



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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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*



HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY: 4TH JUNE 2023

GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON

The Trinity is like a family. In a family, each member always remains unique and distinct, and yet there is also an overriding one-ness and unity. A family can't go about trying to live separate lives, each person running their own show. It just can't work that way. We have to walk alongside and in step with each other; what we face as individuals you also face as a family. Even when we are apart, we are present to each other. What a parent does and feels impacts on their children, and what a child does and feels impacts their parents and siblings. And the same is true for spouses too, perhaps even more so. When one is hurting, we are all hurting.

When one is full of life and joy, we can help lift the others up.

It is true, at different stages, one or other of the family might take the lead. Each of us will play our special role, carrying our own particular responsibilities. Yet while different, we are always equal in dignity and worth. We always remain our own unique person, never swallowed up by the whole.

We are at the same time, both Many, and One.

A family is a Communion of Love. A family *is* Love; not yet in perfection, and certainly with its struggles and flaws, but in its truest *identity*, in its deepest *striving* and *motivation*, in its very *life*, a family only makes sense in Love. And the same is true of the Trinity. We can only make sense of the Trinity in terms of Love. God, in his truest identity, in his deepest motivation, in his very life, is Love. God is love; Father, Son and Holy Spirit in a Loving Communion, and the Trinity is the name we put on that truth.

God is at once both Many, and One, a Perfect Family, and the incredible news is this... we are invited to take our place right in the heart of that Family.

THE EUCHARIST: TAKING YOUR PLACE AT THE FAMILY TABLE



Today is such a special day, because today we welcome some very special children to receive Holy Communion for the first time. By doing so, you are taking your place at the family table. Which family? God's family, the Church. In the Eucharist, you will receive the gift of Christ's Body, and by receiving his Body, you will become his Body. May his life move within you. May you be filled up with his love. And filled up with his love, may you be strengthened to carry out the special role he has set aside for you. You have a part in building up his Body that no-one else has, you can share his love in a way completely unique to you. Open your heart to Jesus' plan for you, and give him your 'Amen', your 'Yes' to all that he has in store!

Parish Contact Details:

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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

Nola O'Bree

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Fr Brendan Smith, Pat Ladson

Betty Lescke, Ester Coyle

James Spry, Jean Webb,

Marjorie Jager

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 (3RD/4TH JUNE)

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

First Holy Communion

Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

First Holy Communion

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday: 1:30pm Funeral Nola O'Bree

Tues: 5.30pm

Wednesday: 10am

Thursday: Confessions 5pm Mass 5.30pm

Adoration until 7pm

Friday: 11am Adoration 11.30am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND (11TH/12TH JUNE)

CORPUS CHRISTI: FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY

BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD

Friday: 5:00pm Culgoa

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5:00pm Nandaly

NOTICES



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS!

The day has finally arrived! We are delighted to welcome all the children today who are making their First Holy Communions. Christ is giving himself to you today in such a special way. And not just part of himself, all of himself! Everything he has and is he gives to you today. May your hearts be filled with that gift, and may you continue to be filled throughout your lives ahead. And filled with his love, may you share it with everyone you meet.

FIRST EUCHARIST THANKS

Mary and I would like to thank all the families for your participation in the program. Your child couldn't be here without your support.

We would also like to thank St Mary's Primary School for their support of this program, especially in making the retreat day possible.

Finally, we thank all the parishioners who have played a special role in the program; helping with the music, the retreat and the special celebration after Mass today... but especially for your prayers and encouragement; your prayers for the children as they prepared for this special day, and your prayers for us who have been helping to prepare them.

CUPPA AFTER MASS THIS SUNDAY 4TH JUNE

THREE IN ONE

• **THE FATHER**

- In Creation, speaks creation into existence.
- In Redemption, planned redemption and sent His Son into the World.

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

- **THE SON**

- In Creation, carried out the creative decrees of the Father.
- In Redemption, carried out the work of Redemption.

- **THE SPIRIT**

- In Creation, sustains and manifests God's immediate presence in his creation.
- In Redemption, applies redemption to us through regeneration or new spiritual life, empowers us for service.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What are the different symbols or images of Trinity that you can identify?

Why do you think the concept of Trinity developed so slowly over a few hundred years?

In what ways is it helpful to be able to think about God in three different ways?

How would you explain the concept of 'Trinity' to a non-Christian?

How would the earliest Jewish-Christians have reacted to the idea of God as Trinity?

What images or characteristics do you ascribe to the three different experiences of God?

In what ways do your prayers to Father, Son or Spirit differ?

Which images or symbols of Trinity do you find helpful and which ones are unhelpful for you?

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

BY MARY COLOE PBVM

'GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH...'

As a child I learnt about the Trinity in terms of three persons in one God – a short summary of a very complex history of debate about God, Jesus and Spirit. John's Gospel says this with much greater simplicity in the one word 'love'. Too often the language of 'trinity' begins to sound mathematical: three in one, one in three. Trinity is a way of trying to put words on an unfathomable mystery of the inner life of God. A life we could never have imagined, except it was first experienced. Within Judaism, there were a number of ways of naming the Holy One – Elohim, the generic term for God; YHWH the personal name and experience of God in Israel. The ancient writers of Israel constantly struggled to name the paradox of a God who was utterly transcendent, and yet a God who was present to them.

Scripture Reflection Continued...

To maintain the sense of God's transcendence, when they spoke of the immanent experience of God various groups used different words. The Prophets said, 'The Word of the Lord came to me,' and 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me'. The wisdom teachers spoke of Holy Wisdom being present in the order and elegance of the natural world as well as in human history. Later the rabbis used an Aramaic word 'Shekinah' as a way of speaking of the presence of God within the cosmos. The life of Jesus of Nazareth and his ongoing risen life within the Christian community stretched the theological concepts and language of Israel to find a new way of naming God. Trinity is the distinctively Christian way of naming our experience of God as a communion of life and love.

The very nature of God is to love – to reach out to another in relationship. In this conversation with Nicodemus Jesus describes why he has come into the world (Greek: *kosmos*); for love of this extraordinary cosmos God gave us a most precious gift in Jesus. John's Gospel makes the promise that those who receive this gift in faith will become children of God (John 1:12) which is this Gospel's way of describing salvation. This means of course that you and I are invited to be drawn into the very heart of God, to be drawn into the Trinity as part of God's own household.

Earlier in the conversation Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about being born again in water and Spirit – a phrase Nicodemus could not understand. The Johannine community understood that with the gift of the Spirit they were in a sense reborn into a new quality of life. John calls this eternity life, which is a way of naming the life God lives in eternity. I use the translation 'eternity' life, rather than 'eternal' life to convey the concept that we are reborn not into ordinary human life that goes on forever, but into a new way of existence. We are born into the family of God, able to call God 'Father' and each other sisters and brothers. In the first reading, this is what Moses begs for when he asks, 'adopt us as your heritage'.

If you want a living example of the Trinity, look at a family where children participate in the life and love of their parents.

Today, as we celebrate the feast of the Trinity, we are not celebrating an esoteric doctrine from the past; we are celebrating One who is a dynamic relationship inviting us to be participants in this dynamism.

FIRST READING Ex 34:4-6. 8-9

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord God, ruler of all, merciful and loving.

With the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with him there.

He called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.' And Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped. 'If I have indeed won your favour, Lord,' he said, 'let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Dn 3:52-56. R. v.52

(R.) Glory and praise for ever!

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.

Blest your glorious holy name.

You are blest in the temple of your glory.

You are blest on the throne of your kingdom.

You are blest who gaze into the depths.

You are blest in the firmament of heaven.

(R.) Glory and praise for ever!

SECOND READING 2 Cor 13:11-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION See Apoc 1:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 3:16-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
God sent his Son to save the world through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

'God loved the world so much

that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world

not to condemn the world,

but so that through him the world might be saved.

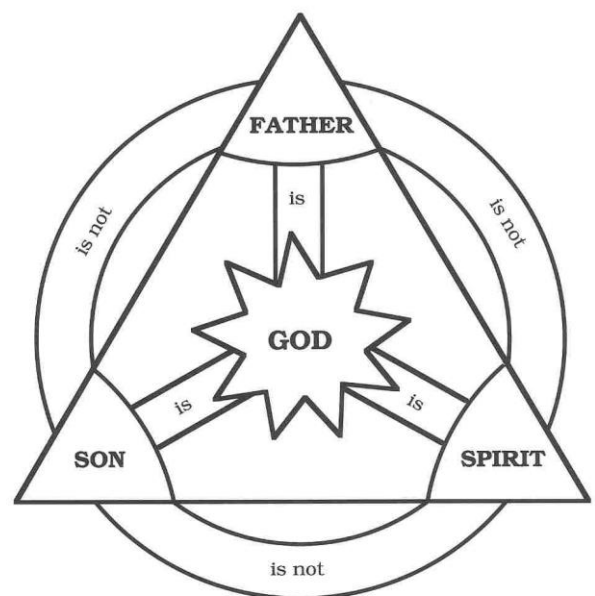
No one who believes in him will be condemned;

but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe

in the name of God's only Son.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*



READINGS NEXT WEEK:

MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

First Reading: Dt 8:2-3. 14-16

Second Reading: 1 Cor 10:16-17

Gospel: Jn 6:51-58