

## Prayer for the Day

Let All Christians Rejoice  
 Let the just rejoice, for their justifier is born.  
 Let the sick and infirm rejoice, for their saviour is born.  
 Let the captives rejoice, for their Redeemer is born.  
 Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born.  
 Let free men and woman rejoice, for their Liberator is born.  
 Let All Christians rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born. — *St. Augustine*

## A Grace before Christmas Dinner

Lord of All, we give you thanks for your abundance,  
 and for all the great things you have given us,  
 especially the birth of Your Son on this day.  
 We ask your blessing upon this food,  
 and upon our friends and family.  
 We also pray that in your great mercy,  
 you would look kindly upon all those in need this day.  
 We pray in Jesus name, Amen.



## Quote for the Day

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. *Mother Teresa*

**Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim**

**Email:** [nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au](mailto:nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au)

**Mobile:** 0450 185 021

**Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle**

**Email:** [pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au](mailto:pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au)

**Mobile:** 0409826336

**Admin Assistant: Marianne Kelly**

**Parish Office Hours**

**Tuesday - Friday : 9am - 1pm**

**St Mary's Parish Centre**

224-230 Anstruther Street, Echuca

**Ph:** (03) 5482 1127

**Email:** [admin@stmarysechuca.org.au](mailto:admin@stmarysechuca.org.au)

**Website:** [www.stmarysechuca.org.au](http://www.stmarysechuca.org.au)

**Facebook:** St Mary's Parish Echuca

## PARISH MASS TIMES

**Christmas Mass Times: 24th & 25th December**

**Sunday :** 6.00pm Christmas Family Mass  
 (St Joseph's College, Oak Centre)  
 10.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass (Church)

**Monday:** 9.30am Christmas Day Mass (Church)

**Weekday Masses: 25th to 29th December**

**Monday:** 9.30am Christmas Day Mass

**Weekend Mass Times: 30th & 31st December**

**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

**Ladies' Group:** Every Tuesday 2pm (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



## Advent and Christmas Celebrations

### 24th December 2023

6:00 pm Christmas Family Mass  
(St. Joseph's College, Oak Centre)  
10:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass  
(Church)

### 25th December 2023

9:30am Christmas Day Mass

One of our parishioners has a medical appointment in Melbourne on the 19th January. They're looking for someone to drive them down and back. If you're able to assist could you please contact Julie Moyle on 0409 826336. Thank you.

Dear Parishioners,

### Temporary Parish Office Arrangements for January 2024

I'll be away on my annual holiday, returning to the Philippines from December 26th to January 26th. With no permanent Parish Secretary available, we've collaborated with the Senior Leadership Team to create a temporary plan for smooth operations.

In January, the Parish Office will be open exclusively on Thursdays from 9 am to 1 pm, managed by Marianne Kelly, our administrative assistant. On days when Marianne is unavailable, Julie Moyle will be the point of contact for urgent matters like Anointing of the Sick (reaching out to Fr. Des or Fr. Damien), parish emergencies, pastoral concerns, and essential needs. Julie will coordinate with various ministry groups. Building issues will go to the Maintenance Team (Rob Morris, Bob Cooper, and Bunny Oliver), and financial matters will go to Margaret Hart. Mary Atkins and our team will continue managing funerals and liturgical matters.

We regret any inconvenience caused and appreciate your patience. We're maximising the support of our staff and volunteers during this time. Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We hope to resume normal parish office operations soon.

Fr. Novie

## Christmas Message 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's,

May the joy and love that Christmas brings fill your hearts and homes as we gather in the warmth of this festive season. Merry Christmas to every one of you! Amidst the bustling celebrations and twinkling lights, let us pause to remember the true essence of this beautiful occasion. Christmas isn't just about the presents or the feasts; it's about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, whose arrival heralded hope, peace, and boundless love for all humanity.

In this season of giving, may we reflect upon the selfless love that Jesus showed us and strive to imitate it. Let kindness and compassion guide our actions, spreading joy to those around us, especially those in need. Let us open our hearts to the message of Christmas and allow its spirit to dwell within us, not just during this season but throughout the year. May the blessings of this holy time be a source of strength, comfort, and unity for our parish and community.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments with your loved ones. May the light of Christ shine brightly in your lives, illuminating your path with hope and happiness.

Until I return from my holiday break, I look forward to seeing each and every one of you next year. Wishing you all a blessed and joyous holiday season filled with love and warmth. Take care, and see you soon!"

Fr. Novelito "Novie" Lim



## PARISH CALENDAR (December—January)

26th December - Fr Novie away for 4 weeks

28th December - Office open from 9.00am to 1.00pm

### January.

The office will only be open on a Thursday from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

24th January—Ladies' Night 5:30pm

26th January—Australia Day (Public Holiday)

29th January—Combined Staff Mass (St. Mary's and St. Joe's)



### ROSTERS: This Week - 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> December

**People for the 6.00pm, 10.00pm  
(24th) and 9.30am (Christmas Day)  
Masses will be notified.**



### ROSTERS: Next Week - 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> December

#### Commentators/Lectors:

**6.00pm:** Mary Atkins  
Christine Sebire, Kajini Karunanayke  
**9.30am:** Cecilia Merrigan  
Jenny Morris, Michelle Shingles

#### Ministers of the Eucharist

**6.00pm:** Carmel MacKenzie  
**9.30am:** Rob Morris, Margaret Hart

#### St Anne's Church Cleaners: 28<sup>th</sup>

Pat Sanderson, Bev Kenna

**Setting up the Church: 30<sup>th</sup>** Carol Purdon

**Setting up the Church: 31<sup>st</sup>** Noela Boyer

**Baptism Preparation:** Sarah Byrne

**Counters: 2<sup>nd</sup>** Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

**Hospital Visiting:** Karla Chisholm

**Gardening:** Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

### YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

**Sick:** Julio and Nati Acebron, Eileen Anderson, David Baker, Bruno Barbera, Monica Beckwith, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, John & Chloris Dignan, Anne Dodd, Caroline Farley, Bernadette McClelland, Fred Molluso, John Monigatti, Margaret Oman, Murray Perrett, Beatrice Phillips, Peter Phillips, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Patricia Voegel, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams.

**Anniversaries:** George Jasper, Howard Clark Snr., Bishop Joe Grech, Carmel Cannard, Barry McIntyre, Edward Jasper, Teresa Pavone.

**Deaths:** John Oliveri

**First Reading**     Isaiah 52:7-10

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation,  
and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,  
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**     Ps 97:1-6

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **R.**

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **R.**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

**Next week: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
**30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> December Year B**

**1st Reading:**

**Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3**

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**104:1-6, 8-9**

**2nd Reading:**

**Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**

**Gospel:**

**Luke 2:22-40**

**Second Reading**     Hebrews 1:1-6

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

At various times in the past and in various different ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in  
our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through  
his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit  
everything and through whom he made everything there  
is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect  
copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his  
powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the  
defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven  
at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far  
above the angels as the title which he has inherited is  
higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I  
have become your father, or I will be a father to him and  
he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into  
the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A holy day has dawned upon us.  
Come you nations and adore the Lord.  
Today a great light has come upon the earth.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**     John 1:1-18

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

In the beginning was the Word:  
the Word was with God and the Word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.  
Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being  
but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life  
was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that  
darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John.  
He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The  
Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was  
coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him,  
and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept  
him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become  
children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was  
born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man  
but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among  
us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of  
the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness.  
He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes  
after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'  
Indeed, from this fullness we have, all of us, received -  
yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given  
through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus  
Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is  
nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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