



# 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*



## 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

### PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

*HE WAS HUMBLER YET, EVEN TO ACCEPTING DEATH, DEATH ON A CROSS.*



Something struck me the other day during a funeral. As you may know, most families now like to have a slide-show of precious photos as part of the ceremony. Often these will include snaps taken during significant family events- including Weddings, Baptisms & Confirmations. If the family have lived in the area for a few generations, many of those occasions have taken place in the very same building in which we are celebrating the funeral. The parish church has been like a second home, the privileged setting for so many memories.

Okay, so that thought is nothing new. But what struck me at the funeral was this- as the slide show switched to a picture of just such a family wedding, taken at the front of our Church, my eyes drifted across to the Crucifix above the altar. That same Crucifix has been a constant for that family- it was there for all their precious events in the church. And the same is true for so many families I know (including my own), and so many other churches.

And that Crucifix has been there, not just for the big celebrations of life, but for every person who has come with their prayers; their worries and trials, their hopes and their joys. For each and every person who has entered our church, those arms have extended in welcome and embrace. For each and every one, they have been raised as a shield to protect. When faced with periods of suffering in our life, those wounded hands have reminded us that we are not alone. And even if we have lost hope, or for a time have drifted away, those arms have never, never stopped reaching out for us.

It is a powerful symbol isn't it?

Of course, the Crucifix itself is something man-made. But what it represents is something far beyond our imagination, far beyond our hopes; it represents the Son who reaches out to embrace us and his awesome act of unconditional Love. It is the sign on which we can pin our hopes and rest our lives. Just as the same Crucifix watches over us, the Son never ceases to watch over us with undying love. He will never forget or abandon us, even if we forget or abandon him. As we hear the story of His Passion again today, may we hear it not just as a tale from the past, but as reality in our lives today.

#### **Parish Contact Details:**

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Website: northeastmallee.org.au

**Office Hrs:** Tues, Thurs 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+**

Rosario (Ross) Mammone

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Clare Gammon, Kath Thompson, Jeremiah Lucy

Olive Burns, Bill Kelly, Mark Boulton

Gloria Langerak, Joe Wilkinson, James Peter Maher

Michael Brennan, Greg McKerrow, Mary Lloyd

Patricia Jackson

**SICK LIST**

Pat Croft, Yvonne Richardson, Paul Donohue,

Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott,

Jarrold Crimmins, Michael Bourke, Jack Donohue,

Jude Lewis, Susan, Yvonne Annan,

Bridget Phyland, Carmel Ryan,

**THIS WEEKEND (23/24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH)**

**PALM SUNDAY**

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill

*With Confessions in Vietnamese available afterwards*

**NO MASS QUAMBATOOK- (Lay-Lead this week)**

Sunday 10.30am Swan Hill

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE**

*See next column for full schedule*



**NOTICES**

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE**

**HOLY WEEK IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday Mass 10am

*Children's First Confessions 5pm & 6:30pm*

Wednesday Mass 10am, *with Anointing of the Sick*

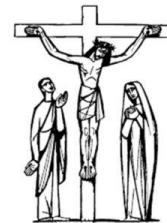
*Confessions 5-6pm*



**HOLY THURSDAY**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper: Swan Hill 6pm**

*Followed by the Watch*



**GOOD FRIDAY**

Stations of the Cross Swan Hill 10am

*Followed by Confessions until 11:30am*

**Celebration of the Lord's Passion Swan Hill 3pm**

*Followed by Confessions until 5pm*

Tenebrae Swan Hill 8pm (Praying with the Psalms)



**HOLY SATURDAY & EASTER VIGIL**

*Confessions 10am*

**Easter Vigil Mass 6pm**



**EASTER SUNDAY**

**Mass Quambatook 8:30am (With Anointing)**

**Mass Swan Hill 10:30am**

*Followed by Easter Lunch*

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au)

## **VISIT FR PETER NGUYEN BUI QUOC KHANH**

We welcome Fr Peter who is visiting from Vietnam and joins us for the 6pm Mass. He will be available for Confession in Vietnamese after Mass.

### **ROSTERS FOR EASTER**

If you are able to help with the different ministries/roles for Holy Week and Easter in Swan Hill, the rosters are available in the Church to fill in. An extra job too- if anyone can help with the Easter fire let me know!



### **EASTER SUNDAY PARISH LUNCH**

Easter is a special day of celebration and joy, but with distance and circumstance not everyone is able to join with family and friends for a special meal.

So that no-one need be alone, some parishioners have offered to host a special lunch on Easter Sunday after Mass, so that we can celebrate together as a parish family. Everyone is welcome!

If you would like help in any way, please let Jordan Wong or Helen Tuntar know.

### **HOLY LAND COLLECTION GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024**

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday. For 800 years, the Franciscan Friars have shared the difficult lives of Christians in the countries that make up the

Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land: Israel and Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Rhodes and Cyprus. The people of these countries face their own difficulties, but particularly Christians due to their minority status. Among them, the friars have never ceased offering their pastoral care. Two years ago it was the pandemic that was causing havoc for the people in the Holy Land (as it was in the rest of the world), but now there is a new and more dangerous threat through the ongoing conflict which may last for quite some time. Just when pilgrims were starting to return, the Sacred Places of our Christian Faith are

once again closed to pilgrims. Pilgrims are vital because they generate income that allows the Friars and the local Church to fulfil their mission of caring for the Holy Places (which also give work to the local people), as well as running parishes, schools & caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless, & more.

## **DIVINE MERCY- APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>**

The Second (or Low) Sunday of Easter is also the Feast of Divine Mercy. This is a special celebration of our Lord's unending and inexhaustible Mercy. To mark this great feast, we will once again hold a Holy Hour in Swan Hill on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 2pm and finishing with the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm. Confessions will be available during the time of Adoration.

### **PROJECT COMPASSION**

Many thanks to those who have been submitting their envelopes each week, and for those who have already returned their boxes. If you haven't already done so, you can simply place your box or envelope on the collection plate. Alternatively, you can also make a donation online at any time- <https://www.caritas.org.au/>

### **RANDOM ACTIVITIES FOR LENT**

- + Give up sweets and other snacks for a day.
- + Pray for the Pope
- + Go to Adoration even if its just for a little while.
- + Clear your mind of other things and sit quietly with God.
- + Attend a Holy Week Mass



### **HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

Why is it important that we continue to 'tell the story' of the Passion?

What emotions might Jesus have been feeling when he prayed at Gethsemane?

What message was conveyed to humankind by Jesus' death?

What is significant about the group of people who were with Jesus at the very end of his life?

What 'moment' of the story can you identify with and apply to your own life?

**FIRST READING** *Isaiah 50:4-7*

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.*

The Lord has given me  
a disciple's tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied  
he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear,  
to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;

I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.

So, too, I set my face like flint;

I know I shall not be shamed.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2*

**(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

All who see me deride me.

They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;  
let him release him if this is his friend.'

Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet.  
I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them.

They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone,  
my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.

'You who fear the Lord give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.

Revere him, Israel's sons.' **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** *Philippians 2:6-11*

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

*He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.*

His state was divine,  
yet Christ Jesus did not cling

to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are,  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Philippians 2:8-9*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
Christ became obedient for us even to death  
dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high  
and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**PLEASE REFER TO THE PASSION LEAFLET FOR THE  
GOSPEL READING.**



**READINGS NEXT WEEK: EASTER SUNDAY**

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:1-9