

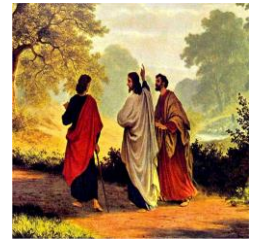


Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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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



SUNDAY 19TH APRIL 2026

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER



"HOW THEY HAD RECOGNISED HIM IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD"

The story of the road to Emmaus is really one of my favourite Gospels. There is just too much I want to say!

But we can't say it all, so let's just focus in on the line *'how they had recognised him in the breaking of the bread.'* We can understand this to be a reference to the Eucharist- the sign that Jesus left us, when he *'took bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, 'Take, this is my Body.'* The risen Jesus is truly present to us whenever we *'break the bread'* in his name. The risen Jesus, here, among us, shares his life with us anew, just as the bread is broken and shared. *'They had recognised him in the breaking of the bread.'* But let's be careful not to excitedly skip ahead to the *'bread'* bit and so miss the middle part about the *'breaking'*. The disciples did not simply recognise Jesus *'In the bread'*, but in *'the breaking of the bread.'* Why is this important?

The story we heard can help us here. Remember why the disciples were walking away from Jerusalem? Because they had seen Jesus suffer and die, and they thought that was it. How did Jesus reply? He walked them through the Scriptures (i.e. the Old Testament) to help them see that the Messiah had to suffer thus. Jesus had been sent to save us, and that meant he had to enter into his Passion so that we might be freed. Or in other words, he gave himself over as *'bread to be broken'* for us and so established a new and eternal Covenant. And the sign of this New Covenant is the Eucharist, the *'breaking of the bread.'* Of course the sign has to involve a breaking, because the reality it points to, the great mystery it represents, was itself an act of breaking. Neither is a breaking to destruction, but to new life. Christ was broken in order to lead us into new life. The Bread is broken in order to be shared. We approach this great mystery so that we may share in Christ's life and grace. Every time we are gathered for the Eucharist, the risen Christ approaches us anew, just as he walked up to those disheartened disciples on the road. May we always recognise him here in this breaking of the bread, and may our hearts be lifted up too and filled with his joy!

Parish Contact Details:

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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+
 John Moore

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Kealan Snowden, Tim Power, Margaret Walsh
 Agnes Burns, Matthew O'Brien, Irene Cattran
 Danny Lavey, James O'Brien, Bernard Walsh
 Tony Massara, Catherine Ledwich
 Catherine McEwan, Grazia "Grace" Costa

SICK LIST

Sheila Templeton, Shane Ryan, Pat Jeans
 Carmel Ryan, Yvonne Richardson, Jayden Williams,
 Margaret Foott, Jarrod Crimmins, Michael Bourke
 Jack Donohue, Jude Lewis, Bridget Phyland,
 Peter Amezdroz, Ken Duryea, Helen Duryea,
 Pat Croft, Geoff Duryea

THIS WEEKEND 19TH APRIL 2026
3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER
 Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
 Sunday 8.30am Culgoa
 Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL THIS WEEK
 Tues: Mass 5:30pm
 Wed: 10.30am

Thurs: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5:30pm, Adoration
 Friday: Mass 10:30am

NEXT WEEKEND 26TH APRIL
4TH SUN OF EASTER: GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY
 Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
 Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
 Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Next Sunday (26th April), the 4th Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday and is observed as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Christ our Good Shepherd cares for his flock, calling us each by name. May young people hear his voice calling them in their lives, and may they have the courage to take up their calling, whatever it may be. It is also a special day to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life- that Christ may raise up shepherds after his own heart.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

12PM MONDAY 27TH APRIL SWAN HILL

A few priests from neighbouring parishes will join me for a Holy Hour for Vocations at midday on Monday 27th April. We will hold the prayer in the smaller 'Little Lalbert' side chapel. Parishioners are very welcome to join us in this important prayer.



FIRST RECONCILIATIONS: MONDAY 27TH APRIL

Could you please pray for the children who are preparing for their First Reconciliations on Monday 27th. This Sacrament is given to us as a special encounter with God's love and mercy. We open our heart. He listens. He loves! The children and their families met with the Sacramental Program Team at the end of last term, and were given some activities and booklets to work through.

PRAYING WITH THE HOLY FATHER

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement and each month the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. "The Pope Video" forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network www.thepopevideo.org.

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake
 Principal: Kate Nunn
 47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake
 Ph: 03 5070 1272

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill
 Principal: Kate Quin
 2 Murlong St Swan Hill
 Ph. 03 5033 2541

St Mary MacKillop College
 Principal: Michelle Haeusler
 53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
 Ph: 5032 9771

Prayer for April - For priests in crisis:

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

Lord, hear us.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What is significant about the two disciples walking away from Jerusalem to Emmaus?

What did they do once they realised they had seen the Risen Jesus?

What might have prevented the disciples from recognising Jesus on the road?

Why might the act of breaking bread have been the catalyst for them to recognise Jesus?

How is it possible to become more aware of the presence of Jesus in your own life?

LIVING THE GOSPEL – LIVING THE JOURNEY

The story of the road to Emmaus is a perfect model for our Christian life. It reminds us first of all that none of us walk the journey alone. Even when we don't recognise his presence, Jesus joins us in the everyday realities of life. The breaking open and interpretation of scripture is essential to making sense of our life experiences and through the celebration of Eucharist and table fellowship we are nourished to not only continue the journey but to share the good news with others. Where do you find yourself in the events of this story?

HAVE YOU THOUGHT? – RECOGNISING JESUS

These two disciples, although not any of the Twelve, would have considered themselves close followers of Jesus. They are devastated by his death and so must have known Jesus quite well. However, they fail to recognise him when he joins them on the road. Whether they were prevented from recognising him or whether he was somehow transformed through the resurrection we don't know. But two close followers were unable to recognise him walking beside them. Perhaps we shouldn't feel too bad, two millennia later, when we fail to recognise Jesus as he continues to walk beside us.

READINGS NEXT WEEK

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:14. 36-41

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25

Gospel: John 10:1-10

GOSPEL Luke 24:13-35

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.

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.
So my heart was glad
and my tongue cried out with joy:
my body, too, will rest in the hope
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.
You have made known the way of life to me,
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'
The Word of the Lord. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11
(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.'

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right-hand happiness for ever.

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1:17-21
A reading from the first letter of St Peter
The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.
The Word of the Lord. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION See Luke 24:32
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Today Gospel Reading is on the inside page.

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO EMMAUS?



Luke 24:13-35