

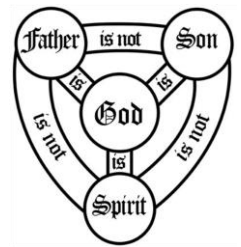


# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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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*



## 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 THE HOLY TRINITY

Growing up, we didn't live near our cousins. We were never at school together and could easily go months without seeing each other. But we still very much grew up together and felt close to each other, because our parents, aunts and uncles worked hard at making sure we spent time together and shared experiences during holidays and the occasional weekends. A special part of this was sharing the beach house in Mount Martha. It is amazing how many people you can pack into a 3 bedroom house (and caravan, bus, bungalow and several tents)! No-one had a room to themselves, except Nanna, and even she would often have one of the grandkids in there with her, especially at peak time after Christmas. There was only one couch in the little living room, but somehow we seemed to fit a dozen kids plus a couple of adults onto that thing for movie nights. Or if not on the couch then on the floor in front of it; nothing says 'loving family' quite like lying on the floor and becoming someone's foot rest! The dining room took up almost half the house; it needed to with the three tables we had set up in there. One for the adults, two for the kids, plus a little table for the toddlers as need arose. Of course, it wasn't always so busy. When numbers were lower, as happened every now and again, we kids would be invited up to the big table with the adults. After all, families should eat together. If you can all fit around the one table, then that is exactly what you do.

Now all these different ways of being close to each other were tangible expressions of a core truth; that we were part of something bigger than ourselves; that we belonged to a family who loved and embraced us, and that we had our own part to play in making that love real for everyone else too. I am so lucky to have had that foundational experience growing up. Not everyone is so blessed, and such memories cannot be for granted.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Trinity. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. One God, Three Persons. If we are trying to think of images or signs to help us understand this great Mystery, then we can't go past the family. **God is a Family, a Communion**; both one and many at the same time. And the wonderful news is this; we are invited into the heart of that family so that we might share their life and experience their love. This is a Mystery, which means it is beyond our sight and understanding. But that does not mean we can't get a true glimpse of it here and now. God knows we don't live on the plane of ideas; we need concrete experiences. And that means not only concrete experiences of receiving love, but of giving it too. That is why God calls us together as his Church. Here, together, we get a taste of the great Mystery of love through our sharing life as his Body on earth. The more real our experience of living as a spiritual family becomes, the more real the great Mystery of Communion in God's love will become for us.

So, how can we make that experience more real for us? I suggest two very simple ways. We are called together around the altar, the sacred table of the Eucharist. We can start therefore by simply sitting closer to each other and nearer to the altar that unites us. Sharing our lives begins with our sharing a pew. Families aren't afraid to be close to each other. Sitting closer to each other is a simple bodily expression of our oneness in Christ, and sitting nearer to the altar an expression of our closeness to Him who unites us. And then after the meal; families spend time with each other. So let's never rush off, like we are trying to get out of doing the dishes. Spend some time with each other before going home. It doesn't have to be a deep conversation. Most family chats are pretty trivial, but they build up relationships nonetheless. By growing in love for each other, the Mystery of our Communion in God's love will become more and more real.

### **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+**  
Lindsay Ryan

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Renata Corbani, Orazia Ganci, Nola O'Bree  
Michael McInerney Roy Marsilino  
George & Noreen Scott, Sheila Meehan  
Patrick Conlan, Elizabeth Iannucci, Cheryl Hind  
Maria Colombo, Giovanni Edera, Michael Tuohey  
George Giddings, Bernice Ledwich  
Alan Gerard McGrath, John McDonald  
Maxine Gaylard, Margaret Scarce

**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 25<sup>TH</sup>/26<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
THE HOLY TRINITY**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill  
*With special celebration for Flores de Mayo*

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

**Tuesday 2pm Funeral Mass Lindsay Ryan**  
*(No 5.30pm Mass)*  
Wednesday: 10am Mass  
Thurs: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass, Adoration  
Friday: 11.30am Mass  
Sat: 9:30am Confessions, 10am Mass  
**Followed by Monthly Rosary**

**NEXT WEEKEND 1<sup>ST</sup>/2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE  
THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**

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

**NOTICES**



**FLORES DE MAYO: A SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF  
MARY AS OUR LOVING MOTHER**

On Sunday at 10:30am we will hold our inaugural celebration of Flores de Mayo- or 'Flowers of May'. A special tradition for the Filipino community, the basic idea is to give honour to Mary as our spiritual Mother in Christ. May is a special time to remember Mary, and what better way to show thanks to your mum than flowers! The celebration will include a procession before and after Mass, and then afterwards, some snacks! A big thank you to all who have been part of preparing for this special day.



**BAPTISM WELCOME**

A special welcome to little Oscar James Taverna who will be baptised today (and happy birthday too!). Thank you to parents Rhiannon and Lucas for presenting him, and welcome to God's family!

**MONTHLY ROSARY**

Next Saturday after 10am Mass Swan Hill

**ANNUAL MASS COUNTS: LAST WEEKEND**

Thank you to all our counters!

**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)



### **NEXT WEEKEND: FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS**

We are almost there! Please continue to pray for all the children preparing for their First Communions. Thank you to all who have taken one of the children's prayer cards, and for all who have been praying for them in a special way. Some even prepared special gifts for the children, which is such a beautiful idea!

Of course, we have not just been praying for the children, but for their families too. Parents and Grandparents (and great-grandparents too!) have such a special role in nurturing the faith of their children. It is a big responsibility, so they need our prayers and encouragement.

When we celebrate this special occasion next week, please also know that as their wider spiritual family, you are all an integral part of the celebration. Without the Church, the living Body of Christ, there is no Communion. In the Eucharist, Christ unites us together as one body, one family. As well as prayer, there is so much you can do to make that mystery feel real for the children and their families.

Firstly, there is great witness in just showing up! Your consistent witness to a living faith is a powerful thing. Never underestimate its power! And then, while you are here, there are many little steps you can take to make them feel welcome. Don't be afraid to sit near them during Mass, or to make them feel at home with a little wave and a smile. And then afterwards, don't be afraid to approach one or two of the families and offer your congratulations. After all, what better way is there to show them that we would love to see them again?

The children will be receiving the Body of Christ for the first time, so that they may become his Body. *As members of the Church, we are that Body.* Help them feel like they are part of something beautiful!

### **REFLECTION BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA**

The feast of the Holy Trinity brings us face to face with the foundation of our faith. The readings for today provide answers to the question: Who is God? They can really only suggest something about the mystery of God, and they can do this only indirectly. They call to mind some of the wonders that God has accomplished for us and in us. It is through reflection on these gracious divine acts that we can get glimpses of God.

The psalm declares that the harmony and interdependence that we see in creation point to a majestic creator responsible for it all. The account of the history of God's people reveals a God who desires to establish an intimate relationship with them, enters their history as protector and guide, and forgives disloyalty. Finally, Jesus teaches that God sent him into the world to save it, has made us adopted children through the Holy Spirit, and will ultimately clothe us in divine glory. It is from his teaching that we hear that the Son was sent by the Father, the Spirit, which was also his Spirit, proceeded from the Father and from him.

From our own experience, we know that God creates, because we are immersed in creation. We know that God saves, because we have been freed from the bondage of our own demons. Our experience tells us that God is with us, and that God is for us. Everything that we know about God declares that God is passionately in love with us, boundlessly so!

*© Dianne Bergant CSA*



### **READINGS NEXT WEEK: THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**

First Reading: Exodus 24:3-8

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

*Special for First Communions: 1 Cor 11:23-26*

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



**FIRST READING** Deuteronomy 4:32-34. 39-40  
A reading from the book of Deuteronomy  
The Lord himself is God in heaven above and on earth below: there is no other.

Moses said to the people: 'Put this question to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time God created man on earth: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? Has any god ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors – all this that the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt?

'Understand this today, therefore, and take it to heart: The Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments as I give them to you today so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that the Lord your God gives you for ever.'  
The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 32:4-6. 9. 18-20. 22. R. v.12

**(R.) Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

The word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love.

With his word the heavens were made,  
by the breath of his mouth all the stars.  
He spoke; and they came to be.  
He commanded; they sprang into being.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** Romans 8:14-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
You have received the Spirit that makes you God's own children, and in that Spirit we call God: Father, our Father!

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are

children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.  
The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** See Revelation 1:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
Baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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

