

Newsletter

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
22nd & 23rd July 2023



Reflection

Today we hear how the Spirit of God dwells in all of us, helping us in our weakness. The first disciples had asked Jesus to explain the parables; we have the Spirit to enlighten us. It is the Spirit who helps us to interpret the teachings of Jesus and to be receptive to the challenges that they pose.

The presence of sinners in the kingdom of God is often a stumbling block to good people. There will be a time for separation and judgment, but the time is not now. This means that the righteous will have to live with the sinner and, even more challengingly, show them the same kind of concern that they show to others. The presence of sinners does not necessarily erode the quality of the kingdom. Rather, it provides disciples an opportunity to rise to the occasion of generosity and forgiveness.

There are two images of judgment in the readings. The one in the gospel is terrifying and decisive. The wicked are bound together into bundles and readied for burning. We must remember that this is a parable. In the first reading and in the psalm response the justice of God is said to be lenient, clement and kind. The power of God is demonstrated not in retribution but in mercy. God is said to be 'merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in kindness and fidelity', and repentance is a very real possibility. This is the image that gives us hope. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim
Email: nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au

Parish Secretary: Colette Porter
Mobile: 0457 583 536

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

Website: www.stmarysechuca.org.au

Facebook: St Mary's Parish Echuca

Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle
Email: pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

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

Weekday Masses: 24th—28th July

Monday: 1.30pm Funeral Prayers
Francey Graham-Tubb
Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass (Church)
Thursday: 9.00am Mass (Parish Centre)
Friday: 9.00am 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)

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

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to inform you that the **Parish Steering Group (PSG) will be undergoing a temporary pause** due to changes in the leadership structure. Moving forward, the PSG will be replaced by the Senior Leadership Team, which is comprised of dedicated individuals from various key positions within the parish.

The Senior Leadership Team will consist of the following members:

Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council: Rob Morris

Chair of the Finance Council: Margaret Hart

Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle

Member of the Sandhurst Mission Pastoral Council: Christine Sebire

This newly formed team will work closely with me to ensure a united goal and mission to make our parish even greater. Their collective expertise and dedication will be instrumental in guiding our community towards a brighter future. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the PSG for their tireless efforts in running the parish over the past few years. Your commitment and hard work have been invaluable in advancing our various ministries. We hope that all members of the PSG will continue to support the parish in their respective capacities as we transition to this new leadership structure.

Let us come together and support the Senior Leadership Team as they embark on this important journey to strengthen our parish and serve our community better. Thank you all for your understanding and unwavering support.

Blessings,
Fr. Novelito Lim

Heartfelt Gratitude for Our Wonderful Hospitality Space

We want to express our heartfelt thank you for your invaluable contributions in creating our wonderful hospitality space. Thanks to the dedication of the Parish Steering Group, who planned this space. It has now become a reality.

We are immensely grateful to Brian Quinn for his remarkable plan and drawings that laid the foundation for this space. A special thanks to the dedicated individuals behind "Cash for a Cause" and to Jarren Duncan of JD Woodcraft, whose craftsmanship brought our beautiful cupboards to life.

We also extend our appreciation to Tom Dixon for the power installation and to the generous donors who supported the realization of this space.

Furthermore, we want to thank everyone who cooperated and showed understanding during the necessary adjustments to make this place even more hospitable.

Lastly, our deep appreciation goes to all the people who will help us in welcoming newcomers and utilizing this space for evangelization.

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

Vocations Week August 6th-12th:

During Vocations Week we are called to pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

To start vocations week, on Sunday August 6th some of the Sunday Masses in the diocese will be offered for vocations, and Serra Club members will be handing out "31 Club" cards at the conclusion of some Masses in the Bendigo area. Please consider taking a card and committing to pray one day a month for vocations so that parishes can remain open and served by their local priest.

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.

ROSTERS: This 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

Setting up the Church: 22nd: Kate Bruty

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters - 25th: Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Gardening: Rob Morris, Bob Cooper,
Catherine Linder.

PARISH CALENDAR (July–August)

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)

6th August—Mass at Tongala 11.30am

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 - 29th & 30th July

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Terry McKitterick
Christine Sebire, Chamali Stouter
9.30am: Rachel McAsey
Anne Marie Cairns, Claire Hogan

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Kate Bruty
9.30am: Adrian Costello, Phil Stiles
St Anne's - 29th: Kay Westblade, Anne Bennett,
Eileen Pineo

Setting up the Church: 29th: Rose Quinn

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters - 1st: Brendan Shingles, Peter Davey,
Andrew Kennedy

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 Vogege, Fred Molluso, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Delene Hutchinson, Peter Phillips, David Baker, Monica Beckwith.

Anniversaries: Jack Henwood, Dorothea Preston, Kevin Bennett, Gay Hancock, Joyce Quinn, Carmel Ryan, Adrian Langford, Dick Robb.

Recent Death: Francey Graham-Tubb, Eileen Ryan (Marie O'Brien's sister)

First Reading *Wisdom 12:13, 16-19*

A reading from the book of Wisdom

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **R.**

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **R.**

Next week: 17th Sunday in the Ordinary Time (Year A)

29th & 30th July Year A

1st Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130

2nd Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-46

Second Reading *Romans 8:26-27*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 13:24-30*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.