



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

2nd Sunday of Easter Sunday, 19 April 2020



Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Thomas

St Mary's Presbytery 62 Splatt St

Po Box 71 Swan Hill, Vic 3585

Phone: 03 5032 4144

northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

Catherine Baker

Kathleen Hogan

Weekday Masses

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: No Mass

Wednesday: No Mass

Thursday: No Mass

Friday: No Mass

Anniversaries of Death

Jack Lavey, Rita Tuohey, Bruce Currie,

Bryan O'Brien, Angela McKay,

Antonio Massara, Phyll Murray, Ellen Real,

Brenda Patterson, Ray Finnemore,

Anna Raudino, Matthew O'Brien,

Irene Cattran, Margaret Walsh, Agnes Burns,

Bernard Walsh, Catherine Ledwich,

Catherine McEwan, Trevor Hogan,

Geoff Bourke, Marie Vuillermin,

Roma Coughlan

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.

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.

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"

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: St Agnes of Montepulciano

Tues: St Anselm

Wed: Bl Lidwina

Thurs: St George, St Adalbert

Fri: St Fidelis of Sigmaringen

Sat: St Mark the Evangelist,

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

ANZAC Day

On Saturday as a nation we celebrate and commemorate the dedication and service of our Military Personal, we remember those who have died and for those who serve today. In joining in our local community gathering we can support each other and experience the ANZAC Spirit



Food for Thought:

Why were the disciples in hiding at the start of this passage?

Why do you think Thomas was reluctant to believe what his friends told him about the Risen Jesus?

How might the other disciples have reacted to Thomas' unbelief?

Despite his earlier demand, why doesn't Thomas touch the wounds of Jesus?

What does Thomas' experience say to 21st Century Christians?

How do you respond to disbelief and doubt within yourself or others?

Why does Jesus particularly focus the mission of the disciples on the forgiveness of sins?

In what situations do you most need to hear Jesus' words, 'Peace be with you'?

In what ways does Thomas personify elements of our own culture and society?

With Jesus in the Desert: A retreat for a time of isolation

The staff of Jesuit Communications have prepared a 14-day retreat for the use of people who have to isolate themselves for 14 days during the Coronavirus crisis. Of course, other people who may find it helpful are also welcome to use it. The retreat has suggestions for each of the 14 days, though participants are free to follow it through or to pick out particular days. A shorter retreat that keeps the basic pattern could involve days 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14. More information at <https://www.pray.com.au/with-jesus-in-the-desert-a-retreat-for-a-time-of-isolation/>

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.

A special message to our School Communities from our Principals

As we commence Term 2 with the certainty that most students will be learning from home, the Catholic Education Office Ballarat would like to share this special video message with all of our families. Watch the video on the CEOB website www.ceob.edu.au

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

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

Matthew's Beatitudes and Catherine McAuley in Dialogue with Earth's

Distress Veronica Lawson RSM recently held a webinar exploring the Beatitudes and Catherine McAuley at this time of the Earth's distress. Watch the video here <https://vimeo.com/404735366>

HOMILY by Fr Michael Tate

Undoubtable Wounds

There is something attractive about Thomas the Doubter – something about his obstinate integrity in not too readily accepting the other disciples' report that they had seen the Risen Lord.

After all, he had devotedly followed this Galilean for several years, but then there was the shock and trauma of the barbaric death on the cross. Who could be surprised at his doubting the reports of his fellow apostles?

But our Risen Lord Jesus Christ was quite willing to wait, to embody the patience of God.

And the other disciples – now the 'true believers' in the resurrection – must have caught something of this patience of God. They did not expel Thomas from their company but kept him within their circle. It was their continuing friendship with the Doubter which gave him the opportunity to be present for the appearance of the Risen Lord in their midst.

Perhaps there is a lesson for the Church to not too quickly raise the barriers excluding those struggling with belief in the Christian faith.

That is a consoling aspect of this gospel episode. Another aspect ends up as quite a challenge for us.

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'

Did you notice that Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such? That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the *identity* of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

Pope Francis says we can join Thomas in *this* faith, can *only* join Thomas in this faith, by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded by hunger, humiliation, illness, enslavement in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds: feeding, esteeming, visiting, breaking chains. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

As Pope Francis says: "Jesus asks us to take a leap of faith towards Him, but through these, His wounds.

Sometimes, we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. We may say, and certainly have heard others say: "I believe that Jesus of Nazareth was a great teacher, or I am attracted by his miracles of healing, but to call him God? That is a step too far."

You, or the other person, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith.

In the meantime we can take heart from the final blessing of Our Lord. Blessings are promised to we who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who find that, in touching his wounds we cannot help but proclaim, 'My Lord and my God'.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is currently Vicar General in the Archdiocese and is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

The Parish Collections

We have had people enquire about how they can contribute to the normal collections.

The First Collection - This looks after Fr Matt and the running of the Presbytery, this collection is normally taken up first and in the past has been via cash, with the current situation you may wish to contribute to this by either dropping money into the office on a Tues or Fri or you can direct debit to the account. Account Name Holy Family Parish BSB- 083874 Account 30-816-7018

The Second Collection- this is for the running of the parish, most people either use plan giving envelopes or direct debit, if you would like to contribute to this one the details are

Name: Holy Family Parish BSB 083874 Account 30-806-2531

First Reading Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. Alleluia.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.'

I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. Alleluia.

Second Reading 1 Pt 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, 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.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

Second Reading: 1 Pt 1:17-21

Gospel: Lk 24:13-35