



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 Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill as well as the Lake Boga Families & Faith Group



31ST MARCH 2024

EASTER SUNDAY

***WE PRAY THAT THIS CANDLE MAY PERSEVERE UNDIMMED,
TO OVERCOME THE DARKNESS OF THIS NIGHT...***



Every year at the Easter Vigil, we bless the new Paschal Candle which will be used throughout the year ahead. It will remain alight for all the Masses of Eastertide. It will also be lit again every time we have a baptism, and every time we have a funeral. Its gentle light shines out as a symbol of the Light of Christ that has been entrusted to us- we pray that his Light 'persevere undimmed' in our hearts throughout the year ahead. With careful management (and a bit of luck), that same candle should see us through until next Easter (even if it is beginning to look a little tired towards the end). Of course, that relies on us remembering to blow it out after every use! That should be simple right?

As simple as see the candle burning and puff... blow it out! But as the wick burns down into the candle, the flame can become hidden, and so in the rush of packing up it is not always so obvious that it is still there, gently flickering away. Sometimes this means I miss blowing it out, and it is only when I turn off the lights and everything is dark that I finally notice its gentle light. *The light shines brightest when all else is dark.*

Today we celebrate the joy and power of Christ's Resurrection. He has defeated death and sin. They have no more power over us. Life and Love have proved the stronger, and that is why we rejoice. Maybe you can feel that Victory as something powerful in your life. Maybe you can feel it like a raging bonfire, something that overwhelms you all at once? More likely though, you experience the power of Christ's Victory as something more like the gentle light of the Paschal Candle. It is not always obvious, but it is there. In all the busyness of life, we can easily forget it, but in the moments of darkness the Light of Easter shines brightly. It can bring us comfort when we mourn, peace when we are anxious, clear-sight when we are confused, patience when we are tested, strength when we are weary, faith when we struggle with doubt, hope when we are at risk of despair. It can help bring understanding where there was tension, reconciliation where there has been conflict, healing where there was hurt, and love where there was coldness. And it can do all of that, with us hardly even noticing the power of Christ's Victory at work. For the most part, its power is hidden, like the gentle flame of the candle. Hidden, but still very much at work. And that is why we rejoice!

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, 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+**
Stephen Frazer

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Sebastiano Costa (1 yr), Vince Carpinteri, Vincenzo Fazzalori, Sr Dawn Power, Bernie Ryan, Martin Walsh, Mathilda Lariche, Catherine Irwin, Mary Nolen, Mary Considine, Leo Clohesy, Leonard McLoughlan, Fred Lawry, Paul Pupillo, Betty Currie, John O'Bryan, Peter Mullan, Anne Clarke

SICK LIST

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

THIS WEEKEND (30/31ST MARCH)

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: **No Mass**

Wednesday: 5.30pm Mass

Thursday: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass

Friday: 11.30am Mass

Saturday: Confessions 9:30am, Mass 10am,

Rosary to follow at 109 Werril St

NEXT WEEKEND 6TH/7TH APRIL

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Divine Mercy Holy Hour- 2-3pm Swan Hill

NOTICES

EASTER SUNDAY PARISH LUNCH

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

THANK YOU!

A massive thank you to all who helped make our Holy Week and Easter Celebrations run so smoothly; for cleaning and decorating our churches, for preparing the palms, flowers and candles, for the music and singers, for the servers, sacristans, readers, welcomers and for all those who prepared our Easter Lunch... so much work just happens quietly in the background to help make these days such prayerful ones for all... thank you, your generous efforts are greatly appreciated!

ROSARY: 1ST SATURDAY

Rosary for the First Saturday of the month (6th April) will be hosted by Joe and Teresa at 109 Werril St Swan Hill, after the 10am Mass at the Church.

All welcome.



PROJECT COMPASSION: SPECIAL COLLECTION

Thank you to all who donated to the Project Compassion. You can still support Project Compassion either by placing your donation in an envelope marked "Project Compassion" in the collection basket or going to the website caritas.org.au

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What emotions do you think Mary might have experienced upon discovering the tomb?

Why did the gospel writers portray the disciples' initial disbelief and doubt about the resurrection?

What Christian belief/s flow from the resurrection of Jesus?

In what ways does the account of Jesus' resurrection inspire hope in Christians?

In what ways is Jesus still present in 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



NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY SR MARY COLOE
SEEING SIGNS OF LIFE
Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9
He saw and he believed.

The day begins with darkness and fear. The tomb has been desecrated. The body has been stolen. Whatever Jesus said about resurrection, his disciples did not expect him to rise until the general resurrection of the dead at the end of time. The anonymous disciple loved by Jesus races to the tomb, sees the linen cloth and the face cloth placed apart and believes. In this simple sign of a 'tidy' tomb, he sees what Peter missed, that God has entered this story of death and transformed it to a story of life.

On two occasions in this short reading, we find the use of the passive voice – 'the stone had been moved away' and the linen cloth over his head, 'rolled up' in a place by itself. Frequently in the Scriptures, the use of the passive voice is called the Divine Passive, as it is a way of referring to the action of God without naming God as the direct agent of the action. This is a Semitic way of reverencing God. The face-veil has been removed and rolled with care. Although never named, God is the Divine agent in this episode.

John's Easter story is closer to our real experience than many of the other Resurrection stories. Here we have no angels announcing 'He is raised'; no Jesus present to change sadness into joy. Resurrection is more subtle in this Gospel. Mary and Peter miss the signs. They remain locked in grief still carrying the painful burden of Golgotha. It is the disciple named 'beloved' who first experiences resurrection in his openness to believe in God's power to raise Jesus. Easter calls for faith. Those who know the loss and pain of death know too well the hard, long search to find signs of life. We don't experience a sudden glorious moment of life returned. Like the anonymous disciple, we often stay some time within the tomb before finding grace to turn and enter into life. Such grace is found in simple signs of a love that does endure. Perhaps this is why 'the beloved' disciple first reaches Easter faith.

Naming this day as 'the first day' of the week, is not simply an indicator that it is the day after the Jewish Sabbath (7th day), but is also a hint that in John's Gospel the resurrection is the dawn of a new creation. If you recall the Passion reading on Friday, which is always from John's gospel, you might have noticed that Jesus was arrested in a garden, and then was buried in a garden. We so frequently mix all the gospel accounts together we can sometimes miss seeing the unique theological vision and artistry of each individual evangelist. Only John has Jesus arrested in a garden, and only John has Jesus buried in a garden. Also John emphasises that the Cross is placed 'in the middle' which is the same phrase used to describe the tree of life in Genesis 2, which was also placed 'in the middle of the garden'. Then at the foot of the Cross John has a man and a woman, who is only called 'woman' and 'mother' in this Gospel. These were the names given to Eve. These differences to the Synoptic gospels are deliberate. John is setting the crucifixion within the garden of creation. For John, the cross marks the end of one creation – remember Jesus' words, 'It is finished' – and the beginning of a new creation.

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, a similar theology is presented, that the resurrection is a new creation. Paul speaks about being 'brought back to true life' and reminds the Colossians that 'you have died'. For both Paul and John, the Christ event has an impact on all people and in fact all of creation. The old creation, the old life is now finished and a new possibility of life has been revealed and this is God's own eternity life, which humans can participate in. Jesus is the sign that humanity has passed through death and that humanity can be imbued with God's divine life, what Paul calls 'glory' in this passage. So Resurrection is not just a celebration for what happened to Jesus – if it were only that, then Easter would be just a nostalgic memory. Easter celebrates that we also, right now, through the Risen One, can participate in Divine life. So Easter is as much about us, as it is about Jesus.

You may have had a chance to see the film, 'As it is in heaven,' which suggests that through music, a group of people for a short time were able to glimpse or hear the divine harmony. For a moment, they participated in something bigger than themselves. Easter is this glimpse for us of heaven on earth.

MARY COLOE PBVM

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

The Readings for the Easter Vigil are special to the night Mass. The Psalms will be on the slides.

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

**(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians .

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the

earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.

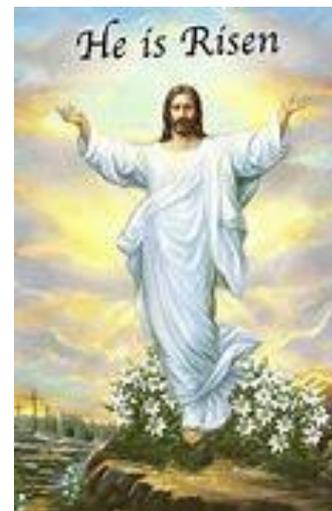
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 16:1-7

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has risen.*

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."'

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



READINGS NEXT WEEK: 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 20:19-31