

Newsletter

15th Sunday in the Ordinary Time
15th & 16th July 2023



Reflection

The readings for this Sunday call us to self-examination. The gospel describes various levels of receptivity, the willingness to allow ourselves to receive from another, to be influenced by another, perhaps even to be transformed. The more independent we are, the less likely we will be open to others and, consequently, less receptive to their ideas. By definition disciples are receptive to the one they follow. To be a disciple of Jesus requires receptivity, so it is important that we scrutinise ourselves to discover the extent to which we are open. To what should we be receptive? To the words of Scripture, the words of the liturgy, the words of the sacraments, the living tradition of the community. God's word is sown in many forms and under many guises. It makes little difference who sows the seed. How will we receive it? Besides the word of God, the readings speak of the world of God. The people of biblical times were aware of the revelation of God in and through the natural world. Isaiah teaches about the effectiveness of the word of God through the metaphor of rain. The psalmist uses the natural world to describe God's work of salvation. Paul claims that eschatological fulfilment will include all of creation. Finally, Jesus' parables are rooted in stories about nature. We cannot afford to close our eyes to the needs of the natural world, or stop our ears to the cries of the earth, or harden our hearts to the world of which we are a part, for the word of God will accomplish the end for which God sent it. © Dianne Bergant CSA



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Parish Office Hours
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Facebook: St Mary's Parish Echuca

Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle
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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

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

Weekday Masses: 17th - 21st July

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass (Church)
Thursday: 9.00am Mass (Parish Centre)
Friday: 9.20am -SJ House Mass Church
10.20am-SJ House Mass Church

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)
Except for School Holidays

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

Baptism Notice: We welcome Evie and Ada Lucas to our parish community.

Hospitality Space

A heartfelt thank you for your invaluable contributions towards creating our wonderful hospitality space. From the dedicated individuals behind "Cash for a Cause" to JD Woodcraft, who crafted our beautiful cupboards, we are immensely grateful for your efforts. We also extend our appreciation to everyone who has cooperated and shown understanding during the necessary adjustments to make the place more hospitality space-friendly. Lastly, a special thanks to the new Hospitality Team and the various groups sponsoring the upcoming Cuppas this week and in the months to come. Thank you very much.

St. Mary's Liturgy Team

St. Mary's Liturgy team provide and support many forms of liturgy within our parish. Our aim is to enable parishioners to grow their faith through enriching and varied liturgical experiences, both in the church and venues away from the church including the Aged Care facilities. These often involve scripture, music, sharing of thoughts, the use of symbols and also the celebration of the rich cultural diversity in our parish. On a practical level we are involved in matching the church décor to the appropriate liturgical season and organizing rosters for some of our many parish ministries.

Being part of this team does not require liturgical knowledge but it is an excellent way to grow your faith so a warm invitation is extended to any interested parishioner to join us.

Please contact Mary 0428515588

New Parish Website Now Live! Explore our enhanced website at www.stmarysechuca.org.au

Join us online and stay connected with our parish family, community updates, and valuable resources.

Experience the convenience of our improved website today!

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: August 12th, Sept 9th.

Hours open: 10am - 12 Noon.

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

G'DAY Weekend

EVERY 3RD WEEKEND OF THE MONTH

Name Tags For Parishioners and Visitors

To promote a welcoming atmosphere, facilitate fellowship, encourage connection, to help individuals feel known, valued, and engaged within their faith community.

Cuppa after Both Masses

To create a space where individuals can come together, nurture relationships, and deepen their sense of belonging within the church community.

St Mary's Parish
ECHUCA
Growing in faith together



St Mary's Parish Welcome Team

We constantly have new parishioners join our community and the role of the Welcoming Team is to help people meet other parishioners and find their place in our community. Members of the Welcoming Team have a very different role to those that greet people at weekend Masses. Rather, when a Mass Greeter meets a new parishioner, they will introduce them to a member of the Welcoming Team. The welcoming Team Member will take the details of the new person/family and make some initial introductions with other people in the congregation. Once contact has been made, the Welcoming Team member becomes a consistent person for them to meet at Mass, they introduce them to other parishioners, invite them to parish events and parish group activities. The Welcoming Team will also organise regular social events for the newcomers to meet other parishioners from a similar family background etc and then having established relationships invite them to be part of Parish Ministry Groups as appropriate.

If you are a social sort of person who is comfortable reaching out to others, you may like to join our team - call Christine 0411627645

Stewardship statements are ready to be picked up at the back of the church.

Please ensure you have disposed of your old envelopes and only use the new ones. Thank you

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 know especially 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 "Gidday Weekend", the third weekend of the month Fr. Novie will answer some of the questions that have been put forward.

Prayer Requests and Mass Intentions

If you have a prayer that you would like to be silently prayed for by the celebrant during Mass, we invite you to write it down on a sheet of paper (located at the South Wing entrance of the church). Simply place your prayer in the box "Prayer in our hearts". Additionally, if you have any Mass intention envelopes or November Mass of the Holy Souls envelopes, you can also place them in the same box. Alternatively, you may give them directly to the celebrant before Mass. Your intentions are important to us, and we will ensure they are included in our prayers during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. May God bless you abundantly and grant you His peace.

Our second collection this weekend is for Peter's Pence a generous support for the Universal Church and to sustain the Apostolic Mission of Pope Francis.

ROSTERS: This Week - 15th & 16th July

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Chris Lee
Ruth Phillips, Doug Black
9.30am: Cecilia Merrigan
Jenny Morris, Lisa Napier

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Leah Williams
9.30am: Kay Westblade, Divanne Walker
St Anne's - 15th: Mel Slattery, Prasanga Fonsenka
Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris
Counters - 18th: Brendan Shingles, Peter Davey & Andrew Kennedy

Gardening: Rob Morris, Bob Cooper, Catherine Lindner.

PARISH CALENDAR (July–August)

15th -16th July—Gidday Weekend (Cuppa After Masses)
17th July—Social Committee Meeting 2pm
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
26th July—Soup and Sandwiches (12.30pm)
2nd August—PPC Meeting (5pm)
5th August—Eileen and Anthony (Wedding)
9th August—Liturgy Meeting (5pm)
13th August— Care for Creation—
Film ""The Giant @The Paramount (2pm)
16th August—Bereavement Team (5pm)
Sacramental team (5:30pm)

The Echuca Library is arranging English Conversation classes for new arrivals to Australia.

One session is scheduled for the afternoon, but an evening class is needed for those who are working.

If you would like to volunteer to be available on Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm to chat informally with our friends who have recently come to our country, please contact Cecilia on 0400863190.

Soup and Sandwiches: Please join us following 12 noon Mass on **the 26th of July.**

ROSTERS: Next Week - 22nd & 23rd July

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Andrew Sebire
Carol Purdon, Carla Chisholm
9.30am: Barb Green
Rob Chisholm, Judi O'Farrell

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell
9.30am: Julie Moyle, Rob Morris
St Anne's - 22nd: Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters - 25th: Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Gardening: Rob Morris, Bob Cooper, Catherine Lindner

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: Bruno Barbera, Pat Davey, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Jayden Williams, Cameron Purdon, Jodie Walton, Murry Perrett, John & Chloris Dignan, Beatrice Phillips, Anne Dodd, Patricia Vogeles, Fred Molluso, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Delene Hutchinson, Peter Phillips, David Baker, Monica Beckwith, Eileen Ryan.

Anniversaries: Cynthia Smith, Doreen Fletcher

Recent Death:

First Reading *Isaiah 55:10-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Second Reading *Romans 8:18-23*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 64:10-14*

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. **R.**

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. **R.**

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat,
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

Next week: 16th Sunday in the Ordinary Time (Year A)

22nd & 23rd July Year A

1st Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 13:1-23*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.