



### Focus on the Readings

Many would say Thomas lacked faith. I think Thomas just lacked imagination. He could not imagine Jesus past his experience of Him. He could not imagine Jesus being present past death. He could not imagine a world different than it had been several days earlier. And Thomas could not imagine what all the fuss was about!!!



Jesus is dead, gone, no more, end of story, which it is for someone without imagination. No one ever says where the absent Thomas was. I guess a good thing about no imagination is you are not likely to work yourself into a lather about things to come. So Thomas may not have seen any need for being afraid and hiding. Thomas could not imagine why anyone would be afraid, who would want to hurt him? Without imagination nothing is wrong... but... nothing is possible. Luckily, imagination is something Christians have in abundance. Because Christians can imagine a time when peace might overcome war. When people will be "judged by the content of their heart, not the colour of their skin" (in the words of Martin Luther King – a man of great imagination). Christians imagine a place beyond here, where the presence of God is full and sustaining. Christians imagine, using words like justice, freedom, equality, love, peace, communion, and respect. Christians imagine what is possible with the reign of God, and some work hard to realise their imagined possibility.

### Some Christians imagine – do you?

# St Mary's Parish Echuca

*We acknowledge the Yorta Yorta and Bangerang people, the traditional owners and custodians of this country. We pay our respects to their elders past and present for their care of the land.*

**PARISH STAFF**  
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**Parish Office Hours:**  
 Mon - Fri: 8.45am - 3:45pm  
 Closed for lunch 12.30 to 1.30pm  
 T: (03) 5482 1127 F: (03) 5482 1451  
 P.O. Box 63 Echuca 3564  
**Website:** www.stmarysechuca.org.au

**Weekend Mass Times**  
 Saturday: 6.00pm  
 Sunday: 8.00am & 10am  
**Masses this week**  
**Tuesday**  
 6pm  
**Wednesday**  
 10.30am Adoration  
 12 noon  
**Thursday**  
 9,15-PC  
**Friday**  
 9.00 am—PC

# NOTICES

All ministers who take communion to the aged care facilities, the hospital and the sick are invited to come forward and receive a special blessing at each of the masses on the weekend of April 2 & 3.



Free copies of the **Sandpiper** are available at the rear of the Church. Please take a copy.



“**ADORATION** OF THE Blessed Sacrament for Vocations”. Next **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April**. Commencing 10.30am. Rosary for Priests at 11.30am before Midday Mass.

### Combined Family Group 20 year Celebration:

**Sunday 17 April 10am Mass followed by lunch at the Harvest Hotel. (pay as you order– lunch price \$12-\$20) Please give your name to your leader before 10 April if having a meal. Other parishioners contact Ted & Carmel Mackenzie 5480 9422**

**All past and present members and parishioners are invited to attend**

**State directors, Bernard & Maree Metcalfe & Cluster Leader, Jan Malourey will attend.**

**Make this a special occasion!**

**Raffle after Mass**

### 2nd Sunday of Easter

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’” JOHN 20:21



Peace – the first gift of the risen Lord. Just as Jesus sent the apostles out into the world to share His peace and Good News, so too, He sends us. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be grateful and generous. We should look for opportunities to share His peace with our brothers and sisters not only within our local parish boundaries, but outside of them as well. In giving, you will receive the peace of Christ.

### Stewardship Program March 26 & 27

Support of the Parish: \$ 843.00  
Loose: \$ 649.50



## ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE ECHUCA YEAR 7 2017 INFORMATION EVENING



(Parents & Grade 6 Students)

**Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 at 7.00pm  
in College Hall**

**Want to know more about St Joseph's College?**

### Book in for a “Principal Tour”

Wed 20.04.16 9.00 & 9.45am  
Tue 26.04.16 4.15 & 5.15pm  
Wed 27.04.16 9.00 & 9.45am & 4.15 & 5.15pm

**Collect an Enrolment Pack at the College AFTER 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 if unable to attend.**

**To book a tour, contact Mrs Rhonda Battye  
(03) 5482 2577 or [rbattye@sje.vic.edu.au](mailto:rbattye@sje.vic.edu.au)**

**Website: [www.sje.vic.edu.au](http://www.sje.vic.edu.au)**

### Youth Ministry Update

#### Stronger Rally

Our first Stronger Rally will be hosted by St Mary's Mooroopna!  
Join us for a BBQ, Games, Praise and Worship and talks with Fr Rob and the Stronger Band

**Location:** Marian Centre, McLennan St Mooroopna

**Date:** Friday April 22, 6-9pm

#### World Youth Day (WYD)

If you are between the ages of 16-35 and would like to experience a phenomenal pilgrimage to Poland to join with Pope Francis & millions of faith filled young people please visit <http://www.cam.org.au/wydvictoria>. Final registrations for all pilgrimage options will close on **April 17, 2016.**

### Welcome new Parishioners

At this time of the year many new families move to town.

Please make newcomers welcome and direct them to the welcome book at the back of the church and invite them to complete their details so we can make contact with them.

It on again!

### 'Girls' Happy hour at St Mary's.

Commencing  
Thursday 7th April 5.30-7.00pm  
BYO drinks, nibbles provided. Don't be shy, come along and say hello.



**RECONCILIATION Saturday 10 –10:30am**

## **April 9 & 10**

### **Altar Servers:**

6.00pm Josh D'Angri, Vincent McLindon

10.00am Jolyon Hogan, Jett Westblade

### **Commentators:**

6.00pm Sheree D'Angri

8.00am Nancy Goldrick

10.00am Win Lavery

### **Lectors:**

6.00pm Gabrielle Barrette, Mary Atkins

8.00am Judy Clark

10.00am Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green

### **Eucharistic Ministers:**

6.00pm Marg Summers, Malia Black, Petra Teggelove

8.00am John & Margot Vagg, Margaret Spedding

10.00am Sean Green, Lauren Gould, Theresa Jacobs, Margaret Hart, Mary Mullane

### **Setting up for Mass**

6.00pm Mary Atkins

8.00am Chloris Dignan

10.00am Noela Boyer

### **Altar Society**

Noela Boyer, Patricia Rifat, Elaine Roberts

### **Glanville Communion**

Richard Barry

### **Wharparilla Communion**

Maureen Baker & Laurice Murphy

### **Bupa Communion**

Leanne & Glenn Roberts, Prue Galea

### **Home Communion**

Sr Cletus Dullard

### **Hospital Visiting—April 4**

Pat Sanderson & Mary Marwood

### **Bulletin Proof Reader —8 April**

Chloris Dignan

### **Counting - 4 April**

Jan & Jim Roberts, Nancy Goldrick

### **Lawn Roster - April**

John & Glenese Zealley

### **Baptism - March/April**

Jacqui Deola

## **Calendar 2016**

### **APRIL**

**6:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament-for Vocations 10.30am

**7:** St Mary's Girls Happy Hour 5.30pm—PC

**11:** School starts

**12:** Pastoral Council Meeting—7.30pm

**13:** Liturgy Meeting—7.30pm

**17: COME AND SEE MASS-5pm**

**17:** Combined Family Group 20 year celebration Mass

**18:** Widow & Widowers Group at Complete Gardens—10am

**20:** CWL Meeting-12 noon Mass

**20:** Sacramental Faith Formation Night—7pm

**25:** Public Holiday—Office Close

**29:** Memorial Mass 10.30am BUPA  
NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

## **Aged Care & Visiting Ministries**

In a bid to better coordinate and monitor our visiting to aged care facilities, the hospital and the aged and sick in their homes, it is hoped to set up an official St Mary's Visiting Ministry. Though there is much visiting that goes on at present it needs an umbrella group to coordinate the visitors and to ensure that we do reach everyone in the parish who is ill, housebound or lonely.

Anyone interested in this aspect of ministry is invited to a meeting:

**2pm Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Parish Centre Meeting Room**



### **FREE Andrew Chinn Concert:**

**7pm Tuesday 12th April,**

**St Mary's School Auditorium**

Australian religious songwriter and singer, Andrew Chinn, will be visiting St Mary's for workshops with our students during the day.

That evening there will be a free family concert in the Auditorium. Parents/parishioners are warmly invited to join the celebration of faith and fun. The School use Andrew's songs, frequently for liturgies. Students will be involved in singing songs they learnt during their workshops. Please take this opportunity for a free family gathering and a lot of fun.



**We pray for the sick:** Shannon Ainsley, Mary Sanderson, Mary Taylor, Jack Stanley, Barbara Handley, Mac Sandercock, Mary Edwards, Patricia Vagg, Cheryl Carey, Gladys Tarr, Rosanna Taylor, Mary Roberts, Ron Tonkin, Joe Westblade, Christine Hughes, David Carter, Eileen Kirchofer, Mary Mullane, John Dignan

**Recently Deceased: Dot Collins**

**Anniversaries:** Ben Symons

## Readings

### **Acts 5:12-16**

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 117:2-4, 22-27

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

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.' **R.**

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. **R.**

O Lord, grant us salvation;

O Lord, grant success.

Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord; the Lord God is our light. **R.**

### **Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19**

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;

happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Today's Gospel: John 20:19-31  
Next week: 1st Reading Acts 5:27-32, 40-41  
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13  
2nd Reading: Revelation 5:11-14  
Gospel: John 21:1-19