

Newsletter

17th Sunday in the Ordinary Time
29th & 30th July 2023



Reflection

Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: treasure and delight. The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realise that the treasure is ours. A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others.

The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it.

Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found the pearl of great price. What we have been given, we must now give to others. In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the kingdom of God.
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Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle
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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

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

Weekday Masses: 31st July —4th August

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)
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

Carrying Forward the Plenary Council Online Workshops

Dr Chris Cotter and Leslie Cooper will be facilitating two online workshops focusing on the findings from the Plenary Council and the ways we can implement actions to support the commitments agreed to at the Council. These online sessions will start and end in prayer and invite participants to read and reflect on the decrees and share and listen to thoughts and ideas -- a process consistent with that used at the Plenary Council.

Choose either an evening session on Tuesday 8 August 7.00 – 8.30 p.m.,
or a morning session on Wednesday 9 August 9.00 – 10.30 a.m.

This event is free to all. You must register to receive Zoom login details.

To register go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/CJKVC>

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 years ago, 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.

Ladies' Breakfast

An invitation to all Ladies of St Mary's Parish to join in a Ladies Breakfast on the 2nd September starting at 9.30am at the Parish Centre. Tickets are \$10.00 each and will be available after both Masses the weekend of 29th/30th July.

St Mary's Parish Committee.

G'Day Weekend

Our next G'Day Weekend is the 19th and 20th of August.

We encourage you to wear your **name badges** on these days but if you wish to wear them to Mass on other weekends that is OK as well.

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.

During vocations week, we invite all to join Serra members at St Therese's, Kennington at 9.15am each morning from 7th August to the 11th August for Mass and Adoration for vocations.

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 - 29th & 30th July

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Terry McKiterick
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 Linder.

PARISH CALENDAR (August)

2nd August—PPC Meeting (5pm)

3rd August—St. Mary's School Liturgy (12:30pm)

5th August—Eileen Fullard and Anthony Oliveri (Wedding)

6th August—Mass at Tongala (11.30am)

8th August—St. Mary MacKillop Mass (12nn—Church)

9th August—Liturgy Meeting (5pm)

10th August—St. Mary's School Mass (12:30pm)

15th August—Assumption Mass (12nn— Church)

16th August—Bereavement Team (5pm)
Sacramental team (5:30pm)

17th August—St. Mary's Whole School Mass (12:30pm)

19th 20th August— G'Day Weekend

23rd August—Confirmation Mass Rehearsal (5pm)

26th August—Confirmation Mass 6pm

27th August—Confirmation Mass 9:30am and 11:30am

2nd September—Ladies Breakfast 9.30am

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.

ROSTERS: Next Week - 5th & 6th August

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Tania Dixon
Rose Quinn, Nick Lee

9.30am: Margaret Hart
Chris Armstrong, Michelle Shingles

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Dominic Karunanayke
9.30am: Erick Melad, Bernie Oliver

St Anne's - 5th: Pat Sanderson

Setting up the Church: 5th: Carol Purdon

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters - 8th: Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Gardening: Michael Delahunty, Damien Byrne,

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, Julio and Nati Acebron

Anniversaries: Kevin Bennett, Gay Hancock, Joyce Quinn, Carmel Ryan, Adrian Langford, Patricia D'Ángri, Mel Pitts, Therese Mulcahy.

Recent Death:

First Reading *1 Kings 3:5, 7-12*

A reading from the first book of the Kings

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

R. Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **R.**

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **R.**

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **R.**

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **R.**

Next week: The Transfiguration of the Lord (Year A)

5th & 6th August Year A

1st Reading: Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 96:1-2, 5-6, 9

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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 13:44-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

