



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, 26 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 Klabbers

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

Robert "Bob" Foley

Weekday Masses

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: No Mass

Wednesday: No Mass

Thursday: No Mass

Friday: No Mass

Anniversaries of Death

Merv Bryent, Pat Lange, Sr Eileen Carr, Haydee Phyland, Pat Chisholm, Salvatore Mangiameli, Ignatius & Patrick Willocks, Jeff Learmonth, Domenica & Antonetta Di Nicola, Max Sewell, Mary Beilby, Joh Rohan, Matthew Patching,

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

Jarrod 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.

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

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 Louis Grignon de Montfort

Tues: St Peter Chanel

Wed: St Catherine of Sienna

Thurs: St Pius V

Fri: St Joseph the Worker

Sat: St Athanasius

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

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

If using direct deposit, please make sure you put your name in the reference box.

Food for Thought:

What is significant about the two disciples walking away from Jerusalem to Emmaus?

What did they do once they realised they had seen the Risen Jesus?

What might have prevented the disciples from recognising Jesus on the road?

Why might the act of breaking bread have been the catalyst for them to recognise Jesus?

How is it possible to become more aware of the presence of Jesus in your own life

What insight does this event reveal about the nature and significance of Eucharist?

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/>

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>

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

MOTHER EARTH DAY - APRIL 22 Mother Earth is clearly urging a call to action. Nature is suffering. Australian fires, heat records and the worst locust invasion in Kenya. Now we face COVID-19, a worldwide health pandemic and its link to the health of our ecosystem. United Nations:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/earth-day>

Global Catholic Climate Movement

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/earth-day>

Earth Day

<https://www.earthday.org/>

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Office for Social Justice celebrate Mother Earth Day:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/event/international-mother-earth-day/2020-04-22/>

First Reading Acts 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence. 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11

Lord, you will show us the path of life. Alleluia.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.'

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever.

Lord, you will show us the path of life. Alleluia.

Second Reading 1 Pt 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter;

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel Acclamation See Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!



Gospel Lk 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke;

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: Acts 2:14. 36-41

Second Reading: 1 Pt 2:20-25

Gospel: Jn 10:1-10

Gospel Reflection

One of the remarkable things about the Risen Jesus is that his friends and followers almost always fail to recognise him at first. In the instance on the road to Emmaus, two of the disciples are walking the road feeling sorry for themselves when Jesus joins them. It is, perhaps, an experience that is not unfamiliar in our own lives: so absorbed by what is happening to us that we fail to recognise the presence of Christ walking the journey with us – in spirit or in the guise of someone around us. Jesus allows the disciples to share their woes and their grief and then he slowly but surely relates all of what had happened to the scriptures and demonstrates to the disciples that the events of the previous few days were all part of God's plan. The disciples felt that their hopes and beliefs had been misplaced in Jesus; he hadn't delivered all that they had dreamed. But the Risen Jesus makes them realise that their hopes were not misplaced; they were right to trust and hope in Jesus and that belief will still bear fruit.

It is not until Jesus re-enacts the Last Supper breaking of bread that the disciples suddenly recognise him, but at that moment of recognition, Jesus vanishes from their midst. It must have been tantalising and frustrating for the two disciples – when they finally realised who they had been talking with and they could celebrate his presence Jesus disappeared. But the truth of what they had realised didn't abandon them. They reminded one another of the passion they had felt: 'Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road?' They are saying to each other, how stupid must we have been not to recognise Jesus? Only he could make us feel like that!

Living the Gospel

Living the journey

The story of the road to Emmaus is a perfect model for our Christian life. It reminds us first of all that none of us walk the journey alone. Even when we don't recognise his presence, Jesus joins us in the everyday realities of life. The breaking open and interpretation of scripture is essential to making sense of our life experiences and through the celebration of Eucharist and table fellowship we are nourished to not only continue the journey but to share the good news with others. Where do you find yourself in the events of this story?