

# Newsletter

13th Sunday in the Ordinary Time  
1st & 2nd July 2023



## *Reflection*

The woman in our first reading recognises holiness in the prophet Elisha, and her kindness to him is repaid with the blessing of a child. The second reading reminds us that baptism in Christ means entering into death with him—death to sin. Jesus expands further on this point in the Gospel. He reminds his followers that discipleship means putting God above any other attachments, even the bonds of family. It means carrying challenges and sacrifices, with the knowledge that we are accompanied and led by Jesus. It means losing our life—the things that make us comfortable and secure—in order to find God. These are not easy words to read, and not easy things to do, yet we know we are not alone in them. In the Gospel, Jesus encourages the Twelve to follow in his footsteps. He is always leading. How will I follow him today?



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## PARISH MASS TIMES

### **Weekend Mass Times:**

**Saturday:** 6:00pm Church  
**Sunday :** 9:30am Church

### **Weekday Masses: 3rd—7th July**

**Wednesday:** 12.00pm Mass  
**Thursday:** 9.00am Mass  
**Friday:** 9.00am 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)

### **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

# PARISH NEWS

## Attention Parishioners!

### Giddy Weekend

On the third weekend of the month we will be having Giddy Weekend. There will be a cuppa provided after both Masses.



A different Parish group will be asked to 'host' each cuppa. You'll be asked to set up after Mass and provide some treats to share! Our Parish Community Coordinator (Julie Moyle) will be in touch with group leaders in the coming weeks to ask your group's Mass preference. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated as we launch this new initiative.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

Each year, Catholics from all corners of Australia gather on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday to celebrate the unique gifts and contributions of Australia's First Peoples. This year's theme, "A New Life in Christ" reflects the hope and promise of a brighter future, rooted in unity and shared commitment to positive change.



This Sunday symbolizes our unity as one people in Christ and is the beginning of NAIDOC week. As we commemorate this special day on the Liturgical Calendar, we are invited to listen to their voices and walk alongside them on our journey towards progress.

## PARISH PRIEST CORNER JUNE 2023

Having observed the happenings in our parish over the past year, it's time to act and improve our parish community. We have taken several actions and have plans for the future. Here is a summary of what has been done and what we intend to do:

- **Creation of Constitutions:** We have developed Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance constitutions. These documents clarify the roles, duties, responsibilities, and membership of these important leadership teams within our parish.
- **Finalised Leadership Structure:** We have established a clear flow chart outlining the parish's leadership structure. This chart defines the boundaries of different groups and by doing so, we ensure efficient coordination and streamlined operations.
- **Appointment of Administrative Assistant:** Recognizing the need for enhanced efficiency in our parish office, we have appointed an administrative assistant to support the parish secretary. This addition will contribute to smoother administrative tasks and overall operations.
- **Introduction of Parish Community Coordinator:** A new role of the parish community coordinator has been created. This coordinator's primary responsibility is facilitating coordination among various groups and ensuring effective parish communication.
- **Formation of Senior Leadership Team:** We have established a Senior Leadership Team comprising the chairperson of the Finance Council, the chairperson of the Pastoral Council, the Community Coordinator, and a representative from the Steering Group. The parish priest will consult this team based on the immediate needs of the parish, ensuring comprehensive decision-making.
- **Development of Parish Strategic Plan:** We are finalising the Parish strategic plan in collaboration with the Parish Pastoral Council. This strategic plan will outline our goals and provide a clear direction for the future development of our parish.
- **Restoration of Pre-COVID-19 Groups:** We are gradually reintroducing the various groups that were established before the pandemic but remain relevant in our post-pandemic parish. This reinstatement aims to rebuild community connections and resume meaningful activities.
- **Inclusive Events and Activities:** We have organised events and activities catering to our parish's diverse cultures and parishioners (Feast Day, Reconciliation Week, Care for Creation, Santacruzán, Sri Lankan Mass). We aim to strengthen the sense of belonging and unity by fostering a welcoming community.
- **Emphasis on Liturgy:** We recognise the importance of liturgy and aim to find ways to make it appealing while staying true to the traditions of the Catholic Church. This will ensure that our worship services resonate with the congregation as a whole.

Our aspirations for the parish include the following:

- **Empowered Groups:** We want each group within the parish to fulfil their roles and contribute actively. The Senior Leadership Team will provide support and guidance to empower these groups to maximise their impact.
- **Cultivating a Culture of Love and Positivity:** We strive to foster a parish culture centred on love and positivity. Through collective efforts, we can create a warm and welcoming community that supports and uplifts its members.
- **Clear Plan and Implementation:** We aim to have a well-defined plan, guided by the divine renovation model, for moving forward as a parish. This plan will enable us to navigate challenges and seize opportunities effectively.

By implementing these actions and nurturing a spirit of collaboration and positivity, our parish will flourish, thrive, and continue to grow as a vibrant spiritual community.

**Repair Café:** Do you need a small repair?  
St Mary's Parish Care for Creation group is working with the Uniting Church to offer an alternative to sending items to landfill.

**Venue:** The Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Pakenham and Hare Sts.

**Dates:** July 8th, August 12th, Sept 9th.

**Hours open:** 10am - 12 Noon.

For more information, or to offer to volunteer, contact Cecilia Merrigan 0400 863 190

## ??Questions about our faith??

Is there something that has puzzled you about our faith? Perhaps why do we use a particular symbol, or what is the meaning of a specific ritual or something you want to especially know about?

If so write your question on some paper and place it in the question boxes at the back or side entrance to the church.

On "Giddy Weekend", the third weekend of the month Fr. Novie will answer the questions that have been put forward.

## PARISH CALENDAR (July)

3rd - 6th July - Colette Annual Leave

4th July—Ministers' Meeting (7:30am)

July 8th, August 12th, Sept 9th—Repair Café  
Uniting Church Hall 10am-12Noon

12th July—PPC Meeting (5pm)

14th July—Aged Care Liturgy

15th –16th July—Giddy weekend (Cuppa After Masses)

19th July— Eucharist Faith Formation Pizza Night (6pm)

21st July—Divine Renovation Zoom (Leadership—2pm)

23rd July—Testimony Saturday (6pm Mass)

25th July—Jubilarians' Mass Wangaratta

**Please take note**

**Our Defibrillator is located on the SOUTH wall of the Church.**

**As you go up the ramp you will see it on your left.**



## Soup and Sandwiches

The Social Committee is pleased to recommence SOUP & SANDWICHES. Please join us for a cup of delicious soup, sandwiches and a social chat following 12 noon Mass. Soup and Sandwiches will be held on the last Wednesday of the month during June, July, August and September.

**Stewardship statements will be ready to be picked up at the back of the church this weekend. Please note for cash givers you will be distributed new envelopes with a new number, so please dispose of your old envelopes and only use the new ones.**

## ROSTERS: This Week - 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> July

### Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Tania Dixon  
Marie McDonald, Andrew Sebire

9.30am: Julie Moyle  
Felix Pontejos, Kerry McLoughlan

### Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Carol Purdon  
9.30am: Cecilia Merrigan, Marg Walter

St Anne's - 1<sup>st</sup>: Pat Sanderson

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters - 4<sup>th</sup>: Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Gardening: Rob Morris, Bob Cooper,  
Catherine Lindner

## ROSTERS: Next Week - 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> July

### Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire  
Terry McKiterick, Kajini Karunanayke

9.30am: Theresa Jacobs  
Jarrod O'Brien, Lauren Gould

### Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Bob Cooper  
9.30am: Margaret Hart, Catherine Linder

St Anne's - 8<sup>th</sup>: Eileen Roberts, Tania Dixon

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters - 11<sup>th</sup>: Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

Gardening: Rob Morris, Bob Cooper,  
Catherine Lindner

## YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

**Sick:** Mary Roberts, Bruno Barbera, Pat Davey, Dan Carey, Ruby Ainslie, Howard Clark Jnr, Jayden Williams, Jessie Davidson, Cameron Purdon, Jodie Walton, Murry Perrett, John & Chloris Dignan, Beatrice Phillips, Anne Dodd, Peter Davey, Patricia Vogele, Fred Molluso, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Ted Payne, Delene Hutchinson, Peter Phillips, David Baker, Monica Beckwith Eileen Ryan

**Anniversaries:** Ron Tonkin

**Recent Death:**

**First Reading**     *2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16*

**A reading from the second book of the Kings**

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.' One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading**     *Romans 6:3-4, 8-11*

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**     *1 Peter 2:9*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

**Alleluia!**

**Responsorial Psalm**     *Ps 88:2-3, 16-19*

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **R.**

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted; for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

**Gospel**     *Matthew 10:37-42*

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

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

**Next week: 14th Sunday in the Ordinary Time (Year A)**

**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> July Year A**

**1st Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14**

**2nd Reading: Romans 8:9, 11-13**

**Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30**

