



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, 12 April 2020



Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Thomas

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St

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Office Hours

Tues, Thurs and Fri

10am -2pm

Parish Admin Officers:

Glenda Klabbbers

Mary Kennedy

Child Protection Officers:

Damian and Karen Kelly

Incorporating the Catholic Communities of

Sacred Heart Church, Culgoa

St Michael's Church, Lalbert

St Joseph's Church, Lake Boga

St Joseph's Church, Nandaly

S's Peter & Paul, Quambatook

St Mary's Church, Swan Hill

St Mary's Church, Sea Lake

Notices for Bulletin need to be received at the office by Wednesday morning.

Parish Prayer

God our Father,

Through the intercession of the Holy Family our patron, we pray that you bless this parish so that we may love you more.

Help parents to be a good example to their children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care; to the sick and the weak grant health; to the aged bring serenity; and to those in sorrow joy.

May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily life. Amen.



Recent Deaths

Weekday Masses

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: No Mass

Wednesday: No Mass

Thursday: No Mass

Friday: No Mass

Anniversaries of Death

Pat Livingston, Kealan Snowden, John Howley, Fr Frank Maddern, Brian Safe, Gerard Tagliabue, Andrew Brennan, Michael Powell, Luke Carrison, Molly Powell, Monie Moloney, Paul Power, Patrick Mullins, Tess Cahoon, Gladys Henderson, Sr Bernadine Nolan, Michael Upton, Margaret Walsh, Agnes Burns, Vern Kelly, Bob O'Meara, Kathleen Ledwich, Mary McMurtie, Tim Power

Happy Easter

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and holy Easter. As we are unable to gather to celebrate the Lord Resurrection, we can do this in our own families by spending some time to prayer and reflection on what we are grateful for.

I myself will continue to celebrate mass each day and given thanks for the fantastic community in which I live and work, you inspire me to do the best I can to share and spread the Good News of the Risen Lord.

May God bless us all

Fr Matt

Schools within the Parish

Primary

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake

Principal: Kate Nunn

47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake

Ph: 03 5070 1272

Principal@smsealake.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin

2 Murlong St Swan Hill

Ph. 03 5033 2541

principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

Secondary

St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

Sick List

Jarrold Crimmins, Jack Donohue, Sean Carroll, Ronald Duryea, Jude Lewis, Yvonne Annan, Sarah Kenny, Michael Bourke

During these difficult times your continued donations to the presbytery and parish support are greatly appreciated.

If you wish to drop off your stewardship envelopes please leave under door at Parish office or drop off on a Tuesday or Friday.

Finances

1st Collection (Support Clergy)

2nd Collection (Parish Support)

Including C/Cards and D/Debt

Thank you for your generous contribution to the running of the parish and the support of our priests

Saints / Feast Days

This Week

Mon: Bl Notker

Tues: St John Baptist de la Salle

Wed: St Julie Billiart

Thurs: St Madeleine Sophie Barat

Fri: Bl Antoine Frederic Ozanam

Sat: St Stanislaus

Child Safe Church

Here in the Parish of Holy Family North East Mallee follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office

Chrism Mass 2020

Please note that the Mass of the Oils has been postponed to Monday, September 21, 2020 at 6.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.

CHANNEL 7 TO BROADCAST ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY, EASTER SERVICES.

GOOD FRIDAY'S LORD'S PASSION will go to air on Friday 10th April at 3pm while EASTER SUNDAY MASS, celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will air on Sunday 12th April from 10.30am



Fr Matt's Move to Mildura

With the Covid19 crisis the Bishop has asked Fr Mick and Myself to remain in the parishes we are in until some of the restrictions are lift.

Food for Thought:

What emotions do you think Mary might have experienced upon discovering the tomb?

Why did the gospel writers portray the disciples' initial disbelief and doubt about the resurrection?

What Christian belief/s flow from the resurrection of Jesus?

In what ways does the account of Jesus' resurrection inspire hope in Christians?

In what ways is Jesus still present in the world?

Why is the passion, death and resurrection central to Christian belief?

What message do you take from the beloved disciple who 'saw and believed'.

Does the significance of the Easter events receive proper recognition in society today?

Why do you think the cross became the symbol of Christianity, rather than the empty tomb?

Easter Message from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop Paul has recorded an Easter message for the people of the diocese. The message can be viewed on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies and resources

There is information on the diocesan website regarding online Masses and resources to assist with the celebration of Holy Week and Easter at home www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Our Diocesan Community

The latest edition of ODC and eNews is now available to read online at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au under "News and Events"

What can I do during this time of Covid19?

In these difficult times please remember the elderly in your area. Call them daily to make sure they are ok. If you can assist in any way eg shopping, collecting medication etc, this can allieviate some stress and arrange to leave it at their door when task is finished.



**Jesus is Risen
today, let us
celebrate the
risen Lord.**



The Ballarat diocesan website has a list of links for Mass on line, resources for things like Sacred Space: 10 minute prayer and reflection, pray at home, pray as you go are just a few of the links as well as activities to do as a family so head over to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au and discover what is on offer



HOMILY by Richard Leonard

A man was driving along the road when he saw the Easter Bunny hop into his lane. He swerved to avoid hitting the bunny but couldn't do so. The basket of eggs went everywhere. The driver felt guilty and began to cry. A woman saw the man and pulled over. 'What's wrong?' she asked. 'I accidentally killed the Easter Bunny', he explained. The woman knew exactly what to do. She went to her car, pulled out a spray can, walked over to the bunny, and sprayed the entire contents over the little furry animal. Miraculously the Easter Bunny came back to life, jumped up, picked up his eggs, waved at them and hopped on down the road. Not far away the Easter Bunny stopped, turned around and waved again. He kept doing this for as far as they could see.

The man was astonished. 'What in heaven's name is in that can you sprayed on the Easter Bunny?' The woman showed the man the label. It said: 'Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.'

For many of our children the bunny and its eggs are the most important thing about Easter. Over the millennia, Christianity has had a gift for domesticating local traditions and festivals, bringing them on board and making them our own. The name Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon spring festival in honour of the goddess Eostre. Her symbol was the rabbit and the giving of eggs were signs of new life bursting forth as winter withdrew. These associations only make sense in the northern hemisphere, but we can see why the early Christians could be so adaptable and inculturated with this local festival.

In both hemispheres Christians today celebrate Jesus being raised from the dead. In the New Testament there are two traditions about how the disciples come to know about Jesus' resurrection: the empty tomb and the apparitions of Christ.

Today's Gospel belongs to the empty tomb tradition. On Magdalene's urging, Peter and John run to the tomb, find it empty and come to at least an initial belief about the resurrection of Jesus.

We do not believe that God simply revived Jesus' corpse in the tomb, as our driver resuscitated the bunny in today's story. Easter Sunday does not celebrate the resuscitation of Jesus, but his Resurrection. We know his 'glorified body' was not the same as his human body because Jesus' presence could be encountered in several places simultaneously and he is reported to walk through walls and to vanish. The link between both resurrection traditions is the importance of Jesus' death. In the empty tomb accounts, as in today's gospel, the writers give us extraordinary details about the grave clothes. In the apparition narratives there are usually references to Jesus' wounds.

Whatever way they came to experience the Resurrection of Christ, the disciples knew that this was Jesus who actually died and was buried and that their personal encounter was with the one who was crucified.

What God did through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what Christians have done with local customs and festivals ever since: he entered into it, understood it, took it on board, domesticated it and vanquished its power. As a result we believe that God empathises with the full limitations of our human mortality and promises to remain faithful to us in death as he remained utterly faithful to Jesus.

That is why on this day 1,600 years ago St John Chrysostom could say on behalf of us all:

'Hell took a body and discovered God. It took earth and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are destroyed! Christ is Risen, and evil is cast down! Christ is Risen, and angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and new life is set free! Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, becomes the first fruit of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!'

Different View – An empty tomb?

There are some writers who have questioned the historical accuracy of the empty tomb account of the resurrection. Some theologians and biblical scholars (e.g. members of the 'Jesus Seminar') argue that historically, it is far more likely that the victim of Roman crucifixion would be left to rot on the cross or buried in a shallow criminal's grave – not laid to rest in an expensive private tomb. However, they do not argue against resurrection. They maintain that Jesus' body was not 'resuscitated' or 'reanimated'. What happened to his corpse, they argue, is irrelevant to Christ's resurrection.

FIRST READING Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Col 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 28:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

The Word of the Lord.

Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Second Reading: 1 Pt 1:3-9

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene, or Mary of Magdala, plays an important role in the gospel accounts of the resurrection. She was obviously a significant follower of Jesus, being named as a witness to the crucifixion, discovering the empty tomb and the first to encounter the risen Christ. One would think that she would hold a prestigious place in the Church, but for many years she was confused with another character identified in the gospels and was portrayed as a prostitute and sinner. Mary is named in each of the four gospels and not once is it indicated that she was a sinner or prostitute. She has been a victim of mistaken identity for 2000 years.