



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



SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2026: 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

We give thanks today for all our Mothers and Grandmothers, and for all those women who have cared for us in a special way. In the very, very least, we all owe our lives to our mother. As we were formed within her, her very body was our first home, and as we grew, we were nourished by her very life. But it doesn't stop there! We count on our mother's for so much! They are called to nurture and care for us, especially when we aren't able to care for ourselves. As our first teachers, they are the first to correct us. But as our fiercest advocates, they are the last to abandon us. So often they are asked to put our good before their own. Their very example of devotion, sacrifice and unconditional love teaches us life's most important lessons; that we are loveable, that we are loved, and that we ourselves are called to love in our turn.

I know I am blessed, because I have always had my mum by my side, and still do. I realise though that for many this is not the case. As we pray for and give thanks for all our mothers, we also pray in a special way for those who are no longer with us. We pray too for all mothers who themselves are missing their children, and for any who might be grieving a relationship that was wounded or broken. For a while we may suffer the pain of separation, but with the eyes of faith, we live in the sure hope that love always has the final word.

"I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS"



It is no accident that Jesus gave us his own Mother as his last act before he died. All of us can find in Mary a comforter and guide. In a deeply symbolic way, this act also pointed in Mystery to his gift of the Church, who we also look to as our Mother. It was the Church who gave birth to the life of Christ within us, and it was She who formed and continues to nurture our faith.

But even over and above these tremendous gifts, he also left us His Spirit. It was the Spirit who breathed across the waters to give life to all Creation. It was the Spirit who breathed life into each of us as we were formed in the womb. And it is from the Spirit that we all continue to draw life and strength.

The Holy Spirit is our Paraclete; our tireless Helper and most faithful Advocate, our safest Refuge and firmest Defender, our closest Comforter and deepest Consoler. How special is it that we had this Gospel today? For many of us, it was our mothers who first taught us what these words truly mean. And so, once again, let us pray for all our mothers, and for all who like mothers give life and keep us in their loving care.

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+
Val Sewell**

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Raffaella Guastlegname, Catherine Bowen
Marie Craig, Violet Egan, Jeff Learmonth
Pat Lange, Patrick Lynch, Catherine Kelly
Jack B Loughran, Thomas Brady, Mavis Mary Jones
Eris Tuohey, Verna Bourke

SICK LIST

Robyn Kiley, 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 10TH MAY 2026

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
Sunday 5pm Nandaly

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL THIS WEEK

Monday: 11.30am Funeral Mass, Val Sewell, Culgoa
Tues: 10.30am
Wed: 10.30am
Thurs: 10.30am
Friday: Mass 10:30am
Sat: Confessions 10am, Mass 10:30am

**NEXT WEEKEND 17TH MAY
ASCENSION OF THE LORD.**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Culgoa
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

To all mothers, grandmothers, that special someone
and all who have guided us, thank you!
And may your day be richly blessed!



Mother's Day Prayer

Loving God,

You wrap your arms around your people
and show your everlasting love in the same
way a mother loves her children. We are
grateful for the love you have taught us
through the mothers in our lives: our own
mother who brought us into this world, the
mothers of friends who have welcomed us
into their homes and families, our
grandmothers who took time for us, and the
mothers who have helped us even though
we were not their children. Bless all the
mothers of this world today. May thy know
the fullness of love they have shared and be
blessed every day of their lives. Amen.



PRAYING WITH POPE LEO:

Prayer for May – That everyone might have food:

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to
small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food
and to ensure that everyone has access to quality
food. Lord, hear us.



PRAYING FOR POPE LEO: 1ST ANNIVERSARY

This week marked the first anniversary of Pope Leo's
election as Pope. Let's continue to pray for him as he
leads the Church with love, faith and wisdom!

Our Parish Schools

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

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

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

SEA LAKE MASS SWAP NEXT MONTH:

Moved forward to 31st May instead of 7th June

Sea Lake was next due for Mass on Sunday 7th June. We will bring this forward to **Sunday 31st May**. Come July we will move back to the 1st Sunday.



MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS RETREAT DAY DONALD, MONDAY MAY 25TH

Celebrating Australia's Patroness

All are welcome to St Mary's Church, Donald
on Monday, May 25, 2026

to celebrate Australia's Patroness:

10.00am - Morning tea

10.30am - Mass

11.30am - Guest speaker: Fr James Kerr to talk on his
sabbatical to Rome with question and discussion
opportunities

12.30pm - Lunch

1.30pm - Prayers

1.45 - 3.00 - Discussion led by Margaret Rowe,
Diocesan President of the CWL & Anna Krohn OAM

Please reply for catering purposes by Friday, May 18 to
Margaret Rowe at margrowe@bigpond.com or
Noeline Hogan ph. 0427 922 988.

COINS OF THE WORLD

We've built up quite a collection of foreign currency
from the collection plate over the years. Some
currencies are very well represented (including some
notes as well as the coins), like the USD, NZD, UK
Pound Sterling, Euro, Filipino Peso and SGD. But there
are plenty of others too in there.

Perhaps you are planning to travel or like collecting
and might like to make a trade for Australian Dollars?
All the money we receive will then be donated on to
the Aid to the Church in Need.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

ASCENSION SUNDAY

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

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What does the sending of the Spirit say about the
relationship between God and the world?

Why might Jesus have felt the need to tell the
disciples that the Spirit would come to them?

How might the disciples have reacted to Jesus'
words when they first heard them?

What are some of the ways Christians believe the
Holy Spirit acts in the world today?

How can you be an agent of the Holy Spirit?

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ... THE DISCIPLES

The words of Jesus in this gospel passage were
addressed to the disciples at the Last Supper. They
had almost no inclination of what was about to befall
them, nor the heart-wrenching loss that they would
feel. Yet Jesus tried to prepare them and reassure
them that they would not be abandoned by him. In
the days after his death, the disciples struggled to
remember these words and they were caught up by
despair. Even once they had witnessed the Risen
Lord, he told them that he would again be leaving
them. They must have been so confused and afraid.

LIVING THE GOSPEL – LIVE IN LOVE

Throughout the gospel of John, we are reminded of
the enduring relationship between Jesus and the
Father. A number of times, Jesus announces that he
and the Father are one. In today's passage, Jesus also
says to the disciples that they can share in this
relationship of love. When Jesus speaks about
anyone who 'loves' him, he speaks about anyone
who lives by his message and seeks to be like him.
Anyone who does that will share in the love that
exists between the Father and the Son. That
invitation is open for each of us today as well.

GOSPEL FOCUS – PARACLETE

The Greek word, parakletos, is translated into a
number of different terms in English translations of
the gospel. Its technical use was for a lawyer or
attorney. However, its use in scripture is like the
broader meaning of advocate that we use today:
someone who stands up for another; someone who
speaks up for another; someone who intercedes on
behalf of another. An advocate is one who lends
strength and support to someone who is
disempowered. That is exactly what Jesus did for
many people during his ministry and it is also what
the Holy Spirit is sent to do.

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,

O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

'Before you all the earth shall bow;

shall sing to you, sing to your name!

Come and see the works of God,

tremendous his deeds among men.

He turned the sea into dry land,

they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy then be in him;

he rules for ever by his might.

Come and hear, all who fear God.

I will tell what he did for my soul:

Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer

nor withhold his love from me.

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life. 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 John 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

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

