



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

## The Ascension of the Lord

### Sunday, 24 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](mailto: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**

Allan Phyland

**Weekday Masses**

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

**Anniversaries of Death**

Maria Colombo, Maria Cimini, Mary Spong, Giuseppi Pachi, Barry Scott, Noel & Aileen Rogers, Anne Maher, Pat & Ann Power, George Giddings, Bernice Ledwich, John McDonald, Michael Considine, Mary McInerney, Patrick Conlan. Cheryl Hind, Michael Tuohey, Margaret Scarce, George Giddings, Bernice Ledwich, John McDonald.

**Fr Matt's Move to Mildura**

The date for the Fr Matthew to depart and the arrival of Fr James has been set for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

As we are unable to have a farewell gathering at this time we will arrange for Fr Matt to return and have a farewell gathering in the communities later in the year .

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



**Finances**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection (Support Clergy)

2<sup>nd</sup> 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: Our Lady Help of Christians  
 Tues: St Philip Neri  
 Wed: St Augustine of Canterbury  
 Thurs: St Mariana of Quito  
 Fri: Bl Eugene de Mazenod  
 Sat: St Joan of Arc

**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:**

In the gospel passage, what is it that Jesus commissioned his disciples to do?

What is the connection between the coming of the Holy Spirit and the disciples being witnesses?

How do you understand 'being a witness to your faith'?

How does your local community seek to 'spread the good news' to others?

How are you able to witness to what you believe in your everyday activities?

What are some of the actions of being a witness that might speak louder than words?

### ***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](#).

### ***Pentecost Pilgrimage***

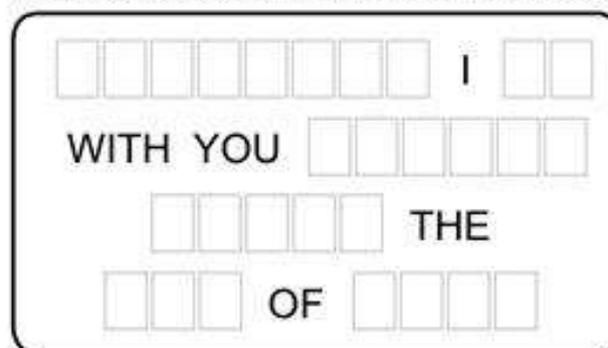
Catholics are invited to join others worldwide on a spiritual pilgrimage to Pentecost. Register for free to receive a series of talks which are uploaded twice a week from speakers around the world, including from Australia Archbishop Porteous (Hobart), Fr Ken Barker MGL, Founder and Moderator of the 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?**

With some easing of restrictions please keep being safe and social distancing as we are not over it yet. Don't forget the elderly and vulnerable in your area. Keep checking in 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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) and discover what is on offer

Unscramble the words below to find out what Jesus told his disciples before he ascended into heaven.



**TIME REMEMBER UNTIL ALWAYS AM END**

## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

**Dianne Bergant CSA** was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she taught from 1978 to 2014. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI; an MA and PhD in Biblical Languages and Literature from St Louis University. Amongst other things, she served as President of Catholic Biblical Association of America (2000-2001) and has been awarded honorary doctorates from several other universities. She was an active member of the Chicago Catholic/Jewish Scholars Dialogue (1988-2017) and sat on the editorial boards of *The Bible Today* (1979-2005), *Biblical Theology Bulletin* (1990-2014), *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (1992-2001), *New Theology Review* (1997-2003), *Teaching Theology and Religion* (2003-2005), and *Chicago Studies* (2003-2009). She has taught and lectured in many places in the United States and abroad and has written numerous books, articles and chapters in books.

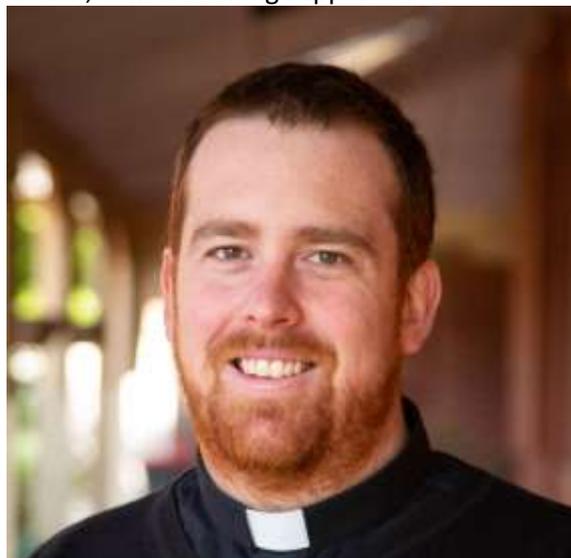
## INTRODUCING FR JAMES KERR OUR NEW PARISH PRIEST

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.



## First Reading Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. Alleluia.**

All peoples clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne.

**God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. Alleluia.**



## Second Reading Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

## Gospel Mt 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

### Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: Jn 20:19-23

## Living the Gospel – You will be my witnesses

A witness in a court of law is called to give evidence about a matter; to 'testify' to the truth of what they have seen or what they know to be true. Some people are very good at being a 'witness' to their faith by testifying to others about what they believe. Many others provide witness to their faith by simply living what they believe. Living a life based on Christian principles, including regular prayer and worship in your life, working for justice in the world and taking time to celebrate the beauty of everyday life is a powerful witness to others.