



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 17TH MAY 2026: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

SWEPT UP TO THE FATHER

Today we celebrate the great mystery of Christ's Ascension to the Father. It may not always be the easiest to make sense of. It seems like the risen Jesus is just there one minute, and gone the next. What's going on? Maybe it will help to think about how it fits in the broader story of God's love for us, and the great sweeping movement of his drawing us back into communion with him. God made us for love and communion, to share life with him. But then came the Fall; we rejected that love and put our trust elsewhere. Sin entered the world, and we were left wounded and in need of his help. So

God begins his great rescue project, slowly preparing his people bit by bit to one day to one day receive his Son. The day comes. Jesus is born into this world, and he embraces our humanity. He descends right down into the depths of our brokenness, even to the depths of the Cross. He reached right down, in a great sweeping motion, so that we could then be lifted up once again with him. In His

Resurrection he brought healing to our wounds and restored our freedom. And now, here in his Ascension, our human nature is raised up to be with the Father. It is not really a very theological way of saying it, but basically, there is a bit of us already up there with the Father. Humanity was created to share in perfect communion with God; to be close to him and to share in his life. In the Son, he came down to share in our nature. And now in the Son, our human nature is raised up, and we are also raised up with him. Because that is where we belong; in the presence God, Father, Son and Spirit, held securely in their loving embrace. As individuals, our own journey is not yet complete, but in Jesus we see our hope, and fulfilment of God's great plan.

THE GREAT COMMISSION, AND THE ABIDING PROMISE!

In Matthew's Gospel, as he is Ascending, Jesus gives a great commission, and also makes a promise. We are given the task of making disciples, of baptising in his name and teaching others how to follow him. That mission is for all of us. It is the same mission he himself started- of drawing humanity into communion with God. He now continues that mission through us, his Church. You are part of that. We all have our special part to play in bringing humanity into love and relationship with God. He also made a promise, to be with us always. He has never left us, but remains present to us in and through his Church, his Word in the Scriptures and his Sacraments. And above all he is present to us in his Spirit, who gives life and power to all.

Parish Contact Details:

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

Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

Parish Office:

Glenda Klabbbers & 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

Percy Lewis, Thomas Burns, Michael Kelly
Matt O'Halloran, Lyn Stutley, Leslie Woodburn
Noreen & George Scott, Maurie Coughlan
John McLoughlan, Herbert Roberts, Lindsay Ryan
John Wise, Charlie Ficcarra, Noel & Aileen Rogers
Wayne Cameron, Raphael Mollo, Kevin Byrne,
Bill Kelly, Pat Willson, Debra Nolen,
Martin & Peter Ryan, Hugh Woodburn,
Cornelius Ryan

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 17TH MAY 2026
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD.**

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL THIS WEEK

Tues: 5.30pm Mass
Wed: 10.30am Mass
Thurs: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5:30pm, Adoration
Friday: Mass 10:30am
Sat: Confessions 10am, Mass 10:30am

**NEXT WEEKEND 24TH MAY
PENTECOST SUNDAY**

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

NOTICES



Communion

**PRESENTING THE CHILDREN PREPARING FOR
THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

This weekend we have invited the children preparing for their First Holy Communion and their families to be presented at our Swan Hill Masses. Please keep the children 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 2nd June before the celebrations themselves on the weekend of the 20/21st June.



BAPTISM WELCOME

We welcome Indie, daughter of Matt and Aimee as she is presented for Baptism into God's family, the Church. May God bless you always and keep you in his care!

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.

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.

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



**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 Monday , May
18** to Margaret Rowe at margrowe@bigpond.com or
Noeline Hogan ph. 0427 922 988.

Extra note from Fr James-

***If you need a lift, or can help drive someone else, let
us know so we can carpool.***

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

Why was it important for Jesus to 'commission' his
disciples to continue his work?

What is the connection between the coming of the
Holy Spirit and the disciples being witnesses?

How do you understand 'being a witness to your
faith'?

How are you able to witness to what you believe in
your everyday activities?

Who is a person you know who could be described as
witnessing to their faith?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

PENTECOST SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

READERS AND OFFERTORY ROSTERS

have been emailed out and copies are at the back of
the church. Thank you for your commitment.

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the
Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's Gospel quickly moves
from the disciples' discovery of Jesus' empty tomb to
Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and the other
Mary, to the commission that Jesus gives his disciples
in today's Gospel.

The Final Commission, as this Gospel is sometimes
called, is given on the mountaintop. Throughout
Scripture, the most important events happen on the
mountaintop, and Matthew has used this motif
throughout his Gospel. Earlier in Matthew's Gospel,
Peter, James, and John had seen Jesus transfigured
on the mountaintop (Matthew 17:1-8). Also in the
Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught the crowds from
the mountaintop in what we now call the Sermon on
the Mount.

Here we are told that the eleven disciples go the
mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed
through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (cf.
Matthew 28:9-10). They see Jesus, and both worship
and doubt at the same time. Jesus approaches them
and commissions them to baptize and teach, "to
make disciples of all nations." It is a task which Jesus
had previously prepared his disciples for; recall that
Jesus had sent the twelve apostles to preach the
Kingdom of God and to heal (cf. Matthew 10:1-15).
However, earlier the Twelve were sent only to the
House of Israel; in this Final Commission, the eleven
are told to go to "all nations." The mission of Jesus
is now to be taken to all people; the task now is to
baptize and to teach.

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in the
name of the Trinity, one of the clearest attestations
found in Scripture for baptism in the name of the
Trinity. In the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters
of Paul, baptism is more frequently offered "in the
name of Jesus."

The ending of Matthew's Gospel can be understood
as the beginning of the Church. Jesus commissions
his disciples to continue to teach in his name and to
bring others into the community of disciples through
baptism. The Gospel ends, as it had begun, with the
promise that Jesus will continue to be Emmanuel,
"God with us" (cf. Matthew 1:23), for all eternity. ©
Loyola Press

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:17-23

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 28:16-20

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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

