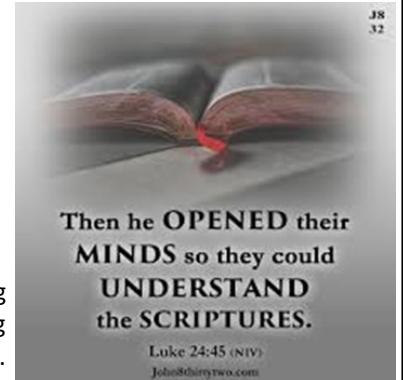


**Reflection**

This passage from the gospel of Luke immediately follows the story of the road to Emmaus and very similar to last week's passage in which Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples. However, what this account gives us, that last week's account from the gospel of John did not, is a powerful message about understanding the scriptures. In the final verses of the passage, Jesus reveals to the disciples that his presence with them is what he'd been talking about when he'd spoken about the fulfilment of the scriptures. And then, 'He opened their minds to understand the scriptures.'

This is an important gospel indication that the scriptures are to be read for understanding and for meaning. It is an imperative that we delve into the scriptures and look for meaning rather than superficial, literal interpretation that is prominent in much of society today. When we only read the scriptures 'literally' i.e. accepting the exact wording as literally true, we deny the depth and breadth of the scriptural messages that are conveyed through image, metaphor, irony and other forms of figurative speech as well as ignoring the rich contextual information that is often hidden within and behind the text. Jesus' enlightenment of the disciples makes plain the importance of 'understanding' scripture not just blindly accepting it.  
© Greg Sunter



**PARISH MASS TIMES**

**Weekday Masses: 15th - 19th April**  
**Tuesday: 2.00pm Funeral Gerald Hay**  
**Wednesday: 12 Noon Mass Church**  
**Thursday: 9.15am Foundation Class Liturgy**  
**Friday: 9.00am Mass Church**

**Weekend Mass Times: 20th & 21st April 2024**  
**Saturday: 6:00pm Mass**  
**Sunday : 9:30am Mass**

**Reconciliation:** Approach Fr Novie before Mass  
**Baptism:** Every Second Sunday of the Month  
**Weddings:** By Appointment with the Parish Priest  
**Sophia Sisters:** Every Tuesday 1:30pm (Parish Centre)  
**Men's Group:** Every Saturday 9am (Parish Centre)  
**Playgroup:** Every Friday 9am (Parish Centre)  
 During school terms

**Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim**  
**Email:** nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au  
**Mobile:** 0450 185 021  
**Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle**  
**Email:** pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au  
**Mobile:** 0409 826 336  
**Admin Assistant: Marianne Kelly**  
**Parish Office Hours**  
**Tuesday—Thursday : 9am - 1pm**  
**St Mary's Parish Centre**  
 224-230 Anstruther Street, Echuca  
**Ph:** (03) 5482 1127  
**Email:** admin@stmarysechuca.org.au  
**Website:** www.stmarysechuca.org.au  
**Facebook:** St Mary's Parish Echuca

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Yorta Yorta Nation. This land is sacred, this land is gift, this land is thousands of years old. We acknowledge the immense beauty of this land and the dreams of the Yorta-Yorta People. We pay our respects to elders past and present and acknowledge the lessons the Yorta-Yorta people teach us about care, respect and justice for mother earth. We remember their story as we journey together in a spirit of hope, justice and peace.

If you wish to assist in "further supporting the Parish" we offer different ways of giving... direct debit, credit card or planned giving envelopes. Please ring the office for more details.  
**PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS are as follows:**  
**St Mary's Echuca: BSB Number: 083-543**  
**Account Number: 45-782-9206**

**Child Safety: Through our policies and practices, we protect the right of children to feel safe and to be safe. We promote the well-being and inclusion of all children. For more information, contact the parish office and look for the Child Safety Officer Mel Slattery.**

# PARISH NEWS

## PARISH CALENDAR (April)

16th April - Finance Meeting 5.00pm

24th April - Ladies Night 5.30pm \*Bereavement Meeting 5.00pm \*12.00pm Mass followed by Sr Cletus Farewell Cuppa

27th April - G'Day Weekend Parish Feast Day (Senior Leadership Team & Filipino Community)

28th April - G'Day Weekend Anzac Day Mass (Family Groups)

May 3rd May - Trivia Night On line

May 7th - PPC Meeting 5.30pm \* Nicholls House Mass 12.15pm

May the warm embrace of our Christian community extend a joyful welcome to

Sadie & Patrick, Mia, Finn & Dustin

on Saturday night &

Otis & Sadie, Lottie and Luca

on Sunday morning.

as they receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

### Parish Sacramental Program Changes for 2024-2025

Dear Sacramental Program Families,

We want to inform you about some exciting changes to our Sacramental Program that will be implemented starting this year. Thank you to those who attended the Sacramental Information Evening earlier this year. I hope this letter confirms your understanding and guides you towards the next steps in your child's Sacramental preparation.

After careful consideration and feedback from our community, we have decided to enhance our Sacramental Program to better serve the needs of our families, parishioners, and team members. We know these changes will continue to provide a meaningful experience for both candidates and their families.

Firstly, there will be a short Information Evening on Wednesday, September 4th, for parents/guardians outlining our preparation program and expected commitments. This is compulsory for those who were unable to attend the meeting held earlier this year. Children do not need to attend this evening.

Preparations for the Sacraments will continue on October 9, 2024, with our Reconciliation Faith Formation Evening. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will then be celebrated on Wednesday, November 13.

In early 2025 we will continue with the preparations for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist (Communion). Our celebrations for these sacraments will occur in early Term 2 before winter sets in. We are hopeful that these changes will greatly enhance the Sacramental Program experience for everyone involved, and we look forward to embarking on this journey together. If you have any questions or would like more information about the upcoming program, please do not hesitate to contact Tania Dixon or St Mary's Parish on 5482 1127 (Tues-Thurs, 9am to 1pm).

Please complete the enrolment form provided on the website (PDF version or Google Form). Enrolments close on Sept 20th, 2024. Thank you for your continued support and participation in our parish community.

Tania Dixon on behalf of  
St Mary's Echuca Sacramental Team  
Email: [tdixon@smechuca.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tdixon@smechuca.catholic.edu.au)

# G'DAY Weekend



PARISH FEAST DAY IN HONOUR OF  
**OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL**

**6:00 PM MASS**

**SATURDAY, 27TH APRIL 2024**

**FOLLOWED BY CUPPA HOSTED BY  
THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM  
AND THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY.**



## COMBINED FAMILY GROUPS

# ANZAC MASS

AND MORNING TEA FOR ALL  
PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS

**9.30AM MASS**

**SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2024**

**ST. MARY'S PARISH, ECHUCA**



FOLLOWING THE LAST POST AND THE DISMISSAL, PLEASE JOIN  
OUR FAMILY GROUPS TO CELEBRATE AND REMEMBER THOSE  
WHO HAVE SERVED.

# Hangabout Playgroup

9am - 10:15am Friday mornings during the school terms.

St Mary's Parish 224 Anstruther St Echuca  
(enter via side gate).

Enjoy fun activities - craft, singing, story time, outdoor play with the kids and meet others.

Mums, Dads & Carers are all very welcome

Contact Mel Slattery 0417 822 589 if you require further details.

**The playgroup will recommence on Friday  
19th April after school holidays.**

## Carers Victoria free workshops:

Carers Victoria is the statewide voice for family carers and providing support and advice to carers. Free workshops are available to carers.

17 April Wodonga 9.20 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

18 April Echuca Last Days workshop

22 April Bendigo. Support Services for Carers

5 May Bendigo. Free Carers' lunch. 12- 2 p.m.  
For those living in Bendigo and Shepparton areas.

To book, or for more information, contact Education Services on 1800 514 845 or email [education@carersvictoria.org.au](mailto:education@carersvictoria.org.au)

Mary Pianta. Disability Contact Coordinator.

### **BASP Online Trivia Night**

St Mary's Hampton on-line trivia event in support of the **Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project**. We aim to provide a fun night for you and your friends and raise money for a great cause, and we'd love your support. St Mary's Echuca hopes to sign up at least one team of ten people, for a night of light hearted trivia and conviviality. As a team we would make a donation to BASP.

**Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> St Mary's Meeting Room Trivia begins at 7.30**

We will link in on the big screen to join in the fun! If you would like to be involved please contact Andrew Sebire 0428368281, [andrew@ivyhurstdairy.com.au](mailto:andrew@ivyhurstdairy.com.au) or Jenny Morris 0418 625 731

### **ROSTERS THIS WEEK**

**13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Commentators/Lectors:**

**6.00pm:** Mary Atkins  
Rose Quinn, Ruth Phillips

**9.30am:** Cecilia Merrigan  
Win Lavery, Lauren Gould

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

**6.00pm:** Carol Purdon  
**9.30am:** Bebber Mitchell, Margaret Hart

**Prayers of the Faithful:** Terry McKiterick

**St Anne's Church Cleaners:** 13<sup>th</sup> Loretta Holman  
Mary Byrne

**Setting up the Church:** 13<sup>th</sup> Christine Sebire

**Setting up the Church:** 14<sup>th</sup> Rachel McAsey

**Baptism Preparation:** Sarah Byrne

**Counters:** 16<sup>th</sup> Pat Whyte & Adrian Costello

**Hospital Visiting:** 15<sup>th</sup> Carmel Mackenzie

**Gardening:** John Zealley, Ken Hatfield, Alfred Grigg

### **ROSTERS NEXT WEEK**

**20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

**Commentators/Lectors:**

**6.00pm:** Terry McKiterick  
Marie McDonald, Tania Dixon

**9.30am:** Rachel McAsey  
Anne Marie Cairns, Michelle Shingles

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

**6.00pm:** Nick Lee  
**9.30am:** Divane Walker, Adrian Costello

**Prayers of the Faithful:** Theresa Jacobs

**St Anne's Church Cleaners:** 20<sup>th</sup> Pat Sanderson  
Bev Kenna

**Setting up the Church:** 20<sup>th</sup> Tania Dixon

**Setting up the Church:** 21<sup>st</sup> Julie Moyle

**Baptism Preparation:** Sarah Byrne

**Counters:** 23<sup>rd</sup> Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

**Hospital Visiting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Barb Green

**Gardening:** John Zealley, Ken Hatfield, Alfred Grigg

### **YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE**

**Sick:** Julio and Nati Acebron, David Baker, Bruno Barbera, Monica Beckwith, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, John & Chloris Dignan, Caroline Farley, Bernadette McClelland, Fred Molluso, John Monigatti, Margaret Oman, Murray Perrett, Beatrice Phillips, Peter Phillips, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Patricia Vogeles, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace, Colleen Bosse, Bruce Haines, Sue Dalton (Johnson).

**Anniversaries:** Ted Musgrove, Tom & Travis Atkins, Mary Comer, Kath Roberts, Michelle Ash, Duncan Smith, Elaine O'Mullane, Ambrose Christian, Jim Dullard, Alicia Hannon, Shane Fitzsimmons.

**Recently Deceased:** Anne Dodd & Gerald Hay

**First Reading**

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Peter said to the people 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses. 'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

**The word of the Lord.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 4:2, 4, 7, 9

**R. Lord, let your face shine on us.**

When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! **R.**

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him. **R.**

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.  
 Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. **R.**

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,  
 for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **R.**

**Second Reading** 1 John 2:1-5**A reading from the first letter of St John**

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

**The word of the Lord.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:  
 make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

Luke 24:35-48

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled!' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**Next week: 4th Sunday of Easter**

**20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April Year B**

**1st Reading: Acts 4:8-12**

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29**

**2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2**

**Gospel: John 10:11-18**