



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



2ND JUNE 2024

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

'THIS IS MY BODY...'



Today we celebrate an awesome mystery; that the Risen Jesus is really and truly present to us in the Eucharist. At the Last Supper, Jesus took some bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, 'This is my Body.' He then took the cup, blessed it and gave it to his disciples saying, 'This is my Blood'. Faithful to his command to 'Do this in memory of me,' this simple but awesome sign has been handed down through history, right down to us today. We too take the bread and wine, just as he taught us. We bless it, and by the power of his Word and the working of the Holy Spirit, it truly becomes for us his Body and Blood. We cannot see the change with our eyes, but by faith we believe in his word and in his promise. What still looks like bread and wine, and still tastes like

bread and wine, has really and truly become his Body and Blood. By faith we believe that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist. He gives himself to us every time we approach the Eucharist. He gives everything he is; his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. He holds nothing back, giving his whole self. Why? Because he loves us. He loves us with his whole being, and he wants us to know that love, right down to the innermost depths of our heart. Jesus not only wants us to know his love ever more deeply, he also wants us to be truly transformed by that love. Just as the bread and wine are changed by his Word and the working of the Holy Spirit, we are also changed by the Eucharist. Or at least, that is his invitation.

Jesus gives us his Body in the Eucharist, so that we might become his Body. When we approach the Eucharist, and the sacred host is held up before us, we hear the words, 'The Body of Christ.' We say 'Amen', meaning, 'Yes' or 'I assent'. So what are we saying 'Yes' to? First, we say our 'Yes' in faith, that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, and that what was bread has now become his Body. But our 'Yes' goes further still. We are saying 'Yes' not only to what Jesus has done to the Bread, we are also saying our 'Yes' to the awesome change Jesus plans to bring about in us too. We are saying 'Yes'; we are truly becoming Christ's Body here on earth.

Because that is exactly what the Church is; the Body of Christ here on earth. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist we renew that call and strengthen that identity. We carry forward that presence of Christ to all the world, acting as his hands and his feet, and little by little and bit by bit he perfects our Communion with each other and patiently completes his plan that all Peoples and all Creation will be united in his love.

And that is surely worth saying Amen to!

TO ALL THE CHILDREN MAKING THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS TODAY...

Don't be afraid to say your Amen to all that Jesus has planned for you! You will receive him in the Eucharist for the first time today, and if you are willing this is the beginning of an awesome journey. 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, 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

Michael Considine, Mary McInerney
Clem Kelly, Bridget Malony
Pat Ladson, Betty Lescke
Fr Brendan Smith, Ester Coyle
James Spry, Jean Webb

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, Peter Amezdroz

THIS WEEKEND 1ST/2ND JUNE

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill (*First Communions*)
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill (*First Communions*)

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday **NO MASS**
(Fr James heading down south to see new nephew)
Wednesday: 5:30pm Mass
Thursday: 9:15am St Mary MacKillop College *Hearts & Hands* Mass, and then...
Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass (**Vigil Sacred Heart**),
Adoration
Friday: **Feast of the Sacred Heart** 11.30am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND 8TH/9TH JUNE

10TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm 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.



CELEBRATION AFTER MASSES THIS WEEKEND

We will have a special group celebration after our First Communion Masses. Once in the Function Centre, we will hand out certificates and a gift to the children who have made their First Communion, then share a toast and celebratory cake! Parishioners are most welcome to join in this celebration.

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. The generous support of our teachers and leadership is greatly appreciated.

Finally, we thank all the parishioners who have played a special role in the program; helping with the retreat, the music and the special celebration after Mass today... but especially for your prayers and

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake

Principal: Kate Nunn
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St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin
2 Murlong St Swan Hill
Ph. 03 5033 2541

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St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
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Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

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.

thank
you

AND STILL MORE THANKS...

We've had quite a bit going on in the parish over these past few weeks, both with our own events and some others that we have helped to host. A big thank you to all who do the work to make this possible. We are so blessed to have such a generous hospitality team who are always so ready to cater for events big and small. And this spirit of hospitality extends across the parish- from the cuppas after Mass in some of our smaller churches (or even dinner in Nandaly) to the generous contributions of food made to our special cultural events... we are so blessed!

We are also very blessed with our band of dedicated parishioners who so consistently help decorate our churches and keep them clean (Of course, they could always do with more help- if you are up for helping out let me know).

In a special way I would also like to make a special thanks for all the work that went into Flores de Mayo last Sunday; for our organisers, special helpers and all who were involved in the celebration.

Thank you!

SCRIPTURE READINGS IN VIETNAMESE

Kính thưa Cộng đoàn,

Để đồng hành với Cộng đoàn trong việc thờ phượng Chúa, chúng tôi mong muốn gửi đến Cộng đoàn tập sách nhỏ bằng tiếng Việt vào mỗi tháng.

Trong tập sách nhỏ là những bài đọc Lời Chúa trong các Thánh lễ Chúa nhật, những bài Suy niệm Lời Chúa của các Linh mục, và cách lần chuỗi Mân Côi bằng tiếng Việt. Ngoài ra, trong tập sách nhỏ này còn có bản song ngữ (Anh - Việt) về trình tự thưa đáp trong Thánh lễ Công giáo để Cộng đoàn có thể tham dự Thánh lễ sốt sáng hơn.

Hy vọng trong tương lai, với điều kiện cho phép, chúng tôi sẽ cố gắng gửi đến Cộng đoàn quyển tập san với những đề tài phong phú hơn hầu nâng đỡ nhau sống đạo giữa đời thường đẹp hơn.

Trân trọng,



REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Pope Francis points out that at the Last Supper Jesus 'breaks himself apart'. In doing so, the Pope suggests, Jesus shows his followers 'that the aim of life lies in self-giving.'

The Pope reminds us that 'we find the greatness of God in a piece of Bread, in a fragility that overflows with love, that overflows with sharing.' In the fragility of the Eucharist, the Pope adds, we find 'the strength of the love that becomes small so it can be welcomed and not feared.'

The Pope also highlights how the Eucharist reveals 'the strength to love those who made mistakes.' It was on the night he was betrayed, with Judas at the table, that Jesus 'responds to Judas' "no" with the "yes" of mercy.'

'When we receive the Eucharist,' the Pope explains, 'Jesus does the same with us: he knows us; he knows we are sinners; and he knows we make many mistakes, but he does not give up on joining his life to ours. He knows that we need it, because the Eucharist is not the reward of saints, no, it is the Bread of sinners.'

'The Eucharist,' the Pope says, 'is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.' That being the case, this Sunday we might do well to ask ourselves what situation or person we are being strengthened to help. © Nick Brodie

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

10TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Genesis 3:9-15

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Gospel: Mark 3:20-35

FIRST READING – Exodus 24:3-8

Covenant between God and the Israelites is sealed in blood.

A reading from the book of Exodus
Moses went and told the people all the commands of the Lord and all the ordinances. In answer, all the people said with one voice, 'We will observe all the commands that the Lord has decreed.' Moses put all the commands of the Lord into writing, and early next morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain, with twelve standing-stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he directed certain young Israelites to offer holocausts and to immolate bullocks to the Lord as communion sacrifices. Half of the blood Moses took up and put into basins, the other half he cast on the altar. And taking the Book of the Covenant he read it to the listening people, and they said, 'We will observe all that the Lord has decreed; we will obey.'

Then Moses took the blood and cast it towards the people.

'This' he said 'is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you, containing all these rules.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 115:12-13. 15-18. R. v.13

(R.) I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people. **(R.)**

SECOND READING- 1 Cor 11:23-26

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.' In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.' Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming to his death.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
This is my body. This is my blood.*

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.' The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it,' he said 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.'

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

