



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



12TH MAY 2024

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

GO OUT TO THE WHOLE WORLD; PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL CREATION

The Ascension marks a shift or a change of era. The time of Jesus' public ministry in Israel is over. The time of his universal ministry in and through his Church has begun. We no longer see him as the disciples saw him, but he is no less close to us. In fact, you could say he is even nearer still; so close that we cannot see him because he lives *within* us. His Word continues to find a home in our hearts, bringing light and hope. He meets us in the Sacraments, bringing his strength and healing. And whenever we gather in his name, he is right here in our midst. Mary had the unique role of bringing Jesus forth into the world in the physical sense. Now it is the Church that continues to bring forth Christ's life within us in the spiritual sense. And that is why we can call her our Mother.



I think it is important to clarify here- when we are talking about the Church, she is much more than her structure or hierarchy. These certainly play their part in bringing Christ to life in us; we can name the parishes we called home and the priests who served us. But our first encounter with Christ was usually prior to any engagement with them. For most of us, it was our mothers who first prayed for us and taught us how to pray, who brought us to be baptised and to meet Christ in the Eucharist, who taught us our first lessons in faith and answered our questions, and who showed us what love is and how to love in turn. That special witness in the home is just as central to the mission of the Church as anything the Pope might do, and he would be the first to remind us! In fact, we even have a technical name for it, the Domestic Church. In the Church's self-understanding, that is her most fundamental unit. For most of us, the family home is where Christ's life came to be born in us, and at the heart of that home was our mum.

We thank our mothers in a special way today.

You gave us the gift of life and lovingly nurtured that gift. We are forever in your debt.

TO ALL MOTHERS – HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

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+
 Halle Jessica Wade

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Marie Craig, Violet Egan, Jeff Learmonth
 Pat Lange, Patrick Lynch, Catherine Kelly
 Jack B Loughran, Thomas Brady, Eris Tuohey
 Percy Lewis, Thomas Burns, Michael Kelly
 Matt O'Halloran, Lyn Stutley

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 11TH/12TH MAY

ASCENSION SUNDAY

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

Nandaly: Cancelled

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 2pm Mass (*First Communion Kid's Retreat*)
 Wednesday: 10am Mass
 Thurs: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass, Adoration
 Friday: 11.30am Mass
 2pm Funeral Hubert O'Halloran (*Balranald Cemetery*)
 Saturday: 10am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND 18TH/19TH MAY

PENTECOST SUNDAY

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

NOTICES

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

Loving God,
 You have loved us with an everlasting love
 You have loved us even more as a
 mother loved her child.
 Today, we give you thanks and praise
 for the gift of mothers.
 We pray for the mothers-to-be,
 who are just beginning to be the bearers of
 new life in them,
 may they welcome their forthcoming child with loving
 anticipation and joy.
 We pray for the young mothers,
 may they cherish their child with tender care and
 unconditional love.
 We pray for the mothers who are separated from
 their children because of war, poverty, conflict,
 violence and for any other reasons
 Comfort them, strengthen their hope, and let them
 feel your loving embrace that wipes every tear away.

We pray for all Mother-figures,
 those who have loved, surrounded and shaped us
 with motherly care and compassion.
 We especially pray for our own mothers who have
 nurtured and cared for us,
 Their sacrifices and care gave us a glimpse of the
 extent of your love for us.
 Thank you for them.
 Grant health, blessings, and well-being for those our
 mothers who are still alive.
 We also remember those mothers who are no longer
 with us.
 While they live forever in our hearts and memory
 grant them eternal rest and reward of their labours.
 Amen.



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



50 YEARS OF SERVICE

On Sunday 19th May at the conclusion of 10:30am Mass, Mrs Yvonne Richardson will be presented with her St Vincent de Paul Society 50 year service badge by the State President of SVDP, Mr Michael Quinn.

Following Mass, morning tea will be provided in the Parish Function Centre where Mr Quinn will be a guest speaker. All parishioners are most welcome to attend. *Brian Richardson, President, Swan Hill SVDP*

PRAYING FOR OUR FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN

Our children will be making a special retreat this Tuesday 14th May. Please keep them in your prayers. We will have Mass with the children at 2pm and have invited any parents who are able to join us. Any grandparents and other parishioners would be most welcome too!



AN INVITATION

FEAST OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

St Michael's Church Wycheproof is hosting a special celebration for the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patron of Australia, on Friday 24th May. Mass will be at 10am, followed by a guest speaker, the Rosary and finishing with some light refreshments. All welcome. Contact Deb Mathieson for more details: 0409215748

FLORES DE MAYO: SUNDAY 26TH MAY

We look forward to our special celebration of Flores de Mayon on Sunday 26th May, with a traditional procession and some special snacks to follow.

If you will like to help, the Church will be decorated after the 6pm Mass on Saturday 25th May. Any flowers would be most appreciated. And it is still not too late if any little ones would like to join the procession. The more the merrier!

ANNUAL MASS COUNTS

Our Annual Mass Counts continues this weekend and for all the weekend Masses and Lay Lead Liturgies throughout May.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

- Why do you think Luke described the miraculous 'signs that will be associated with believers'?
- What is the significance of Jesus commissioning the disciples immediately before his ascension?
- How is it possible to be a proclaimer of the Good News today?
- How can our actions towards others proclaim our beliefs?
- Who do you know who really lives their beliefs and in that way proclaims the Good News?

REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

The Feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times; a moment when we have left one place in our journey, but have not yet arrived at a second. While the narratives that describe the Ascension fit well into the unfolding story of redemption, the feast itself celebrates one aspect of the resurrection itself, namely, the exaltation of Jesus. The readings help us through this paradox. They allow us to focus on this theological point while we commemorate a turning point in the life of the church. We do this by considering both the enthronement of Christ in the heavens and the new body of Christ on earth.

Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at God's right hand. Today we are overwhelmed by the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Amidst shouts of joy and exaltation, Christ is enthroned in heaven in both his divinity and his glorified humanity. Now he is present with us in a new way, in a new body, in the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists; he ministers through its prophets and pastors. Through us he continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have each other; together we make up the new body of Christ.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

PENTECOST SUNDAY

- First: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11
- Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
- Gospel: John 20:19-23

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth.

Sing praise with all your skill.

God is king over the nations;

God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Ephesians 4:1-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

To the measure of the full stature of Christ.

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would: When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men.

When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 16:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

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