



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

[northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au) 03 50324144

Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://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*



5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOD IS  
Love  
1 JOHN 4:8

## GOD IS LOVE!

God is Love! They are three simple words, and when you've heard them so often you can forget just how amazing they are. God is Love! God is the source, the root and foundation of everything that is. Without God, there is nothing. We exist only because of God, in whom we *'live and move and have our being'*.

So if *God is Love*, that means Love is the source, the root and foundation of everything that is. ' It means that without Love, there is nothing. It means that we exist only because of Love, and it is in Love that we 'live and move and have our being. It means that our deepest identity is Love, that our greatest truth is Love, that the final answer to all the questions and yearnings of our heart is simply Love. All the Doctrines and Teachings of the Church are simply the many faces and fleshing out of this core truth. All our Sacraments and prayers are simply a participation in this truth. All our Commandments ultimately come down to One- to Love.

God is Love. God's very identity is self-giving love- the sort of love that seeks only the good of its beloved. It is the love that is ready to sacrifice, to lay itself down so that the other may have life. May we always remain in that love, and may we live that love. We will fall short of it time and time again, but let's not lose heart. God is Love. We were created in love, and created for love. He will bless, complete and perfect our fumbling efforts.

Love was the first word, and it will surely be the last.

## WELCOME: COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

A special welcome to the members of the Country Women's Association who are joining us in Swan Hill this Sunday. We pray for the CWA, and all the good work it does supporting women, children and families. May God bless you in all you do!

### Parish Contact Details:

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

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Website: [northeastmallee.org.au](http://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+**

Hubert O'Halloran  
Margot Barry  
Grace Costa  
Murray Farrell  
Fr Tom Brophy

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Irene Matthews, Desiree Smith, Michael Conidi,  
Thomas Ryan, Moira Harrison, Claire Betts  
Neil McKerrow, Pat Jobling, Daniel Starkom,  
Raffaella Guastalegname, Marie Craig, Violet Egan

**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 4<sup>TH</sup>/5<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

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

**NEXT WEEKEND 11<sup>TH</sup>/12<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**ASCENSION SUNDAY  
(AND MOTHER'S DAY TOO!)**  
Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill  
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

**NOTICES**

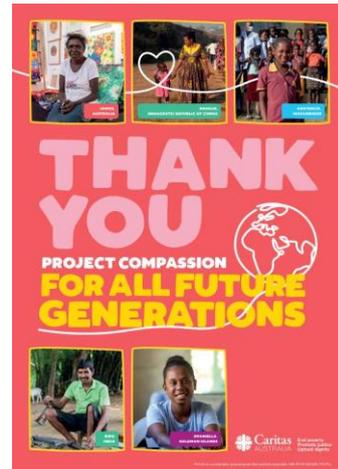


**CUPPA & CHAT**

After 10:30am Mass, this Sunday. All welcome!

**ANNUAL MASS COUNTS**

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



**PROJECT COMPASSION**

Thank you for the many generous contributions to the annual Project Compassion appeal. In the end we raised **\$2365** across the Parish, and that is not including any direct contributions some of you have already made through their website. Thank you. It was once again a terrific response.

**DIocese of BALLARAT 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

On 30th March 1874 Pope Pius IX issued a decree that marked the beginning of the Ballarat Diocese. Bishop Paul gave this message in a recent communication:  
*"Our 150th anniversary will be an opportunity for each community throughout our diocese to remember those who have gone before us, those who have laid the foundations of our parish and school communities and the social services and health care that are provided in our diocese today. The anniversary will be an opportunity to review our history, acknowledge both strengths and weaknesses, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full. It will be a chance to take stock of where we are now and look ahead to how we*

**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)

*can live as a truly Christian community, sharing the good news of Christ, in the years to come."*

We have been invited to acknowledge and celebrate this anniversary in Parishes across the Diocese. Among the many memories, emotions and questions this occasion might stir, I see this anniversary above all as a special moment to recognise the strong faith of our forebears and the generous sacrifices they made to lay the foundations of the many churches, parishes, schools and other missions across our Diocese. We stand on their shoulders.

For more information on the anniversary:  
[ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/150th-anniversary-of-the-diocese-of-ballarat/](http://ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/150th-anniversary-of-the-diocese-of-ballarat/)



### **PRAYING FOR OUR FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN**

Please continue to pray for the children preparing to make their First Communion in Swan Hill on the first weekend of June, and also their families, teachers and all those helping to prepare them. If you would like to pray for one of the children in a special way- just to the right of Mary's altar you will see a little set up for the 'Sacramental Program'. In the wooden tray, there are prayer cards the children have dropped in. Take one, and pray for that child in these days leading up to the celebration.

### **WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY!**

A special congratulations and welcome to Amelia Rose Gentile who is baptised into God's family this Sunday, and thanks to her parents Lisa and Mario for presenting her. May God bless you always!

### **CHOSEN: SERIES 2**

Series 2 of 'The Chosen' will be screened at Swan Hill Cinema across the Tuesdays of May- starting this **Tues 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm-8:30pm**. Two episodes will be aired each night. 'The Chosen' is a dramatized telling of the Gospel stories; capturing our imagination and bringing them to life. It is well worth checking out; the screenings are free so you have nothing to lose! Don't stress if you missed Series 1- you can catch up on FORMED.org, but even if you don't have time for that... you are all familiar with the basics storyline of the Gospel and know all the characters. Even if you missed the beginning of the series, you will pick up what is going on!

### **HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

In what ways can Jesus be compared to a grape vine?

In what ways are we like the branches of a vine?

What is some of the 'fruit' that you bear (talents, skills, positive actions)?

What aspects of your life need a little 'pruning' so that you might bear more fruit?

How are you able to do some 'pruning' for others in a positive way?

### **SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY: DIANNE BERGANT CSA**

In the few verses from the Letter of John, we find some of the most profound theological, Christological, soteriological and communitarian tenets of the Christian faith. The heart of the message is the teaching about love. The most startling statement is: God is love! This divine love is the fundamental theological reality. From it flows the communitarian exhortation, 'let us love one another'. This love is best exemplified in Christ's own selflessness. As Son of God, he became the expiation (hilasmón) for the sins of others, winning for them a second chance at life. Such is the extent of God's love for the world. Nothing can compare with this love which is offered to believers for their contemplation and for their ultimate imitation.

The gospel passage is one of the best known discourses on love. The Greek word used is agápe. This is the only word used to describe the love for God, and it carries this connotation when applied to love for neighbour – 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you ... love one another as I have loved you.' The love described here is active love, reaching out to others – God to Jesus, Jesus to his disciples, the disciples to one another. But it must not stop there. This active love is meant to move out beyond the confines of the group of chosen ones, into the broader world. Those who have been chosen for love have also been elected to mission. © *Dianne Bergant*

### **READINGS NEXT WEEK: 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

First: Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

**FIRST READING** Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48  
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:  
The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 97.1-4  
**(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy.' **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** 1 John 4:7-10  
A reading from the first letter of St John:  
God is love!

My dear people,  
let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is begotten by God  
and knows God.  
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,  
because God is love.  
God's love for us was revealed

when God sent into the world his only Son  
so that we could have life through him;  
this is the love I mean:  
not our love for God,  
but God's love for us when he sent his Son  
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.  
*The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION JOHN 14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** John 15:9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
No one can have greater love  
than to lay down his life for his friends..

Jesus said to his disciples:  
'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.  
Remain in my love.  
If you keep my commandments  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's commandments  
and remain in his love.  
I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you  
and your joy be complete.  
This is my commandment:  
love one another,  
as I have loved you.  
A man can have no greater love  
than to lay down his life for his friends.  
You are my friends,  
if you do what I command you,  
I shall not call you servants any more,  
because a servant does not know  
his master's business;  
I call you friends,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
You did not choose me,  
no, I chose you;  
and I commissioned you  
to go out and to bear fruit,  
fruit that will last;  
and then the Father will give you  
anything you ask him in my name.  
What I command you  
is to love one another.'

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