

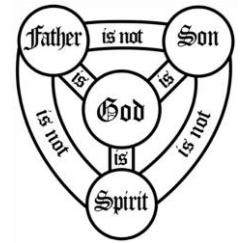


Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au 03 50324144

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 31ST MAY 2026: THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



THE GOD WHO COMES DOWN FROM ABOVE, TO WALK BESIDE, TO DWELL WITHIN...

They are short readings today, so I will keep this short too! I love the image painted in the first reading. Moses is on the Mountain. God descends to be with him, and walks by him, revealing his glory. Moses then pleads with God to come with the People, despite all their failings, to walk ahead of them, to be with them. And God does just that; from then on he never truly abandons his People, even when they turn their back on him.

So much of our understanding of who God is can be recognised in this story, in this image. It is a fleeting glimpse, a little taste of who God is in his fullness. God is above us. He is Great, Almighty, the Creator of all. But God does not stay aloof, he 'descends', he comes down, to be with us, to walk ahead and alongside of us.

And not just beside of us, he comes even closer still, to dwell within us, to live within us. Our God is a God who is both above, but who also comes down, who walks beside, but also dwells within... Scripture reveals God present and acting in all of those ways. And if we think about it, perhaps even in our own life we can also recognise God present to us in all of those ways. Above us, beside us, within us. God is present to us in all of those ways at once. And we can experience God in all those ways at once, because of who God is. God is Trinity; one God, three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is all at once One, and Three. A perfect Communion of Love. And God holds us securely in that Love, right there at the centre.

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

Maxine Gaylard, Margaret Scarce,
Don Isgro, John & Nola O'Bree,
Michael Considine, Mary McInerney
Clem Kelly, Bridget Malony, Pat Ladson,
Des Hall, Barry D'Orsa, Kevin Moar,
Betty Lescke, Fr Brendan Smith, Ester Coyle,
James Spry, Jean Webb

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 31ST MAY 2026

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

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

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL THIS WEEK

Tues: 11:30am Retreat Mass

Wed: 10.30am Mass

Thurs: 11:30am Mass

Friday: No Mass

Sat: Confessions 10am, Mass 10:30am, Rosary

NEXT WEEKEND 7TH JUNE

CORPUS CHRISTI

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

NOTICES

WRAPS WITH LOVE!

Five boxes of colourful rugs have been sent to Sydney. Thank you to the knitters and crocheters!



Communion

**RETREAT DAY FOR THE CHILDREN PREPARING
FOR THEIR FIRST EUCHARIST**

This Tuesday 2nd June we will have our retreat day for the children preparing for their First Eucharist. The big group will be split in two, with half to come in the morning, and half in the afternoon. Both groups will be together in the middle of the day for a special Mass at 11:30am. Parishioners, parents and families are also very welcome and encouraged to join us for the Mass. Please continue to keep the children and their families in your prayers, and please also pray for all who have a part in preparing them. Once again, the celebrations themselves will be on the weekend of the 20/21st June.



MONTHLY ROSARY

Saturday 6th June, after 10:30am Mass, St Mary's Church Swan Hill.

SPECIAL VISITOR NEXT WEEKEND...

I feel a little bad disappearing again so quickly... but this coming weekend my cousin has his wedding and I have been roped in as the presiding priest. So... I will be away for the weekend, and in my place for the weekend Masses you will have Fr Brendan Lane, my old Rector. He is the one who told the Bishop it was okay to ordain me, so if you have any issues you can take them up with him!

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

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 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.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What are the different symbols or images of Trinity that you can identify?

Why do you think the concept of Trinity developed so slowly over a few hundred years?

In what ways is it helpful to be able to think about God in three different ways?

How would you explain the concept of 'Trinity' to a non-Christian?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

CORPUS CHRISTI

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3. 14-16

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Gospel: John 6:51-58

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

BY MARY COLOE PBVM

'God loved the world so much he gave his only Son.'

As a child I learnt about the Trinity in terms of three persons in one God – a short summary of a very complex history of debate about God, Jesus and Spirit. John's Gospel says this with much greater simplicity in the one word 'love'. Too often the language of 'trinity' begins to sound mathematical: three in one, one in three. Trinity is a way of trying to put words on an unfathomable mystery of the inner life of God.

A life we could never have imagined, except it was first experienced. Within Judaism, there were a number of ways of naming the Holy One – Elohim, the generic term for God; YHWH the personal name and experience of God in Israel. The ancient writers of Israel constantly struggled to name the paradox of a God who was utterly transcendent, and yet a God who was present to them. To maintain the sense of God's transcendence,

when they spoke of the immanent experience of God various groups used different words. The Prophets said, 'The Word of the Lord came to me,' and 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me'.

The wisdom teachers spoke of Holy Wisdom being present in the order and elegance of the natural world as well as in human history. Later the rabbis used an Aramaic word 'Shekinah' as a way of speaking of the presence of God within the cosmos. The life of Jesus of Nazareth and his ongoing risen life within the Christian community stretched the theological concepts and language of Israel to find a new way of naming God. Trinity is the distinctively Christian way of naming our experience of God as a communion of life and love.

The very nature of God is to love – to reach out to another in relationship. In this conversation with Nicodemus Jesus describes why he has come into the world (Greek: kosmos); for love of this extraordinary cosmos God gave us a most precious gift in Jesus. John's Gospel makes the promise that those who receive this gift in faith will become children of God (John 1:12) which is this Gospel's way of describing salvation. This means of course that you and I are invited to be drawn into the very heart of God, to be drawn into the Trinity as part of God's own household.

Earlier in the conversation Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about being born again in water and Spirit – a phrase Nicodemus could not understand. The Johannine community understood that with the gift of the Spirit they were in a sense reborn into a new quality of life. John calls this eternity life, which is a way of naming the life God lives in eternity. I use the translation 'eternity' life, rather than 'eternal' life to convey the concept that we are reborn not into ordinary human life that goes on forever, but into a new way of existence. We are born into the family of God, able to call God 'Father' and each other sisters and brothers. In the first reading, this is what Moses begs for when he asks, 'adopt us as your heritage'. If you want a living example of the Trinity look at a family where children participate in the life and love of their parents.

Today, as we celebrate the feast of the Trinity, we are not celebrating an esoteric doctrine from the past; we are celebrating One who is a dynamic relationship inviting us to be participants in this dynamism.

FIRST READING Exodus 34:4-6. 8-9

*A reading from the book of Exodus
The Lord God, ruler of all, merciful and loving.*

With the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with him there.

He called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.' And Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped. 'If I have indeed won your favour, Lord,' he said, 'let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Dn 3:52-56. R. v.52

(R.) Glory and praise for ever!

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.

Blest your glorious holy name.

You are blest in the temple of your glory.

You are blest on the throne of your kingdom.

You are blest who gaze into the depths.

You are blest in the firmament of heaven.

(R.) Glory and praise for ever!

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION See Apocalypse 1:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 3:16-18

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
God sent his Son to save the world through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

'God loved the world so much

that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world

not to condemn the world,

but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;

but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,

because he has refused to believe

in the name of God's only Son.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

