



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 as well as the Lake Boga Families & Faith Group



EASTER SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 2026

DO YOU BELIEVE? I DO!

I'm so glad to be back with you all again after my time of Sabbatical, and extra happy I could be back for Easter. It is such a gift to share this time with you all. There were so many experiences and encounters that it will take quite some time to process them all. For now, I just want to share one story. We were blessed with the opportunity of a retreat in Assisi, and perhaps you have heard that this year is a special Jubilee in celebration of 800 years since St Francis' death. Part of the celebrations were the unique opportunity to venerate his relics. We lined up, and when it was our group's turn into the church we went. The visit then finished with a special time of prayer in a side chapel, and the opportunity to renew our baptismal vows. The



friar who was leading us, asked the questions; Do reject sin? I do! Do you believe? I do! It was a very moving moment for all of us priests, and to be honest a few of us teared up. Usually we are the ones doing the questioning. We do it before every baptism, before every Confirmation, and here, at the Easter Masses. To be the ones addressed for a change was such a powerful feeling. We were so excited to be able to shout our 'I do!' Yes, Lord, I believe! I believe in You! I believe in your promises! I believe in what you have done in and for this world. I believe in what you have done and will still do in me!

Those two simple words 'I do' mean so much. Tonight I will ask you the same questions, and you can add your own 'I do'! Shout it out with joy and hope in your hearts. Today, of all days, it takes on a special meaning. Jesus is Risen! He has defeated death and sin. They have no hold over us, and we have nothing more to fear.

Love has proved itself stronger than hatred and division. All that remains is his peace. And today, we can believe that can be true in our lives too, and through us, it can be true in our world! When we say our 'I do', we are acclaiming our hope and faith Jesus' victory can be true in us too, that Father does truly have us in his care and will not fail us, and that the Holy Spirit does move and live in us and we so can live in God's love and peace. When we say 'I do', it means all of this and more. Acclaim those words with all your heart. Let it be a moment of true joy and hope.

A PRELIMINARY THANK YOU- AND PROMISE OF MORE TO COME

There are so many of you I need to thank for all you have done in my absence. So much has been done, and many things I am not even aware of as yet. I will do my best in the weeks ahead to extend my thanks in a fuller and more personal way, but for now this simple word of thanks, and a promise of more to come!

Parish Contact Details:

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Office Hrs: Tues, and Fri 10:30 -2.00

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

Fred Lawry, Paul Pupillo, Betty Currie
John O'Bryan, Peter Mullan, Kathleen Meehan
Anne Clarke, Alma Higgins, Carmela Mazzarella
Marianna Ganci, Mario Raudino, Ellie Fallon
Patricia Wilkinson, James Hoare, Bub O'Bree
Cath Baker, Pat Dillon

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 5TH APRIL 2026
EASTER SUNDAY**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly (This month Only)

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL THIS WEEK

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

NEXT WEEKEND 12TH APRIL

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER, DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Holy Hour of Divine Mercy 2pm Swan Hill
(Adoration, Rosary, Chaplet, and Confession)
Sunday 5pm Sea Lake (This month only)

NOTICES



CUPPA AFTER MASS TODAY EASTER SUNDAY

Come and join in with our parish family and have a cuppa and a catch up after 10.30am Mass. Everyone is welcome. As it is Easter if you would like to bring a plate please do.

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA
PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Unite Against Poverty this Lent

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/>

Thank you for standing with us,
as we **Unite Against Poverty**



DIVINE MERCY- APRIL 12TH

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

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake

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47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake

Ph: 03 5070 1272

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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

feast, we will once again hold a Holy Hour in Swan Hill on Sunday 12th, starting at 2pm and finishing with the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm. Confessions will be available during the time of Adoration.

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.

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?

- Q. What emotions do you think Mary might have experienced upon discovering the tomb?
- Q. Why did the gospel writers portray the disciples' initial disbelief and doubt about the resurrection?
- Q. What Christian belief/s flow from the resurrection of Jesus?
- Q. In what ways does the account of Jesus' resurrection inspire hope in Christians?
- Q. In what ways is Jesus still present in the world?

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

BY MARY COLOE PBVM

Seeing signs of life

Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

He saw and he believed.

The day begins with darkness and fear. The tomb has been desecrated. The body has been stolen. Whatever Jesus said about resurrection, his disciples did not expect him to rise until the general resurrection of the dead at the end of time. The anonymous disciple loved by Jesus races to the tomb, sees the linen cloth and the face cloth placed apart and believes. In this simple sign of a 'tidy' tomb, he sees what Peter missed, that God has entered this story of death and transformed it to a story of life.

On two occasions in this short reading, we find the use of the passive voice – 'the stone had been moved away' and the linen cloth over his head, 'rolled up' in a place by itself. Frequently in the Scriptures, the use of the passive voice is called the Divine Passive, as it is a way of referring to the action of God without naming

God as the direct agent of the action. This is a Semitic way of reverencing God. The face-veil has been removed and rolled with care. Although never named, God is the Divine agent in this episode.

John's Easter story is closer to our real experience than many of the other Resurrection stories. Here we have no angels announcing 'He is raised'; no Jesus present to change sadness into joy. Resurrection is more subtle in this Gospel. Mary and Peter miss the signs. They remain locked in grief still carrying the painful burden of Golgotha. It is the disciple named 'beloved' who first experiences resurrection in his openness to believe in God's power to raise Jesus. Easter calls for faith. Those who know the loss and pain of death know too well the hard, long search to find signs of life. We don't experience a sudden glorious moment of life returned. Like the anonymous disciple, we often stay some time within the tomb before finding grace to turn and enter into life. Such grace is found in simple signs of a love that does endure. Perhaps this is why 'the beloved' disciple first reaches Easter faith.

Naming this day as 'the first day' of the week, is not simply an indicator that it is the day of the Jewish Sabbath (7th day), but is also a hint that in John's Gospel the resurrection is the dawn of a new creation. If you recall the Passion reading on Friday, which is always from John's gospel, you might have noticed that Jesus was arrested in a garden, and then was buried in a garden. We so frequently mix all the gospel accounts together we can sometimes miss seeing the unique theological vision and artistry of each individual evangelist. Only John has Jesus arrested in a garden, and only John has Jesus buried in a garden. Also John emphasises that the Cross is placed 'in the middle' which is the same phrase used to describe the tree of life in Genesis 2, which was also placed 'in the middle of the garden'. Then at the foot of the Cross John has a man and a woman, who is only called 'woman' and 'mother' in this Gospel. These were the names given to Eve. These differences to the Synoptic gospels are deliberate. John is setting the crucifixion within the garden of creation. For John, the cross marks the end of one creation – remember Jesus' words, '*It is finished*' – and the beginning of a new creation. © Mary Coloe

READINGS NEXT WEEK

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

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.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.**

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 John 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark,
when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the
stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running
to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved.
'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we
don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They
ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter,
reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths
lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was
following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the
linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been
over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up
in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached
the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this
moment they had failed to understand the teaching of
scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

