

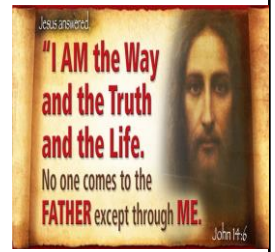


Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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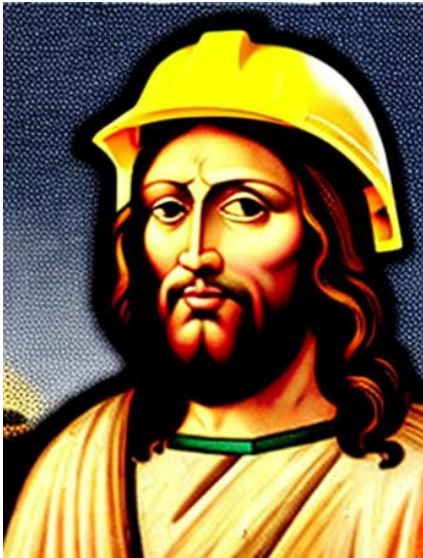
Incorporating the Communities of St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill as well as the Lake Boga Families & Faith Group



SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2026:

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

JESUS THE MASTER BUILDER



You would have heard many times that Jesus was known by his neighbours (perhaps dismissively) as a carpenter, or as the carpenter's son. I think sometimes in our imagination we limit this to Jesus just making tables and chairs in a workshop, like an ancient version of a cabinet maker. But his work as a carpenter was something much broader than this. The Greek word translated here as carpenter is *tektōn*, and that word is used much more broadly in the Old Testament to mean a builder or craftsman. Jesus was a builder. And he would have been familiar with working not just with wood, but probably with stone, mud and brick too. Think about it, tables can last a lifetime. If that is all Jesus did, he would have ran out of work in a village the size of Nazareth very quickly. But houses would have needed constant repairing; roofs resealed, doors mended, walls patched. I suppose the sheepfold would have needed maintaining too, and something more intricate like the gate would have required the skill of a craftsman. And it wouldn't have been just maintenance and repairs. Families grew, and their

households needed to grow with them. When a child of the house married, a new 'room' or 'dwelling' would be added on for them, so they could also have their home within the broader household. Jesus would have helped build and extend many family households in just this way; preparing countless rooms so that there would be space for all the family to dwell together.

Hopefully by now you've picked up why I am talking about Jesus as a builder. Because the image he uses in today's Gospel has everything to do with building. *'There are many rooms in my Father's House.'* *'I am going now to prepare you a place.'* Dwellings and households- is that sounding familiar? With just a little imagination, we can see that Jesus is using an image directly from his own experience. He had built many dwellings before, and knew the hard work involved in *'preparing a place.'* I love that. The *'many rooms'* in the house is not mere platitude. There is hard work involved; blood, sweat and tears shed on our behalf.

Of course, what Jesus is speaking of here is something much greater than a merely physical or material reality. He is speaking of an awesome spiritual reality; that we have our secure home in God. Jesus unfolds the fuller meaning of this mystery if you keep reading through John's Gospel; of how the Father dwells in him, and he in the Father, and of how his Spirit dwells in us, and of how we dwell securely in him. We have our place right there, in the heart of the Trinity. It is the mystery of our Baptism; it is the mystery of the Church.

God has his dwelling in us, and we have our dwelling in God. Jesus, our Master Builder, has done the hard work for us. He went ahead of us, to prepare the way. And that meant going all the way to the Cross. Blood, sweat and tears shed on our behalf, so that we could have a safe dwelling in him. That reality is so strong and secure that it will persist from this life all the way through to the next. He is our Master Builder, we can trust in his craftsmanship. It will not fail us. Storms and earthquakes may come, but nothing can destroy what he has built. *'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me.'*

Parish Contact Details:

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Website: northeastmallee.org.au

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

Victor Bryant, Mervyn Bryent, William Byrne
Bernard Francis Kelly, Dot McGregor,
Francesco Miceli, Margaret Ledwich, Irene Matthews,
Desiree Smith, Michael Conidi, Thomas Ryan,
Moira Harrison, Claire Betts, Neil McKerrow,
Pat Jobling, Daniel Starkom

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 3RD MAY 2026

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL THIS WEEK

Tues: NO MASS
Wed: 10.30am
Thurs: Confessions 5pm, Mass 5:30pm
Friday: Mass 10:30am
Sat: Confessions 10am, Mass 10:30am

NEXT WEEKEND 10TH MAY

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

NOTICES



CUPPA AFTER 10.30AM MASS TODAY

We will also have a special presentation to Joyce
Phyland and Mary Livingston of their Apostolic
Blessings at the end of Mass. How special it is to have
two parishioners over 100! **All welcome!**



SEA LAKE MASS SWAP NEXT MONTH:

Moved forward to 31st May instead of 7th June

Just to give some advance notice, after today, Sea
Lake was next due for Mass on Sunday 7th June. We
will bring this forward to **Sunday 31st May instead.**
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.

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



**COINS OF THE WORLD–
Calling all Collectors or
Those Looking for Foreign Change**

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.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What is it that Jesus wants the disciples to trust in God about?

What do we learn about the disciples from the questions asked by Thomas and Philip?

What truth does Jesus make clear to the disciples about himself and the Father?

What message can young people today take from this gospel passage?

**READINGS NEXT WEEK
6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel: John 14:15-21

**NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY
BY MARY COLOE PBVM**

'In my Father's household there are many dwellings.'

The words of today's Gospel are very familiar since this is the text frequently chosen at Christian funerals. We have probably not really understood this passage. We possibly imagine that this Gospel speaks of a heavenly home that we will one day dwell in. In fact, it is the opposite.

The Gospel comes from Jesus' farewell meal where he speaks of his departure but also offers his disciples consolation. In the absence of the physical Jesus they will discover God's presence still with them. The image used to offer this consolation is that of the household, or family of God. Once again English translations miss this. The original Greek says 'In my Father's house/hold there are many dwellings.' (The Greek does not say dwelling places, or mansions, or rooms – just many dwellings.) Chapter 14 then goes on to describe the many dwellings in this household: the Father who dwells in Jesus (14:10), the Spirit who dwells with believers (14:17), the Father and Jesus who will dwell with believers (14:23), and Jesus who dwells with his disciples (14:25). Throughout this chapter, forms of one Greek word (menein) are used and translations should be more consistent and use 'dwell'. In each case the subject of the verb is not the believer but God – named as Father, Jesus and Spirit. This entire chapter is about God's coming to dwell within the Christian community. In the Old Testament the great symbol of God's dwelling within Israel was the Temple, and in this Gospel Jesus has renamed the Temple as 'my Father's House' (2:16). This phrase, 'my Father's House' as well as referring to the Temple, is always used in the OT to speak of the members of the household. Frequently it is simply translated as, 'family'. So the dwelling of God within the community of believers makes us a living Temple and members of God's household.

When Jesus says, 'I go to prepare a place for you,' this also has a background in the Old Testament. The phrase, 'a prepared place' always referred to preparing a place for the Temple and the Ark of the Covenant. So it is not that Jesus is preparing a heavenly place for us to dwell in some time in the future, but that right now, Jesus is preparing us to be living Temples in whom God dwells and members of God's household. This chapter of John's Gospel, and the following chapter which continues to use the word 'dwell' as it speaks of disciples dwelling in a vine, provides a rich spiritual concept of the mutual indwelling presence of God and believer.

You and I now make up the community that is the household of God, where Jesus, the Father and the Spirit dwell. We don't have to wait until death to dwell in God's household, we are that household now. Jesus says, 'I am the way,' – in and through him we have become God's children, and members of God's household.

© Mary Coloe

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for

you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am

you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so
how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be
satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said

Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

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