



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

5th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, 10 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 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

Anniversaries of Death

Ray Wright, Pat Wilson, Pat Duryea, Percy Lewis, Carmel Gathercole, Jim Upton, Tess Wurf, Leo Hogan, Dot McGregor, Desiree Smith, Pat Jobling, Maurie Coughlan, Jack B Loughran, Violet Egan, Patrick Lynch, Catherine Kelly, Thomas Brady, Thomas Burns, Annette Gargulio, Merv Bryant

Weekday Masses

Monday: No Mass
 Tuesday: No Mass
 Wednesday: No Mass
 Thursday: No Mass
 Friday: No Mass

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.



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

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

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 Ignatius of Laconi
 Tues: Sts Nereus & Achilleus
 Wed: Our Lady Of Fatima
 Thurs: St Matthias
 Fri: St Isidore the Farmer
 Sat: St Felix of Cantalice

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.

TO ALL MOTHERS MAY YOU HAVE A BLESSED AND HAPPY MOTHERS DAY.

A Prayer for Mothers

Gracious God, you chose Mary to be the mother of your son Jesus Christ.

As you blessed her through her Son, bless all mothers.

Grant them patience, wisdom, strength and joy, so that they may care for and love the children you have given to them and placed in their care.

Loving Father in heaven, we thank you for the mothers you have given us, whose commitment is so precious that it can never be measured. May we see your loving hand behind them and guiding them.

We pray for those mothers who fear or who are in broken relationships and ask you to bless them with your own special love and the gifts.

We pray for children and fathers, that they may appreciate, love and support their mothers and wives.

Food for 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?

Why does this passage work as both a Last Supper speech and a pre-Ascension discourse?

What does the image of the many rooms in the Father's house seek to convey?

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



HOMILY by Richard Leonard

For many people 'going home', means a return to comfort and security.

In the best homes children are unafraid, they know that their home is a buffer against some harsh realities beyond the door. As adults we carry that desire for security into all the various homes in which we live.

When we reflect on our childhood homes many of us can say of it what Jesus says of himself. It was the first place almost all of us learnt about 'The Way'. The earliest Christians were called people of The Way. It's a rich image denoting that Christianity is not an idea, it's a way of living, a path to follow.

For better or worse one of the distinctive features of most of our homes is that it's also where we are told 'The Truth'. Sometimes that deflates our egos or means we hear things we would rather not listen to. But hopefully the comfort and love which accompanies this truth telling comes from the ease and care in the relationships at home. Our family doesn't pull any punches with the truth because they know us too well and love us too much.

Most adults also remember their childhood houses as lively. 'The Life' in our homes was about the buzz of children going to and from school, various friends calling in, the reign of organised chaos where space was claimed and a position defended. Minor dramas were never far away and life was lived to the full.

It's not by accident that the image of Jesus preparing us a house and being the Way, the Truth and the Life are put together in today's Gospel. In another part of John's gospel Jesus goes further in describing himself as our master builder, as our home and even our lodger. We are told to make a home in him as he makes a home in us. What a terrific image of the intimacy Christ wants to share with us, and we with him!

The best homes, however, do not just protect and keep their occupants safe for eternity. A home is a means to an end, which is to give us the stability and sanity we need to keep going out to the world beyond it. In the same way, our home of faith with Jesus enables us to keep going out to a sometimes hostile world and share with others the Way, the Truth and the Life that sustains us. In a world where 70% of all people have substandard housing and millions of displaced people have to create homes wherever they are, we have our work cut out for us.

The Way we follow is about justice, development and peace for all people everywhere and not just the select few who can build the biggest mansions on earth. We are invited to keep speaking the Truth even if that makes us unpopular or different or at odds with the majority. And we have to keep living the Life which sees that our greatest joy comes from human dignity being celebrated everywhere.

If all Christians lived out this Way, Truth and Life we would, by His grace, fulfil Jesus' extraordinary prophecy that we could do greater works than He did. Now that's a challenge to take with us into the coming week!

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.

2020 - It's the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si'

Pope Francis invites you to celebrate *Laudato Si'* Week which takes place May 16-24.

Go to <https://laudatosiweek.org/> for more information.

Week of Prayer and Christian Unity 2020

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from May 24-31, 2020 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. This year's theme, "*They showed us unusual kindness*" (*Acts 28:2*), calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action and remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. Resources are now available at the website [The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#).

Further resources will be added to this page in the coming days.

First Reading Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

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.

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. Alleluia.

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. Alleluia.

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter:

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.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 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 Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

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.'

Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

Second Reading: 1 Pt 3:15-18

Gospel: Jn 14:15-21

INTRODUCING FR JAMES KERR OUR NEW PARISH PRIEST

I was very excited to be asked by the Bishop to replace Fr Matthew as Parish Priest in Holy Family Parish North-East

Mallee. I've heard many good things about the parish and its people. My sister-in-law (Kerrie née Munro) is especially excited for me, being a Swan Hill girl originally. It will be my first appointment as parish priest, and my first appointment to the area, but I know I'll have good people around me to support me.

A little about myself. I am the fourth of five children to my parents Michael and Francine. They're now living on the Mornington Peninsula along with most of the family. The older siblings were all born in Melbourne, but I was born in Sale where dad had his first teaching job. After 9 years in sale, the family moved to Ballarat, where my little sister was born. I went through secondary education at St Pat's College, where Dad worked as a boarding master and teacher. As a family we were part of first the Cathedral parish and later St James' Sebastapol when we moved a little out of town.

After school I started an engineering course at Melbourne Uni. Soon after commencing though I started to feel a strong pull towards the priesthood. Once it became clear (as much as these things can be) where God was calling me, I entered the seminary in Carlton. I was ordained a priest in Ballarat on September 2013. I had my first placement as an assistant priest for three years in the Ballarat area, and have been in Mildura now since the beginning of 2017.

And as for the very important question; I am a Geelong supporter.



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. go to the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

First Prayer

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Second Prayer

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God". In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

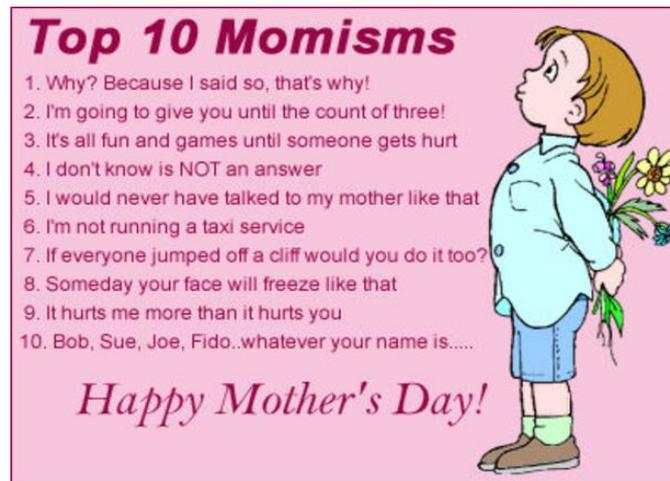
Caritas Online Concert – May 9

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.

This is a great opportunity for our community to reach out, to demonstrate the concern of ordinary Australians, Catholics and others, to be there for the most vulnerable in our world at this time of fear.

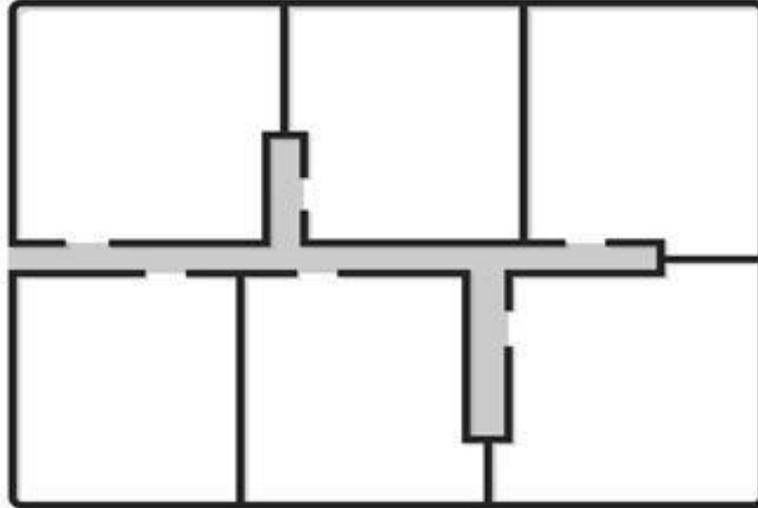
You can find more details on the concert and view the great artist line-up at [\[caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions\]](https://caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions) caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions.

To view the concert, supporters will need to register at [\[livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/\]](https://livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/) livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/.



Jesus tells us that there are many rooms in His Father's house and that he has prepared a place for each of us.

Fill each room with drawings of your family and friends.



Can you decipher what Jesus is saying?



Draw an arrow next to the words below which describe the Way, the Truth and the Life that Jesus wants us to follow.

- LOVE
- PEACE
- GREED
- FORGIVENESS
- CONFLICT
- JUSTICE
- SELFISHNESS
- COMPASSION
- HONESTY
- HATRED

Can you decipher what Jesus is saying?

  **come 2**

the  **except**



" _____ come
 ___ the _____
 except _____ ."