



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



20TH APRIL 2025

EASTER SUNDAY



'DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?'

Over the last few days, we have followed Jesus as he walked his way of the Cross. We joined him in his Passion, witnessing his tremendous love for us as he endured it all for our sake. On the Cross, he laid down his whole life, his whole self, out of love for us. As we witnessed his suffering, we learnt once again that we are never alone in ours. When we suffer, Christ is right there with us. He takes on our hurts, our wounds, our weakness and even our sinfulness, so that we can know that we are never, ever forsaken. Even if at times we may feel like we are, we are truly never alone. The Son of God, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, empties himself completely, enters into our place of hurt and abandonment and compassionately embraces us in our suffering and need. That is at the heart of the awesome Mystery of our Christian faith. And on its own, it is something to be truly thankful for, something that can give us courage and consolation in times of trial. But the even *greater* news is this; that is not the end of the story! Christ enters into our suffering and weakness, not *just* so that we may know that we are never alone, he enters our brokenness so that he may *heal and transform* it. After the Cross comes the Resurrection. And here, in this awesome Mystery of Christ's rising again from the dead, we see our own future, our own cause for hope. Our current trials will not last. Christ is Risen! The Cross could not hold him. Life proved victorious over Death. Grace conquered Sin. Light won over Darkness. Love defeated hatred. Hope overcame despair.

So, when you find yourself in the midst of your own Calvary, do not lose heart. Your hurt and suffering will not be forever. You may have to carry your Cross for a time, but if you can keep your trust in Christ as he walks that path with you, your time of trial will soon pass and will give way to the joy of the Resurrection. If we can unite our sufferings with the Cross of Christ, we can be confident that they too will be transformed and healed by the power of his Resurrection, whether in this life or the next. That is the awesome Mystery of Easter. That is the great hope of our Christian Faith

Parish Contact Details:

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Office Hrs: Tues, Wed and Fri 10:30 -1:30

Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

Parish Office:

Glenda Klabbers & Mary Kennedy

Child Protection Officers:

Tony & Joelle Whiting

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+**

Bill Storer

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Margaret Walsh, Agnes Burns

Matthew O'Brien, Irene Cattran

Danny Lavey, James O'Brien, Bernard Walsh

Tony Massara, Catherine Ledwich,

Catherine McEwan, Trevor Hogan,

Grazia "Grace" Costa

SICK LIST

Pope Francis, Pat Hoare, Pat Croft, Maureen Allen

Yvonne Richardson, Paul Donohue, Jayden Williams,

Margaret Foott, Jarrod Crimmins, Michael Bourke,

Jack Donohue, Jude Lewis, Bridget Phyland,

Carmel Ryan, Peter Amezdroz, Ken Duryea

Helen Duryea

THIS WEEKEND 20TH APRIL

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Vigil Mass Swan Hill 6pm

Mass Culgoa 8:30am (With Baptisms)

Mass Swan Hill 10:30am

Mass Nandaly 5pm

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 10am Mass

Wednesday: 10am Mass, Confessions 5pm (*face to face, in front of Divine Mercy Image*)

Thursday: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass

Friday: 11.30am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND 6TH/7TH APRIL

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Divine Mercy Holy Hour- 2-3pm Swan Hill

With Confessions

NOTICES

THANK YOU!

A massive thank you to all who helped make our Holy Week and Easter Celebrations run so smoothly; for cleaning and decorating our churches, for preparing the palms, flowers and candles, for the music and singers, for the servers, sacristans, readers, welcomers ... so much work just happens quietly in the background to help make these days such prayerful ones for all... thank you, your generous efforts are greatly appreciated!

BAPTISM WELCOME

This weekend we welcome Annie and Chris who will be baptised as adults at the Easter Vigil.

We also welcome Angelo, son of James & Kelly, and Milla, daughter of Tiarnee and Matthew, who will be baptised on Sunday morning in Culgoa.

May God's blessings be upon you today and always.

Welcome into God's family!



DIVINE MERCY- APRIL 27TH

The Second (or Low) Sunday of Easter is also the Feast of Divine Mercy, a special celebration of our Lord's unending and inexhaustible Mercy. To mark this great feast, we will once again hold a Holy Hour in Swan Hill on Sunday 27th, starting at 2pm and finishing with the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm. Confessions will be available during the time of Adoration.

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake

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St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin

2 Murlong St Swan Hill

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St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

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'KING OF KINGS': NOW SCREENING AT SHOWBIZ

This children's movie about the life of Jesus is still screening for a few more days at Showbiz Swan Hill. You can see it each day at 11:45am until Tuesday. It comes highly recommended- a few went to see it during the week! What better way to celebrate Easter Monday public holiday!



PROJECT COMPASSION

Thank you to all who donated to the Project Compassion. You can still support Project Compassion either by placing your donation in an envelope marked "Project Compassion" in the collection basket or going to the website <https://www.caritas.org.au/>

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What emotions do you think Mary might have experienced upon discovering the tomb?

Why did the gospel writers portray the disciples' initial disbelief and doubt about the resurrection?

What Christian belief/s flow from the resurrection of Jesus?

In what ways does the account of Jesus' resurrection inspire hope in Christians?

In what ways is Jesus still present in the world?



READINGS NEXT WEEK: 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

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FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.' The Word of the Lord. **ALL Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24
**(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians
Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL LUKE 24:13-3

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us; they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

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