

5th Sunday of Lent

Year A



1 & 2 April

St Mary's Parish Echuca



Reflections on Readings during Lent



Jesus is getting near to Jerusalem — it's just over the hill. He has left the relative safety of his home in the Galilee to be with family and friends. He is late, they tell him. They ask him, why did you take so long? You could have saved Lazarus from dying!

Jesus, though, has another lesson for his disciples and followers. We are all 'Lazarus' and each of us is the one 'whom Jesus loved'. He comes to us and stands at the doorway of our lives and helps us to see that we need to be freed from the dark places in which we sometimes lose ourselves.

Jesus calls the friends of Lazarus to unbind him and set him free. Jesus calls on us to unbind those around us. We all need to be freed from the ties that bind us. We are at all times invited to give and receive the light and life of Christ's healing help and forgiveness.

This week Project Compassion calls us to help 'unbind' the issues for communities living in informal settlements around Fiji. Semiti, National Director of Caritas Australia's partner People's Community Network, addresses the sense of hopelessness in many of his people. He journeys with them as together they create new possibilities for better lives. Through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can support this network of communities as they work in solidarity and grow in resilience and hope.

Semiti grew up in an informal settlement in Fiji. He is now the Director of the People's Community Network (PCN). PCN is increasing the resilience and dignity of the thousands of landless Fijians living in informal settlements. Communities are advocating together successfully for better services, education and housing.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help vulnerable communities in Fiji to undertake training that will empower them to work towards lasting change in their neighbourhoods.



You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

This coming Wednesday—April 5: Lenten Reconciliation Liturgy-7.30pm

*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

Parish Priest Fr. Des Welladsen
fatherdes@stmarysechuca.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Christine Sebire
christine@stmarysechuca.org.au

Parish Administrators

Janis Ovens & Colleen Edwards
admin@stmarysechuca.org.au

Parish Office Hours:

Mon 8.45am to 12.30pm
Tues - 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
Follow us on twitter @StMarysEchuca
Facebook St Marys Parish Echuca

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.00am & 10.00am
Come & See 5.00pm
(every third Sunday)

Masses this week

Tuesday

Anointing Masses
NO MASS 6pm

Wednesday

Masses-12 noon-Church

Thursday

Mass-9.00am-PC

Friday

Mass-9.00am-PC

NOTICES

Are you in Echuca over Easter?
Would you and your family like to be active participants in our Holy Week liturgies?
We need lectors, ministers of the Eucharist, people to carry forth symbols, etc.
If you would like to be involved please add your name to the sheets at the back of the church or phone the office on 54821127 or Mary Atkins on 0428515588.
It would be great to have your involvement !!!

Our Easter Anointing day is on **Tuesday 4th April.**



There will be an **anointing only** @ 10.00am at Glanville.
Anointing Mass @ 11.00am at Wharparilla
Anointing mass @ 1.30pm at BUPA.

The kiosk has Easter Greeting cards available for purchase after each Mass.



We are having a Working Bee to prepare the Church and the grounds before Easter on Monday, 10th April at 9.30am This will be followed by a cuppa and morning tea.

The **Mass** of the **Chrism** is an important event for the whole diocese, the ministry of each Parish in the diocese is affirmed and commissioned. It also shows the care extended for those being initiated and those who are sick as the oil is blessed for Baptism and the anointing for the coming year.



April 11 Chrism Mass, 11.00 am
 Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo

SINGING PRACTICE for Easter

Monday April 3rd -7.30pm in the Church
 All singers and instrumentalists welcome.
 We would welcome more volunteers for the choir.
 Please bring your folders. Enquiries: Barbara 54821458



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE ECHUCA



YEAR 7 2018
INFORMATION EVENING
 (Parents & Grade 6 Students)

Tuesday, 2nd May 2017 at 7.00pm
in the Oak Centre

Want to know more about St Joseph's College?
Book in for a "Principal Tour"

Wednesday 19.04.17 9.00 & 9.45am
 Monday 24.04.17 9.00 & 9.45am & 4.15 & 5.15pm
 Wednesday 26.04.17 9.00 & 9.45am

Collect an Enrolment Pack at the College AFTER 2nd May 2017 if unable to attend.

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

Website: www.sje.vic.edu.au

EASTER CEREMONIES

HOLY THURSDAY 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
 13th April Followed by a prayer vigil until 10.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY 3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
 14th April

EASTER 7.30pm Easter Vigil Mass

SATURDAY
 15th April

EASTER SUNDAY 8am Mass
 16th April 10am Mass

SOUTHERN CROSS APARTMENTS
MOAMA

- Fundraising Committee

Invites you to St Anne's Vineyards
 Perricoota Road, Moama

for a Wine and Cheese Tasting Evening.

When: Friday April 28, 2017
Time: 5.00 pm
Cost: \$10.00 per person
 Tickets available on the night
 or contact Mary Marwood Ph: 5483 7639



Friendship Family Group BBQ Lunch—Sunday 2nd April at 12noon at Rob & Jenny Morris BYO: Meat, drinks, Salad or Sweet. RSVP 438 214 327 or 0418 625 731—Bring a friend

Ros's Family Group—will meet for coffee at the 3 Galahs Café High St on Thursday 6 April at 10am.
 RSVP Nell Black 5482 1417 or Marg Oman 5482 1303

Stewardship Program

Support of the Parish: \$1,198.85
 Loose: \$242.60

RECONCILIATION 10.00 to 10.30 am next Saturday

April 8 & 9

Altar Servers:

6.00pm Olivia Lee, Lauren Lalor

10.00am Sienna Westblade, Charlotte Ryan

Commentators:

6.00pm Gabrielle Barrette

8.00am John Vagg

10.00am Noela Boyer

Lectors:

6.00pm Doug Black, Christine Sebire

8.00am Nancy Goldrick

10.00am Lauren Gould, Julie Moyle

Eucharistic Ministers:

6.00pm Marie McDonald, Barb Smith, Jan Davey

8.00am Judy Clark, Ross Veale, Bob Cooper

10.00am Theresa Jacobs, Margaret Hart, Mel Slattery, Clem Mulcahy, Rob Morris

Setting up for Mass:

6.00pm Marg Summers

8.00am Veronica Brown

10.00am Bernie Oliver

Altar Society

Joan Westblade, Roma Bowman, Glenese Zealley

Glanville Communion

Leanne Roberts

Wharparilla Communion

Maureen Baker, Laurice Murphy

Bupa Communion

Prue Galea, Sheree D'Angri

Home Communion

Sr Cletus Dullard

Hospital Visiting-April 10

Sr Cletus Dullard

Proof Reading- April 6

Noela Boyer

Counting-April 10

Jan & Jim Roberts, Nancy Goldrick

Lawns-April

John Zealley, John Dignan

Baptism-April

Jacqui Deola

Calendar 2017

April

4: Social Justice meeting-PC-7.30pm

4: Aged Care Anointing
10am—Glanville anointing only
11am—Wharparilla anointing Mass
1.30pm— BUPA anointing Mass

5: Lenten Reconciliation

Liturgy-7.30pm

5: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament-10.30am

10: Working bee for Easter-9.30am

11: Chrism Mass-Bendigo-11am

12: Meditation Group-PC-11.00am

12: Liturgy Meeting-PC-7.30pm

14: Good Friday -Office Closed

17: Easter Monday -Office Closed

19: CWL meeting-pm-12.30pm

23: Parish Family Groups cuppa after 10.00am Mass -PC

If you or a family member are in hospital and would like a visit or communion please let the Parish office know.



Last year Echuca Moama RAR and St Mary's Parish along with the other churches of Echuca Moama walked for Justice for Refugees, here in Echuca. This was a well supported event showing the public support for justice for refugees. This year many of those who walked in Echuca will instead be adding to strength of numbers at the Melbourne March. The 2017 **Walk For Justice For Refugees** will be on Sunday April 9 at 2pm at the State Library, Swanston St Melbourne (music from 1.30pm).

An estimated 15,000 people attended the 2016 Palm Sunday Walk, it is anticipated that the 2017 gathering will be bigger still, demonstrating the growing concern across the community about the harsh and punitive treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

Members of RAREchucaMoama and St Mary's Parish will travel by train to Melbourne to be part of this event, if you would like to join that group please contact Christine Sebire 0411 627 645, or if you would like to join us in Melbourne look for our Echuca Moama banner on the steps of the library from 1pm.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The first Wednesday of each month, 10.30am.

Prayer and meditation before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament are great ways to spend some special time with God. You can ask Him for graces for yourself or for loved ones, reflect on His Word, or just keep Him company! And it's no bother for Jesus. In fact, He very much *wants* to see you!



We have a group in the parish who gather at this time with the Blessed Sacrament to pray for Vocations to the Church, you may like to join them in this prayer or prayers of your own.

Don't feel like you're wasting time with our Lord if you haven't said numerous prayers. Just give Him your sincere love and devotion. St. Jean-Marie Vianney, once asked one of his parishioners who spent hours in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, "My good father, what do you say to our Lord in those long visits you pay Him every day?" "I say nothing to Him," was the man's moving reply; "I look at Him and He looks at me."

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

We pray for the sick: Mary & Des Taylor, Mary Edwards, Patricia Vagg, Cheryl Carey, Rosanna Taylor, Mary Roberts, John Phyland, Brock Phyland, Mary Byrne, Monica Murnane, Dennis Mullane, Genevieve McLindon, Fran Beehag, Enid Stapleton, Bruno Barbera, Peter Boyer, David Carter, George Bomm

Deaths:

Anniversaries: Tom Atkins, Travis Atkins, Ben Symons, Emilio Columbro, James Murnane

Readings

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people.

And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading: St Paul to the Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you.

In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 129

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ear be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R.**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **R.**

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Today's Gospel: John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

Next week:

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

2nd Reading: St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:11-54