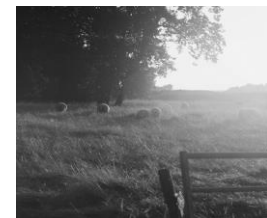




Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

4th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, 3 May 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

Weekday Masses

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: No Mass

Wednesday: No Mass

Thursday: No Mass

Friday: No Mass

Anniversaries of Death

Victor Bryent, Neil McKerrow, Jack Dullard

Monica Conlan, Peg Richards, Tol Nolan,

Terry Lonergan, Basil Butler,

Matt O'Halloran, Antonio Colombo,

Vince Iannucci, William Bryne,

Bernard Francis Kelly, Margaret Ledwich

Irene Matthews, Thomas Ryan,

Daniel Starkom, Eva Fitzpatrick,

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

Saints / Feast Days

This Week

Mon: Bl Ceferino Gimenez Malla

Tues: St Mary Mazzarello

Wed: Bl Francois de Montmorency Laval

Thurs: Bl Rose Venerini

Fri: Bl Catherine of St Augustine

Sat: Bl Nicholas Albergati

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

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

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:

Why do these images of the sheep and the shepherd seem to have so much appeal today?

To whom might Jesus have been referring when describing the 'others' as thieves and brigands?

In what way does Jesus act as a gate?

What do you think it means to live life to the full?

Why might the Jews have been attracted to an image of God as shepherd?

How can the concept of 'life to the full' be misunderstood or misused?

In what ways is the invitation to have life to the full also a challenge?

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/>

Heart to Heart e-Seminars

Archbishop Chris Prowse, Canberra-Goulburn Diocese, is presenting these 30 minute e-seminars over four weeks, leading you into a deeper relationship with Christ during this time of isolation
<https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/hearttoheart/>

Pentecost Pilgrimage

Catholics are invited to join others worldwide on a spiritual pilgrimage to Pentecost. Register for free to receive a series of talks which are uploaded twice a week from speakers around the world, including from Australia Archbishop Porteous (Hobart), Fr Ken Barker MGL, Founder and Moderator of the Missionaries of God's Love, Robert Falzon, Cofounder of menALIVE, and Daniel Ang, Director of Parish 2020, Sydney Archdiocese.

Go to <https://www.pentecostpilgrimage.com/>

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.

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

Good Shepherd Sunday & World Day of Prayer for Vocations - Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A May 3, 2020

May 3, 2020 (Fourth Sunday of Easter) is the World Day of Vocations. Pope Francis tells us, "Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the gaze of God in our lives" (message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2020). Let us pray for the young people in our community and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers and presence reflect the gaze of love from the Lord to help them discover their vocation.

Gospel Reflection

The fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes known as Good Shepherd Sunday. In the three different cycles of the liturgical year, the gospel on this Sunday comes from John, chapter 10 – an extended discourse by Jesus on the image of himself as the good shepherd. This year the reading is the beginning of the chapter and stops just immediately before the words, 'I am the good shepherd'.

Our understanding of this whole image and the scene that is set in today's passage is very dependent upon a contextual understanding of the times. Whilst shepherds were generally regarded as being little better than criminals, they often put their lives in danger to tend to their flocks. Of a night time, several flocks of sheep would be penned in a communal sheepfold, usually made of stone walls. There was only one entrance to the sheepfold and one of the shepherds would effectively become the gate by sleeping across the entranceway. This was to keep the sheep in but also to guard against thieves. Thieves might climb over the wall into the sheepfold but the sheep were trained to respond to their shepherd's voice alone so thieves could only steal what sheep they could carry off or those that were not sufficiently trained to their shepherd's commands.

When Jesus described himself as the gate of the sheepfold, his audience would have immediately understood the analogy. For a shepherd to become the gate to the sheepfold of a night was to risk his life for not only his own sheep but all the sheep in the fold overnight. It took courage and demonstrated utter commitment.

Historical Context – A line of shepherds

When Jesus used the image of himself as a shepherd, he named himself as belonging to a Jewish ancestry that associated itself with shepherds. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses were all shepherds. David, the second King of Israel, was regarded as the greatest king in Jewish history. His humble beginning, captured magnificently in the sculpture by Michelangelo, was as a shepherd boy guarding his flock with a slingshot. The kings of Israel were charged to 'shepherd' their people rather than to lord it over them as the pagan kings did.

Scriptural context – Psalm 22

Today's responsorial psalm uses Psalm 22 (sometimes referenced as Psalm 23), 'the Lord is my shepherd'. It is a very popular psalm and is often reproduced on Christian posters and other artworks. It was also a popular psalm and image at the time of Jesus. For Jesus to describe himself as the good shepherd caused great distress among the Jewish officials. They saw Jesus as being blasphemous for the psalm makes clear that *the Lord* is the shepherd. Jesus quite deliberately makes clear that he and the Father are one: the Lord is the shepherd and Jesus is the good shepherd.

Gospel Focus – Life to the Full

John 10:10 is a very famous quote from this gospel passage. Having life to the full does not imply life filled with every convenience, comfort and wealth. Rather, it is about living a life filled with purpose and intent. If we fail to live with purpose and meaning then our life is a hollow shell of what it could be. Jesus came that we may have life – a life that is at its fullest when it is lived in such a way as to be an expression of what Jesus taught and lived.

Message from Pope Francis to Pray the Rosary in May

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary during May and has composed two new prayers asking for Our Lady's intercession to help end the COVID-19 pandemic. See attached or go to the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Caritas Online Concert – May 9

On Saturday, May 9, Australian singer, songwriter and musician, Gary Pinto will lead a free online concert for Project Compassion. Gary wrote a song for Project Compassion titled "Walk With Me" this year and wanted to do more to help so he is bringing Australian and international musicians together in support of Caritas Australia. Through this free concert, he is urging thousands of school children, teachers, churches and families across Australia during this challenging time, to stand in solidarity with those most vulnerable to COVID-19. You can find more details on the concert and view the great artist line-up at [\[caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions\]caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions](http://[caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions]caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions). To view the concert, supporters will need to register at [\[livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/\]livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/](http://[livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/]livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/).

First Reading Acts 2:14. 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles;

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Alleluia.

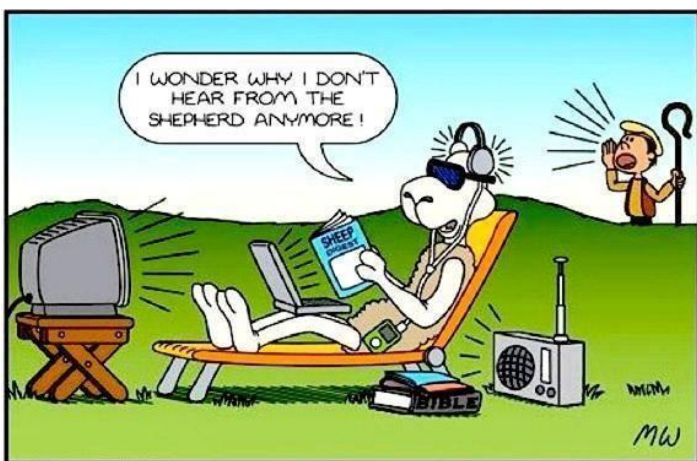
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Alleluia.



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
- JOHN 10:27

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter;

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John; Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Second Reading: 1 Pt 2:4-9

Gospel: Jn 14:1-12

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