



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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*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*



## 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER



### 'YOU ARE MY WITNESSES'

Both the reading from Acts and the Gospel today speak of being witnesses to the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Christ. This obviously meant something special for those who witnessed these events in the flesh, but the words are not just meant for them. They are meant for us too.

We are Christ's witnesses to our world today. Okay, we weren't there to see Jesus Crucified on the first Good Friday, but we are still true witnesses to the power of the Cross in our lives. How often has that Mystery brought us strength in time of trial? How often has it reminded us that we are never alone in our suffering, but that Christ is right there with us. And no matter how down we may be on ourselves, how often does it remind us that we were worth dying for, that we are loved? In the same way, we may not have been there on the day of His Resurrection when we first appeared to his disciples, but we are still witnesses to the hope and peace the risen Christ brings. How often has he helped us overcome sadness, hurt or despair? We are true witnesses to the Light that the risen Christ continues to shine in our hearts, even in the midst of darkness.

Now, each of us faces our own set of circumstances and experiences in life, and so therefore each of us will share that witness in our own special way; the unique way that God has planned for us. Never doubt the power of your own particular witness. Even if it is as simple as the joy you share with those around you, or the witness of your patient perseverance through a time of ill-health, you have an ability to reach the people around you in a way no-one else can. We all share in the same Mission; to witness to the power of Christ in our lives. But this one common Mission will have as many expressions as there are believers bearing witness.

Never be afraid to add your voice to the chorus. Never doubt the power of your own special witness.

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

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**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+**

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Brian Carty (1 yr), Elizabeth Williamson (1 yr),  
Kathleen Ledwich, Mary McMurtie, Kath Hogan,  
Michael Upton, Gerrard Magee, Irene Learmonth,  
Kealan Snowden, Tim Power, Margaret Walsh,  
Agnes Burns

**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 13<sup>TH</sup>/14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill  
*Followed by Monthly Cuppa*  
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday: 5.30pm Mass  
Wednesday: 10am Mass  
Thurs: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass, Adoration  
Friday: 11.30am Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 20<sup>TH</sup>/21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

**NOTICES**



**CUPPA TODAY SUNDAY**

Swan Hill's monthly cuppa will be this Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>  
April after 10:30am Mass. All welcome.

**PROJECT COMPASSION**

Thank you for all the contributions that have come in  
so far from across the Parish. By the end of this  
weekend I will have been to all of our churches to  
collect the remaining cash donations, so we will do a  
final count this week and report back next weekend.  
If you still have yours, it is not too late. Just get it in  
this weekend or during the coming week.

Thank you once again.

“ I was  
sick and  
you visited  
me ...”

Matthew 25:36

**VISITATIONS TO THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

An important part of our Parish Mission is to reach  
out to the sick and housebound. I am always  
delighted when a parishioner reaches out to their  
neighbour or helps an old friend come to Mass. Well  
done and keep up the good work!

Some parishioners have been ministering in this way  
for years, but have now come to a point where they  
can no longer manage it, or are themselves in need of  
a little help. We could always do with new helpers.

Perhaps you would also like to be involved in this  
ministry but don't quite know where to start?  
This might mean picking someone up for Mass, taking  
them Holy Communion, dropping off the bulletin or  
even just calling up to check in and say g'day.

If you know a friend, relative or neighbour who is sick  
or can no longer make it to church on their own,  
please let us know by bringing a note with their  
contact details and we can have a chat about how we  
might best reach out to them. Such feedback is  
greatly appreciated and we really do rely on it. After  
all, we can only respond to what we see and know.

**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)

And recognising the very human reality that forgetfulness and distraction by other worries affect even younger people (like me)- a follow up and gentle reminder never go astray. Ultimately our outreach is a shared ministry; each of us has our part to play.

### LALBERT STATIONS

When we closed up St Michael's Lalbert we brought most of the items into Swan Hill. The Stations from there were particularly impressive. I would like to put them up in the Swan Hill Church, as they are large and easy to see. The Stations currently in the Church (originally from Donald parish) are beautiful in their own way, but are a bit difficult to follow as they are monochrome. When trying to pray with them as a group, we have got confused a few times with what Station we were up to. I have asked a few parishioners already and they are supportive, but I just wanted to throw it out more widely before making any changes. I don't intend to get rid of anything- we will just move the current ones into storage- so we can always go back.



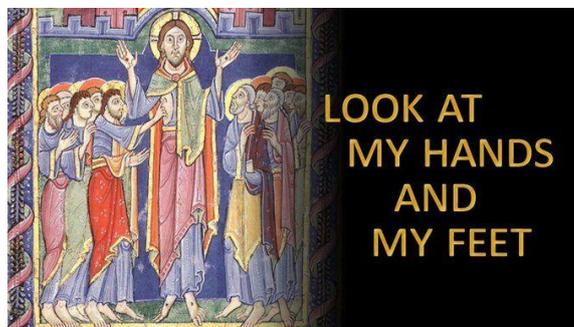
### SWAN HILL FIRST COMMUNIONS

Next weekend we will welcome families back to begin the preparations for the next stage of their child's sacramental journey- the Eucharist. Please keep the families in your prayers and encourage them when you see them at church.



### FLORES DE MAYO – 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY

I have been chatting with one of our new parishioners about starting a celebration for Flores de Mayo in Swan Hill. Meaning 'Flowers of May', this is a special devotion in honour of Mother Mary. I thought it might be a fitting way for us to mark the month of May, and also a special way for our Filippino community within the parish to come together and share their beautiful faith and devotion. If you are interested in being involved, we will have a meeting after 10:30am Mass on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April.



### GOSPEL REFLECTION: BY NICK BRODIE

Reflecting on this Gospel passage, Pope Francis draws our attention to the three key verbs: look, touch, and eat.

'To look is not only to see,' the Pope points out, adding that 'it is more; it also involves intention, will.' When Jesus asks the disciples to look at his hands and feet, therefore, he is not only offering visual proof of identity. Rather, Jesus is inviting his disciples to look at his wounded limbs as 'a first step against indifference, against the temptation to look the other way before the difficulties and sufferings of others.' Jesus' wounds are still present for those with the courage to look at them.

Similarly, Jesus' invitation to the disciples to confirm his presence by touch has a teaching element too. 'By inviting the disciples to touch him,' the Pope suggests, 'Jesus indicates to them and to us that the relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters cannot remain "at a distance".' Having seen the wounds, we must be close to the wounded.

Finally, by eating with his disciples Jesus again did more than prove he was physically present at that specific moment. As the Pope points out, 'eating, when we do so together, among family or friends ... becomes an expression of love, and expression of communion.'

Once again, the Gospel suggests Jesus' action had a deeper meaning about Jesus' continuing presence among his followers. As St Augustine said of the Eucharist, we become what we consume, which means something truly amazing: The Risen Jesus still eats with us! © Nick Brodie

### HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why were the disciples so reluctant to believe that Jesus had risen?

How does the gospel writer emphasise the 'physical' nature of Jesus' resurrection.

Why is it important to 'understand' the scriptures?

**FIRST READING** Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15. 17-19  
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
You have killed the prince of life; God, however,  
raised him from the dead.

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

**(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.**

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;  
from anguish you released me, have mercy and  
hear me!

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he  
loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.  
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,  
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

**(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.**

**SECOND READING** 1 John 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John  
Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins  
and those of the whole world.

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning;  
but if anyone should sin,  
we have our advocate with the Father,  
Jesus Christ, who is just;  
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,  
and not only ours, but the whole world's.  
We can be sure that we know God  
only by keeping his commandments.  
Anyone who says, 'I know him',

and does not keep his commandments,  
is a liar,  
refusing to admit the truth.  
But when anyone does obey what he has said,  
God's love comes to perfection in him.  
*The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** See Luke 24:32

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Lord Jesus, make your word plain to  
us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak.  
*Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Luke 24:35-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
It was written that the Christ would suffer and on the  
third day rise from the dead.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on  
the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the  
breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself  
stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with  
you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they  
were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so  
agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts?  
Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me  
and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones  
as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed  
them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they  
could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he  
said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they  
offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate  
before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said,  
while I was still with you, that everything written about  
me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the  
Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds  
to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So  
you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and  
on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his  
name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be  
preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.  
You are witnesses to this.'

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

**READINGS NEXT WEEK: 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

Gospel: John 10:11-18