.

For some Christians, the Holy Spirit is kind of like “the forgotten God,” as Francis Chan expressed it. We talk much of “God,” or “Jesus,” but the Holy Spirit gets less attention. Maybe it’s because we don’t understand Him. Maybe we’re afraid of “getting all charismatic.” Whatever the case, Pentecost is worth celebrating if, for no other reason, we celebrate the Holy Spirit. In so doing, we neglect him no longer.

2: PENTECOST REMINDS US OF THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

If a single word could be used to describe the events on Pentecost, it would be the word, “power.” To a huddled group of discouraged disciples, there came the sound of hurricane-force winds, the strange presence of flames above each head, and then an explosion of gospel witness that catapulted the Jerusalem church to a force that was too large to ignore. When several dozen men and women proclaim the truth among thousands of people, each one hearing them in his or her own language, you know something powerful is at work. Pentecost was where it started.

3: PENTECOST REMINDS US OF THE GREAT COMMISSION.

In order to really grasp the “why” of Pentecost, it helps to understand the “when.” Pentecost took place on the heels of Jesus’ final command, “Go and make disciples.” After a brief pause — like the calm before a mighty storm — the Holy Spirit arrived. A major part of his mission was to empower the disciples to fulfill Christ’s command. The injunction to make disciples of all nations and teach them all things is a tall order. Only the Spirit could aid them. When we celebrate Pentecost, we can’t help but realize the magnificent responsibility we have been given in the Great Commission.

4: PENTECOST ENCOURAGES US IN OUR LABOUR.

The Book of Acts opens with a bang — the Holy Spirit arrives (Acts 2:2) and the world begins to be turned upside down by the Church (Acts 17:6). The remainder of the Book of Acts chronicles the tireless labor of Peter, Paul, and others as they experience labors, imprisonments, beatings, being stoned, shipwrecks, danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from their own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. How in the world did they keep going? It was the Spirit.

5: PENTECOST GIVES US HOPE.

One of the reasons why celebrating Pentecost is such a glorious thing is because of its hope-giving power. When the disciples scurried off to their upper room retreat after Jesus’ ascension, they may have been a rather discouraged group. Here they were — a handful of people, invested with great truth, and commissioned with great promise. But where was the power? What could they do? The arrival of the Holy Spirit was nothing short of shocking. In His power, they had hope. Things were happening! Thousands were converted! The church mushroomed in size! The truth was proclaimed in every language! Here was hope! But what about today? Is there any hope for us today? Absolutely, yes. We have the same Holy Spirit, and He is no less powerful than He was at Pentecost.



6: PENTECOST OVERWHELMS US WITH A SENSE OF AWE AND REVERENTIAL WORSHIP.

Those who meditate little upon the greatness of God will little appreciate his infinitude. But when we look — really look — at our God in all His fullness, we can’t help but be overwhelmed. Seizing opportunity at Pentecost to meditate upon the Holy Spirit will create in every believer a yearning for His power and a sense of humility in the face of His grandeur. This Holy Spirit whom we so easily take for granted — living in us — is God, in all His holiness, infinity, majesty, and glory.

FIRST READING Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are, How many are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your riches.

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever! May the Lord rejoice in his works! May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find my joy in the Lord. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven:

for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord. *ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

The Most Holy Trinity Sunday

First Reading: Ex 34:4-6. 8-9

Second Reading: 2 Cor 13:11-13

Gospel: Jn 3:16-18