



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*



25TH MAY 2025 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



PEACE I BEQUEATH TO YOU, MY OWN PEACE I GIVE YOU, A PEACE THE WORLD CANNOT GIVE, THIS IS MY GIFT TO YOU. DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED OR AFRAID.

Our world needs peace right now. We are rocked by so many conflicts and wars across the globe, and tensions are rising. We need peace. And not just the shallow sort of peace that only means a pause to conflict, a break between wars, our world needs true and lasting Peace. A truce just means we are waiting for fighting to break out again. The tensions are still there, simmering under the surface. No, true peace needs to seep right down into our homes and into our hearts. Only then can the cycle of conflict be broken.

Christ knows our longing. He knows our need. And so he offers us his own Peace as a gift, a peace that the world cannot give. What does his Peace look like? To be so confident of the Father's providential care that no trial or difficulty will cause you to despair. To be so secure in the Father's love that nothing can shake or discourage you. To have such deep trust in his plan for you that all fear is driven away. If such a peace can take hold in our hearts, we can begin to see that we are not in competition with each other, set one against another. In the security of the Father's love and care, we can begin to approach each other with openness and compassion. Hurts can be healed. Fears can be overcome. Love can grow.

Christ offers his Peace to us as a gift, a bequest. That means we can truly possess it. We can hold it and own it for ourselves. And because we can possess it, we can also pass it on to others as well. You cannot share a truce. Every new partner to a truce has to negotiate their way in. But you can share peace, and share it truly.

I came across a great little image during the week. Each of us is like a little planet that catches everyone around us in our orbit, for good or for bad. If we are grumpy or combative, the people around us are caught up in our mood as well. But what if we are people of peace? What if everyone in our orbit is caught up in Christ's peace? What if they are drawn into the unbreakable security of the Father's love and care? Little by little, Christ's Peace will be planted and grow. Little by little, it will take hold in another heart, another home, then another, then another... until eventually it can reign over all creation. But it all starts here- with our receiving the Peace of Christ as a free gift and letting it take hold of our heart.

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+**

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Haydee Phyland, Renata Corbani, Orazia Ganci,
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

SICK LIST

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 25TH MAY
6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Saturday Swan Hill 6pm
Sunday 8:30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 10.30am Mass
Wed: 10.30am Mass
Thurs: Confessions 5pm; 5.30pm Mass, Adoration
Fri: 10.30am Mass, **12pm CESH Mass Jubilee Centre**
Saturday: 10am Confessions, 10.30am Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 1ST JUNE
ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

BAPTISM WELCOME

This Sunday we welcome Georgia and Thomas, children of Gemma & Allyd, as well as their cousins Mia & Lottie, daughters to Jacob and Briellen. We also welcome little Alise, daughter of Mariah and Thomas, and in an extra special celebration, we will also welcome Thomas himself for Baptism as well. May God bless all our families and keep you in his care always!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Please keep the children preparing for their First Holy Communion and their families in your prayers, and please also pray for all who have a part in preparing them. As well as the home program, we also have a retreat day Tues 3rd June before the celebrations themselves on the weekend of the 14th / 15th June.



CULGOA CHURCH 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Preparations are underway for a special celebration of faith and heritage in **Culgoa** as we enter the 100th year of the Church's construction and dedication.

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

Please put Sunday 19th October in your diaries for a special Mass at 1pm followed by an afternoon tea and sharing of stories in the community hall.

Please also pass the invite on to any family or friends who have since moved from the district but might appreciate the opportunity to celebrate their roots!

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL (ACYF)

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) will be held in Melbourne from Sun, Nov 30 - Tues, Dec 2, 2025. ACYF is a national gathering of Catholic young people, established by the Australian Bishops more than a decade ago. This three-day event offers young people from across Australia the opportunity to connect, deepen their relationship with Jesus, and be empowered to live their faith in the world. It also provides a unique chance to experience the diversity of the Church in Australia. The Festival will include prayer, Mass, workshops, talks, live concerts, games, justice issues and an interactive expo. It will also offer opportunities for engagement with peers, school and youth groups, Bishops, musicians and speakers. Bishop Paul will be attending the event. Participants are young people aged Year 9 – 25 years. If you are interested in attending, please contact your parish office. Sponsorship may be available from the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation to help offset costs.

For more details, scan or click the QR code.



ANNUAL MASS COUNTS

This weekend is the last of our Annual Mass counts.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What is meant by, 'If anyone loves me (they) will keep my word'?

How might the disciples and 1st century believers have understood Jesus' promise to return?

How is that 1st century understanding different from a 21st century understanding?

In what ways does the Holy Spirit act in the world today?

What is the peace of Jesus that 'the world cannot give'?

GOSPEL John 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.' *The Gospel of the Lord.*

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The new city of God is built on the foundation of the apostles, but on its gates are inscribed the names of the tribes of Israel. These names represent the openness to all nations, races, peoples and tongues. The resurrection of Jesus has radically transformed the way we live together and the way we live with God. What must we do to be saved? The question put to Jesus centuries ago is still asked today, and the answer is still the same. We must believe and we must love God and love one another. We will be recognised as resurrection people by our active faith and by our unselfish love, not by an exterior mark, regardless of how sacred. This change in requirements for membership does not diminish the rigour of our religious obligations. Rather, it suggests that we may always have to reinterpret the law, for what is appropriate at one time and in one place may be inappropriate in another. With the early Christians, we will need the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this very delicate process. This is why the departing Jesus assures us that the Spirit will come to us to teach us all things. The final gift that Jesus promises to give is his own peace, a peace that he has won by overcoming sin and death. This peace issues from the union that Jesus enjoys with God, a union which we are now invited to share.

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FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2. 22-29
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves
not to burden you beyond what is essential.

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders. Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them: 'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

SECOND READING Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

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 Reading on reverse of this page,
right hand column



**READINGS NEXT WEEK:
ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Luke 24:46-53