



# 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*



## 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### *'COME AND HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT.'*

We are still in the first days after the Resurrection. The Apostles have already encountered the Risen Jesus, but they are still a bit stuck, not quite ready to go out in his name. They've gone home, and Peter falls back on what he knows. He goes out fishing, and some of the others join him. After going all night without catching anything, a figure appears on the beach. It is Jesus, but they don't recognise him at first. This may sound strange to us, how couldn't they recognise their dear friend? Because you don't just spot the Risen Christ as you might catch a friend down the street. No, it is the Risen Jesus who *shows* himself to his disciples. Even right there in the flesh, there is a hiddenness or mystery to his presence. That's also why it can be so hard for us to recognise Jesus present in our lives today. We have to wait on him to reveal himself to us as well.

Jesus asks them, 'Friends, have you caught anything?' They have nothing to show for all their efforts. 'Cast out to starboard' he says, and they do, and suddenly the nets are filled to overflowing. Does this remind you of when Jesus first called his apostles to follow him? Well, it certainly sparks John's memory; he can now recognise that it is Jesus calling them. Peter, who is practically naked, clothes himself and jumps in. A bit strange isn't it, getting dressed to go for a swim? But it speaks to the turmoil in Peter's heart- he is so desperate to get closer to Jesus, that he can't wait for the boat to sail in. But he is also still deeply wounded by the shame of denying Jesus- he tries to hide himself, to hide his wounded heart. Before long they are all there on the beach and find that Jesus has already started cooking. He invites them to bring what they have caught. They count the fish, 153 of them, and the nets not even torn! What they are able to haul in by his command was truly extraordinary, almost a miracle. **But note this-** he does not feed them from what they have caught. He feeds them from what he has already prepared- giving them first the bread and then the fish he had cooked. Loaves and fishes by the Sea of Galilee... does that remind you of anything? They had been here before, but that time they were tasked with sharing the loaves and fishes with the crowd. This time, they are the ones seated, and Jesus ministers to them. Before the Apostles can do anything in Jesus' name, they themselves need to be fed. Their nourishment and their labours are connected and intertwined, but it is ultimately Christ who takes the lead.

Now look at that whole story again through the lens of the Eucharist. The Risen Jesus calls us together in his name, but we don't automatically recognise his presence. He is hidden from our sight. But the words we hear and the signs we see remind us of what he has already done; they help us to begin to recognise his presence with the eyes of faith. He then calls us to bring forward the fruits of all our labours, our toils and our successes, multiplied by his grace and power. We see these symbolised in the gifts of bread and wine, brought forward to the altar for his blessing. But then we are given back something that he has already prepared, something we could never attain by our own efforts; our share in the one Sacrifice of his Body and Blood. He gives us his very Self, so that we may be fed and nourished. He prepared this gift for us before we could do anything for ourselves. His gift comes first. But note this as well- our sharing in this awesome Gift of the Eucharist is nonetheless still intertwined and intimately connected with our own offerings. The bread and wine are not discarded, but transformed. And so too, all of our own efforts that we bring are transformed in the Eucharist and are united with the very thing by which we are nourished; the great Mystery of Christ's gift of Himself on the Cross.

#### **Parish Contact Details:**

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

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

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

**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**

William Byrne, Bernard Francis Kelly  
Dot McGregor, Francesco Miceli, Margaret Ledwich  
Irene Matthews, Desiree Smith, Michael Conidi  
Thomas Ryan, Moira Harrison, Claire Betts  
Neil McKerrow, Pat Jobling, Daniel Starkom  
Raffaella Guastalegname, Catherine Bowen

**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 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
3<sup>RD</sup> EASTER SUNDAY**

Saturday Swan Hill 6pm  
Sunday 8:30am Sea Lake  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Monday 5.30pm Mass  
Tuesday: 10.30am Mass  
Wed: 10.30am Mass

**Thursday: 10.30am Mass (This week only, back to  
5:30pm next week)**

Friday: 10.30am Mass

Saturday: 10am Confessions, 10.30am Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER, MOTHER'S DAY**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook  
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill  
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

**NOTICES**



**A SPECIAL CUPPA FOR MOTHER'S DAY!**

We won't have the usual 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Cuppa today due to a planned power interruption, but we will have a special celebration for **Mother's Day (next Sunday)** after the 10.30am Mass instead. Some nice warm soup and old fashioned sweets for mum- all welcome!

**CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASS TIMES**

From this coming week, we will move all our weekday morning Masses to the same time of **10:30am**. Hopefully this will keep things a bit simpler and easier to remember. So, from this week forward, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday Masses (when we have them) will all be at 10:30am. For Thursdays, we will still stick to the 5:30pm evening time slot with Confessions and Adoration, except for occasions such as this week when I have something on (First Communion Enrolment Sessions) that prevent me from doing so. Hope that all makes sense!



**CELEBRATING AUSTRALIA'S PATRON SAINT  
ST MARYS CHURCH BIRCHIP  
FRIDAY MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> 10AM -3PM**

All are welcome to St Mary's Church, Birchip on Friday, May 23 to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia. Program for the day is: 10am Morning Tea, 10.30am Mass followed by Guest speaker Jo Russell, lunch, Holy Rosary and discussion and sharing. Contact Margaret Rowe [margrowe@bigpond.com](mailto:margrowe@bigpond.com) or Noeline Hogan 0427922988 for catering purposes by Friday May 16<sup>th</sup>.

**PROJECT COMPASSION**

Thank you to all who returned your contributions to Project Compassion. We will put out just one last call for any donations before we bank them next week.

**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)

## PREPARATIONS FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Preparations for this year's First Holy Communion in Swan Hill begin this week with our enrolment sessions Wed/Thurs afternoon. We will then invite the children and their families back for next weekend's Presentation Masses. As well as the home program, we also have a retreat day Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> June before the celebrations themselves on the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> June. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers, and please also pray for all who have a part in preparing them.



### MARY'S SPECIAL MONTH OF MAY

To celebrate May as the special month of Mary, we will have Masses every Saturday morning. You might also like to take up a simple devotion for the month, like praying the Rosary or setting up a little altar or sacred place at home with some flowers for Mary, our Blessed Mother.

### CULGOA CHURCH 100<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Preparations are underway for a special celebration of faith and heritage in **Culgoa** as we enter the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Church's construction and dedication. Please put Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 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!

### HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why do you think the disciples had gone back to fishing at this time?

Why did the disciples fail to recognise Jesus at first?

What metaphoric or symbolic words and actions can you identify within the text?

What is the significance of the 'Do you love me?' conversation between Jesus and Peter?

### READINGS NEXT WEEK:

#### 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9, 14-17

Gospel: John 10:27-30

## NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

BY MARY COLOE PBVM

It is the Lord: John 21:1-19

### *The ongoing presence of the Risen Jesus*

Chapter 21 of John's Gospel is believed to be a slightly later addition to the original Gospel, written to deal with issues that arose later in the community. Peter is singled out as the leader whereas previously throughout this Gospel Peter has not had a significant role. The disciple who is the leader in faith is the Beloved Disciple and in this scene on the lake, it is he who first recognises 'It is the Lord'. The women disciples, so significant in this Gospel, are also missing in chapter 21. Scholars believe that this chapter was written after the death of the Beloved Disciple who was the likely founder of the Johannine community, to affirm the traditional leadership role ascribed to Peter. During the time of Jesus' trial Peter had denied Jesus three times, now, on the shore of the Lake he gives a triple affirmation of his love for Jesus and Jesus confers on him as pastoral leadership – 'Feed my lambs'. (21:15). It is likely that the Johannine community was led by the disciple known in the text as 'the Beloved Disciple'. His witness and insight shaped the theological thinking of this group and with his death the community may have felt doubly bereft. It seems some even thought that he would not die but would be alive for the return of Jesus. At the end of Chapter 21 this issue is resolved when Jesus clarifies that he had not said to this disciple that he would not die, (21:23)

The imagery in this story is highly significant. The disciples set out to fish at night and in the darkness they catch nothing. Then, when the dawn comes they see Jesus, named in this Gospel the Light of the world. Relying on the word of Jesus, the disciples' efforts bear fruit and in the wonder of this bountiful result, the presence of the Lord is recognised.

The breakfast by the lake recalls the earlier feeding miracle in John 6 where Jesus took five loaves and two fish and fed a great crowd. The miracle in John 6 and this meal are Eucharistic in their symbolism. Jesus is present in the midst of the disciples even though his presence is not immediately recognised. Jesus is the host inviting his disciples to eat the food he has prepared for them/us.

This lakeside feeding reflects the living experience of the Christian community. When they gather for Eucharist, they are in touch with the Risen Jesus who continues to guide and nourish them. Can we also recognise the Risen One present in our lives and nourishing us in the Eucharist? © Mary Coloe

**FIRST READING** Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32. 40-41  
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
We are witnesses of these words, and so is the Holy Spirit.

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. 'We gave you a formal warning,' he said 'not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man's death on us.' In reply Peter and the apostles said, 'Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.' They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v.2

**(R.) I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me  
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.  
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,  
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,  
give thanks to his holy name.  
His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life.  
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

The Lord listened and had pity.  
The Lord came to my help.  
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing;  
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** Revelation 5:11-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse  
The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power,  
wealth, glory, and blessing.

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, 'The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.' Then I heard all the living things in creation – everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, 'To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever.' And the four animals said, 'Amen'; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation;  
he has shown pity on all people.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** John 21:1-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night. It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No', he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord', Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.

'I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.'

In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.'

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