



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 24TH MAY 2026: PENTECOST SUNDAY



It has now been 7 weeks since Easter, or '50 days', and so we arrive at the great Feast of Pentecost. To better understand what is going on, maybe it will help to think about what the original Jewish Feast of Pentecost was all about. Coming 7 weeks after the Feast of Passover, it was firstly a harvest festival; a celebration of the first fruits which were offered in thanksgiving. Later on, it also grew to include a commemoration of God's gift of the Torah (or Law) through Moses on Mount Sinai. The Torah revealed to them how they could rightly worship God and what it meant to walk with him as his People. Or in other words, from then on they were 'equipped' for the journey. In that way, it was kind of a completion of the Passover (or Pasch)- first God had to call his People forth and free them from Slavery so they could step forward into new life, but it was only really with the gift of the Torah though that they fully equipped for the new life ahead. It was only with the gift of the Torah that they fully mature and manifest as God's Holy People. And fully matured as his People, it was then they could start to bear ripe fruits for him, and the harvest began.

I think there is something in all that to help us understand what is going on at the Church's first Pentecost. First Christ called his People forth, and then through his own Pasch he won our freedom. The Church was born, and we stepped forward into new life with him. From the very beginning, that new life was a life in the Spirit, but now at Pentecost we see that gift fully ripened. The Church has come to maturity and is now fully equipped for the Mission ahead. It is only now that they fully understand what it is they have to do, and only now that they can find the courage and strength to do it. Immediately they go out to proclaim the good news, and immediately the first fruits of the new harvest are brought in- "and that day about 3000 persons were added." That harvest has never ceased- we are just some of its latest fruits. The same Spirit that moved the disciples that day also moves in us. We too are fully equipped and ready for the Mission- we have all the gifts we need to walk with God and rightly worship him. The Holy Spirit fills us with everything we need. Maybe some of the gifts still need to come to maturity in us, maybe some gifts are still yet to fully ripen, but the seeds are there ready to germinate and grow as we open ourselves up and cooperate with God's great plan for us. The Holy Spirit is in us. He is with us. We have everything we need.

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+
 Sam Puglisi

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

John & Nola O'Bree, Annie Coughlan
 John Joseph O'Loughlin, Lorna Graves
 Haydee Phyland, Renata Corbani, Orazia Ganci
 Michael McInerney, Maureen Allen, Roy Marsilino
 George & Noreen Scott, Sheila Meehan,
 Patrick Conlan, Elizabeth Iannucci, Cheryl Hind,
 Maria Colombo, Giovanni Edera, Michael Tuohey,
 George Giddings, Bernice Ledwich,
 Alan Gerard McGrath, John McDonald

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 24TH MAY 2026

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
 Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
 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 11.30am St Marys Primary School
Catholic Education Week Mass
 Sat: Confessions 10am, Mass 10:30am

NEXT WEEKEND 31ST MAY

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
 Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake
 Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

**CONGRATULATIONS
 & BLESSINGS FOR 70 YRS!**

I missed saying this last week... on behalf of our Parish we extend heartfelt congratulations and blessings to Alan and Helen Dean on the occasion of their 70th Wedding Anniversary! What a wonderful testimony to their faith and dedication! Thank you for your beautiful example, and to your family for sharing this wonderful achievement with us too!

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

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.

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

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

In what ways was the Pentecost experience, 50 days after Easter, the 'right time' for the disciples

What emotions may the disciples have felt?

How would you have reacted if you were in the disciples' place?

What is the relationship between Jesus and the Spirit?

Where in your life could you use the guidance and strength of the Spirit?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

TRINITY SUNDAY

First Reading: Exodus 34:4-6. 8-9

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel: John 3:16-18

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The feast of Pentecost celebrates the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples and energising them to set about their mission of continuing the ministry of Jesus. The gospel reading is one of the post-resurrection appearances by Jesus when he breathed the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. The actual events of that first Pentecost are recorded in the book of Acts and are recalled in this week's first reading. The use of this post-resurrection gospel account is a reminder that Jesus had already imbued the disciples with the Spirit but, as so often throughout his ministry, they were a bit slow to catch on to the significance of what he had done. It seems that they needed a more tangible experience to jolt them into action and Acts records the very physical experience of the Spirit entering their midst as a roaring wind before settling upon them as tongues of flame. Jesus had breathed the Spirit upon them but it took the roaring wind to make a real impression on the disciples. There are frequent references in the gospels to Jesus being 'filled with the Spirit'. It is this Spirit with which he was filled that he breathed upon his disciples; it is that same Spirit that we receive sacramentally in Confirmation.

For the weeks following the death of Jesus the disciples had lived in fear and confusion, not fully understanding what had happened and not really knowing what to do. When they realised that the Spirit Jesus had breathed upon them was really present and urging them to action they finally had the courage to begin the mission that Jesus had entrusted to them: to spread the Good News of Jesus and continue to realise his message in the world.

GOSPEL John 20:19-23

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.*

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands

and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:
'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven:

for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT – PENTECOST

The word Pentecost comes from the Greek for fiftieth day. Pentecost Sunday ends the season of Easter and comes as a Sabbath day after seven weeks of seven days. In Jewish tradition the 50th day after the Passover was celebrated as a blessing of the harvest and rather than the unleavened bread of Passover it was celebrated by leavening the bread. It was for this reason that the disciples were gathered together when they experienced the Holy Spirit empowering them. In Christian tradition, Pentecost is celebrated as the arrival of the Spirit, promised by Jesus, that animated the disciples to spread the gospel of Jesus and gather believers to form what would eventually become the Church.

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

**(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are,

How many are your works, O Lord!

The earth is full of your riches.

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!

May the Lord rejoice in his works!

May my thoughts be pleasing to him.

I find my joy in the Lord.

**(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit. There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be

done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

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

SEQUENCE

Holy Spirit, Lord of light,

From the clear celestial height

Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,

Come with treasures which endure;

Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,

Thou, the soul's delightful guest,

Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;

Pleasant coolness in the heat;

Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,

Visit thou these hearts of thine,

And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,

Nothing pure in man will stay;

All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;

On our dryness pour thy dew;

Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;

Melt the frozen, warm the chill;

Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore

Thee confess and thee adore,

With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die;

Give us life with thee on high;

Give us joys that never end.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING IS ON INSIDE PAGE