

Newsletter

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
12th & 13th August 2023



Reflection

Had Elijah not first endured a mighty wind, an earthquake and fire he may not have recognised the presence of the Lord in the gentle breeze. Similarly, the disciples battling a heavy sea, confused Jesus for a ghost, watched Peter sinking as he tried to walk across the water and they saw Jesus put out his hand to hold him. And then the wind dropped. Without the storm we do not always appreciate the provider of calm. In the letter to the Romans Paul acknowledges that in following Christ he remained of Jewish 'flesh and blood' and affirmed his people's unique heritage, their special place in salvation history. Whenever the followers of Christ have forgotten the Jewish origins of their faith, prejudice, oppression and appalling atrocities towards Jews have followed. When our prayer is the same as Peter's, 'Lord, save me,' we should remember that the hand that rescued Peter was a Jewish hand.



May the warm embrace of our Christian community extend to the Goetz Family as we joyfully welcome Isabel into our midst, showering her with love, and spiritual growth as she receives the sacrament of baptism this weekend.

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: 14th—18th August

Tuesday: 12.00pm Assumption (Church)
Wednesday: 11.00am Prayers
(Delene Hutchinson Funeral—Tobins)
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



Confirmation and First Eucharist

You are cordially invited to be part of a momentous occasion with **Bishop Shane Mackinlay** to preside over this spiritually enriching event.

6 pm Saturday
26th August 2023

9:30 am and 11:30 am Sunday
27th August 2023

An invitation to all ladies of St. Mary's Parish and beyond to join in a



\$10
Tickets

Ladies Breakfast

On the 2nd of September 2023,
Saturday starting at 9:30 am at the
Parish Centre.

Tickets are \$10 each and will be available after weekend Masses until the 26th/27th of August or at the parish office (03 5482 1127) during office hours from Tuesday to Friday, 9 am to 1 pm.

Join Our Counters Team!

We invite all parishioners interested in joining our Counters Team to help us with the important task of counting collections. Counters are rostered once a month on a Tuesday at 9:15 am.

For both current and new counters, there will be a meeting on the **15th of August 2023 at 9:30 am at the parish centre**. During the meeting, we will discuss the updated counting process and enjoy a catch-up over morning tea.

Your participation is highly valued, and we look forward to working together to serve our parish community.



Sacraments of Initiation for Children and Teens

If you know any children aged 8 to 12 years old interested in Baptism or youth aged 13 to 17 years old seeking Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, we invite them to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

Please inform the parish office by the 15th of August to register for our Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) program. Led by Lauren Gould, this program will be conducted in collaboration with St. Mary's Primary School and St. Joseph's College.

Let us come together to support and nurture the faith journey of our young ones. We look forward to a blessed and enriching experience for all involved.

G'Day Weekend

Our next G'Day Weekend is **next weekend**. 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.

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

Stewardship Statements Available

The Stewardship Statements are now available at the back of the church. Please note that there might be some mistakes in the Pledge Total due to changes in contributions during the Stewardship Program in the middle of the financial year. Collete has manually adjusted them from the PACS program. Your number this financial year might also be different from the previous financial year or your statement as we have updated our records and needed to adjust the planned giving numbering. We kindly ask for your understanding and consideration. Hopefully, by the end of this financial year, the Total Pledge will be accurately reflected. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

SANDHURST LAUNCH of SEASON OF CREATION:

You're all invited to come and celebrate our Care for Creation at Notley Picnic Ground, Whipstick Forest, Bendigo on **Friday 1st September**, beginning with **Mass at 11am** celebrated by Bishop Shane followed by **Picnic Lunch**. BYO chairs is encouraged although some seating is available. Sausage sizzle provided or BYO lunch if preferred. BYO hot/cold drinks; BYO water bottles – water on site. **EVERYONE** is invited and encouraged to come along and celebrate in this beautiful venue. It's also the first day of spring and National Wattle Day! RSVP not essential but if you & friends are coming then letting us know by texting 0408 579 904 would be helpful.

Palms Australia is offering Australian Catholics the opportunity to undertake a Global Mission. We need your help to reach out to qualified and experienced Australians requested by vulnerable communities overseas in support of sustainable poverty reduction through skill development.

If you would like more information about "sharing your skills through a long-term assignment in Asia, Africa or the Pacific" see the flyer at the back of the Church.

ROSTERS: This Week - 12th & 13th August

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell
Sr Margaret, Nick Lee

9.30am: Noela Boyer
John Vagg, Felix Pontejos

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Chris Lee
9.30am: Mel Slattery, Lauren Gould

St Anne's: 12th: Eileen Roberts, Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 12th: Christine Sebire

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 15th: Eileen Pineo & Lois Williams

Gardening: Michael Delahunty, Damien Byrne,
Fr Des

PARISH CALENDAR (August— September)

15th August—Assumption Mass (12nn– Church)
Finance Committee Meeting (4.30pm)

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)

24th August— Yr 6 Mass, Reconciliation of Shewan, Maddie,
Jackson

26th August—Confirmation Mass 6pm

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

30th August— Soup and Sandwiches

2nd September—Ladies Breakfast 9.30am

3rd September—Fathers Day

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 - 19th & 20th August

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire
Colette Porter, Rebekah Porter

9.30am: Theresa Jacobs
Rod Chisholm, Jenny Morris

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Kim Wallace
9.30am: Margaret Hart, John Moyle

St Anne's: 19th: Mel Slattery, Prasanga Fonsenka

Setting up the Church: 19th: Kate Bruty

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 22nd Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy,
Peter Davey

Gardening: Michael Delahunty, Damien Byrne, Fr Des

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 Voegel, Fred Molluso, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Peter Phillips, David Baker, Monica Beckwith, Julio and Nati Acebron

Anniversaries: Leigh McCann, Arthur Fraser, Toni Spencer, Norm Wright, John Lord, Kath Byrne, Madeline Greenwood, Laurie Gent, Terry Clifford, Tony Oliveri, Christine Fenn, Bill Barry, James Kyle, Billy Williams, Tim Dullard, Adam Mooney.

Death: Delene Hutchinson

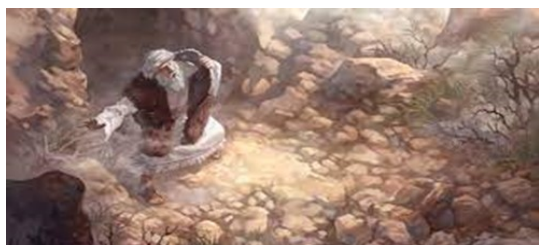
First Reading 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

Next week: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

19th & 20th August Year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Responsorial Psalm: 66:2-3, 5-6, 8

2nd Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Second Reading

Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ - it is the truth - my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.