

Reflection

The image of Jesus as the good shepherd is such a familiar image that it can sometimes become over-familiar and cease to engage us. Countless works of art have presented this image literally, picturing Jesus as a shepherd with a crook and surrounded by sheep or even with a lamb draped around the back of his neck. The image from this week's gospel often gets merged with the image from the parable of the lost sheep that appears in the gospels of Luke (15:1-7) and Matthew (18:10-14) where artists frequently place Jesus as the hero of his own parable and portray him as the 'good shepherd' going out to retrieve the one lost sheep. Such amalgamations of different gospel images can become very confusing.

The emphasis of the image is on the adjective, **good**. Jesus is the **good** shepherd. Shepherds generally were not regarded as particularly good people so the choice of image is a deliberate one to unsettle the listeners. Unlike their normal expectation of shepherds who would run away at the first sign of danger – Jesus is the good shepherd: the one who does not abandon his flock; the one who has concern for his sheep; the one who will lay down his own life for his sheep. The final verses of the passage make an interesting extension to the image of shepherd and sheep. Unlike the 'sacrificial lamb', the good shepherd chooses to lay down his life and also has the power to take it up again. © Greg Sunter



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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekday Masses: 22nd—26th April
Tuesday: 12.15pm Delaney House Mass Church
Wednesday: 10.30am Anzac Liturgy St Mary's School
12.00pm Mass Sr Cletus Farewell
followed by cuppa
Thursday: No Mass Anzac Day
Friday: 9.00am Mass Church

Weekend Mass Times: 27th & 28th April 2024
Saturday: 6:00pm Mass Parish Feast Day
Sunday : 9:30am Mass ANZAC 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

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/May)

22nd April - Social Committee Meeting 2.00pm

23rd April - 150th Anniversary Committee Initial Meeting 5pm (Parish Meeting Room)

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)

3rd May - Trivia Night On line

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

Farewell Sr Cletus

After much deliberation, Cletus has decided it is time for her to move to our Community in Malvern.

This the second time Cletus has bid farewell to Echuca. She taught at St Mary's in the 60s and then became Principal in the 70's. On returning to Melbourne, Cletus was a member of the Chaplaincy team at Bethlehem Hospital in Melbourne for many years before returning to Echuca in 2012.

Over the last 12 years, Cletus has been tireless in providing spiritual care for people in their homes, in Aged Care facilities and in the Hospital.



Cletus grew up in Pine Grove and has maintained connections with many locals. She is a fund of information on local history and has an amazingly accurate memory for names.

We will miss your caring, listening presence, Cletus, but understand that it is time to slow down and spend more time reading your biographies!

Please join us as we express our gratitude and honour Sr. Cletus for her dedicated service to our parish over the years before she moves to Melbourne. We will be holding a special Mass followed by a gathering to bid her farewell on Wednesday at 12:00 PM (Mass), followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall. Your presence would mean a lot to Sr. Cletus as we celebrate her contributions to our community. Let's come together to show our appreciation and share fond memories with her.



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.**



St Mary's Parish
ECHUCA
Growing in faith together

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.

Parish's 150th Anniversary Celebration Meeting

A reminder and formal invitation to all those who said yes to be part of the committee and an invitation to those who would like to be part to our initial meeting for the Parish's 150th Anniversary Celebration. We are excited to kick off the planning process with your valuable input.

Date: Tuesday, April 23rd

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Parish Meeting Room

Agenda:

Introduction and Overview of Celebration Goals

Formation of Subcommittees

Assigning Responsibilities

Setting Next Steps and Deadlines

Your presence and contributions are crucial to the success of this special event. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

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 3rd 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 or Jenny Morris 0418 625 731

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

20th & 21st April 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Terry McKitterick
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: 20th Pat Sanderson
Bev Kenna

Setting up the Church: 20th Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 21st Julie Moyle

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 23rd Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: 22nd Barb Green

Gardening: John Zealley, Ken Hatfield, Alfred Grigg

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

27th & 28th April 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell
Chamali Stouter, Carla Chisholm

9.30am: Noela Boyer
Barbara Green, Carmel Mackenzie

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Christine Sebire
9.30am: Rob Morris, Carol Purdon

Prayers of the Faithful: David Baker

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 27th Josie Drakatos,
Effie Xodo, Mel Slattery

Setting up the Church: 27th Carol Purdon

Setting up the Church: 28th Ros Chisholm

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 30th Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy,
Peter Davey

Hospital Visiting: 29th Jackie Delahunty

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 Vogle, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace, Colleen Bosse, Bruce Haines, Sue Dalton (Johnson), Maureen McKenner.

Anniversaries: Elaine O'Mullane, Ambrose Christian, Jim Dullard, Alicia Hannon, Shane Fitzsimmons.
Kate Aldridge, Paul Merrigan, Barbara Monahan, Mary Fenn, Palma Scarfo, Bill Shanahan.

Recently Deceased:

First Reading

Acts 4:8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm** Ps 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29**R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:

it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes. **R.**

I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

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

We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. **R.**

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-2**A reading from the first letter of St John**

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been
revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him because we shall see him as he
really is.

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Gospel Acclamation****Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!**Gospel**

John 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his
sheep.The hired man, since he is not the shepherd
and the sheep do not belong to him,abandons the sheep and runs away
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;
this is because he is only a hired man

and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;

I know my own

and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me

and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have

that are not of this fold,

and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice,

and there will be only one flock

and one shepherd.

The Father loves me,

because I lay down my life

in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me;

I lay it down of my own free will,

and as it is in my power to lay it down,

so it is in my power to take it up again;

and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.****Next week: 5th Sunday of Easter****27th & 28th April Year B****1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31****Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 21:26-28, 30-32****2nd Reading: 1 John 3:18-24****Gospel: John 15:1-8**