

Reflection

Mark's account of the "testing in the wilderness" is very brief and does not contain the details found in Matthew and Luke: no three temptations, no dialogue with Satan, no scripture quotations. It sounds like a situation at home when a parent asks: "Where have you been today? The teenage son or daughter replies without guile: "Out."

The second readings during Lent are rich fare for our nourishment during these days. Today, from the first letter of St Peter we are taken on a journey from the time of Noah and the flood, (first reading) to Christ's death and resurrection and then to our own baptism. The journey also entails a movement from physical flood and washing with water to the spiritual aspects of water baptism: dying to sin, rising to new life and going forward in the mission and ministry of Christ. Christ's victory in the wilderness and on the cross reaches out to everyone: those imprisoned and the free.



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Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle

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Admin Assistant: Marianne Kelly

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday—Thursday : 9am - 1pm (February)

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

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times: 17th & 18th February 2024

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 19th– 23rd February

Monday: 12.30pm Funeral Prayers (Russel Roberts)

Wednesday: 12.00pm Communion Service (Church)

Friday: 9.00am Mass (Church)

Weekend Mass Times: 24th & 25th February 2024

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am 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)

During school terms

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

PARISH CALENDAR (February/March)

19th—22nd February—Fr. Novie Away (Overseas Priests Conference—Moama)

21st February—P.P.C. Meeting 5.30pm

26th February—Funeral Committee Meeting 2.00pm

27th February—Lenten Community Reconciliation 7.30pm

28th February— *Social Committee Meeting 2.00pm *Ladies' Night 5.30pm *Sacramental Program Info. Evening 7.00pm

3rd March—*Clean Up Australia Day *St Mary's Foundation Family Mass

Caritas Ks: Tuesday 19th March 2024

Put your compassion into action.

Make every step count – encourage your family and friends to come and be part of the day!

8am- 6pm based in the St Mary's Church grounds

Raising Awareness, Raising Funds, Building Community
Join our parish community for a day of celebration!

Come for a walk, come for a cuppa with special guests, come for Mass or just come to be part of a great day. Stay tuned to find out more!



G'DAY Weekend

EVERY 3RD WEEKEND
OF THE MONTH

Please wear your NAME TAGS and join us for CUPPA after the Mass.
Donation Box is available to cover the monthly supply of coffee, tea, sugar, cups etc.

Hospital Visiting Team (Sunday Mass Host)

Late last year we were able to re-commence our hospital visiting, post Covid-19 restrictions. A volunteer parishioner is rostered to visit each week. We're given a list of those Catholics in hospital on that particular day. We make our way around the hospital offering a pastoral visit. Some visits are long and some are quite short. It can be a very difficult time for those who are in hospital, and our presence is often very calming for those we meet. We also get to see new Mums and their gorgeous babies! Patients who would like communion are re-visited at a later date. Our team supports Fr Novie and Fr Des as an initial contact point for those who require the sacrament of anointing.

St. Mary's School Staff (Saturday Mass Host)

Unveiling Hidden Wardrobe Gems

FUNDRAISING FASHION EVENT

Date: Friday, 15th of March 2024

Time: 6:30 pm for 7 pm start

Venue: St Mary's Parish Hall, Anstruther Street, Echuca

Cost: \$40 per person

(includes food and complimentary drink)

Tickets are available for purchase at
Trybooking - QR Code
or after Parish Mass on the weekends.



Contact Person:

Mel Slattery - 0417822589

or email the parish office

at admin@stmarysechuca.org.au



Sunday March 3
8-11.00



Meet under the
Old Echuca Bridge/
Onion Patch behind the
former Information Centre

Bring your hardy shoes, sunhat and water and
join our community in Caring for Creation.
**You might like to pick up rubbish, give moral
support or just enjoy the riverside bush in the
morning!**

May the warm embrace of our Christian
community extend a joyful welcome to

Luca James and Noah Oliver

DeCicco

as they receive the sacrament of
Baptism this weekend.

Hangabout Playgroup

9am - 10:15am Friday mornings during the school terms.

St Mary's Parish 224 Anstruther St Echuca
(enter via side gate).

Enjoy fun activities - craft, singing, story time, outdoor play with the kids and meet others.

Mums, Dads & Carers are all very welcome

Contact Mel Slattery 0417 822 589 if you require further details.

PARISH FAMILY GROUP STORIES

These stories are at the back of the church in folders and are available for everyone to read.

Please sign in the book provided when taking out and returning. This is an opportunity for you to learn something of the lives of some fellow parishioners.

G'DAY Weekend

EVERY 3RD WEEKEND
OF THE MONTH

Please wear your NAME TAGS and join us for CUPPA after the Mass.
Donation Box is available to cover the monthly supply of coffee, tea, sugar, cups etc.

MISSING WINE GLASSES: If you have borrowed the wine glasses from the Parish Hall Bar, could you please return them as soon as possible, as others need to have the use of them too. Contact Margaret 0419 506 254

Can and Bottle Collection Point!

We will have a collection point beside the Parish kiosk for aluminium cans (not crushed) and glass bottles. Please encourage your friends and family to collect too! All funds raised by the Parish will go to supporting the needs of our community. Looking forward to your support.

Tuesday 27th of February
Lenten Community Reconciliation 7.30pm

We are thrilled to share the news that this year, we have individuals participating in the RCIA program as a candidate and a catechumen. Let's extend our prayers and support to **Danielle Johnstone and Wilma Vesty** as they embark on this journey, becoming integral members of the Catholic community.

ROSTERS: This Week - 17th & 18th February 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Terry McKiterick
Kajini Karunanayke, Ruth Phillips
9.30am: Cecilia Merrigan
Jenny Morris, Barb Green

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Kate Bruty
9.30am: Margaret Hart, Catherine Lindner

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 17th

Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 17th Rose Quinn

Setting up the Church: 18th Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Bec Lloyd

Counters: 20th Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: 19th Karla Chisholm

Gardening: Michael Delahunty, Damien Byrne,
Fr Des.

ROSTERS: Next Week - 24th & 25th February 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire
Tania Dixon, Marie McDonald
9.30am: Rachel McAsey
Julie Moyle, Lynn Addun

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Allison McKiterick
9.30am: Adrian Costello, Bernie Oliver

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 24th

Kay Westblade, Eileen Pineo, Bev Stapleton

Setting up the Church: 24th Christine Sebire

Setting up the Church: 25th Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Bec Lloyd

Counters: 27th Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: 26th Carmel Mackenzie

Gardening: Michael Delahunty, Damien Byrne,
Fr Des.

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: Julio and Nati Acebron, David Baker, Bruno Barbera, Monica Beckwith, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, John & Chloris Dignan, Anne Dodd, Caroline Farley, Bernadette McClelland, Fred Molluso, John Monigatti, Margaret Oman, Murray Perrett, Beatrice Phillips, Peter Phillips, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Patricia Vogege, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace.

Anniversaries: Malcolm Whyte, Antonio Surace, Claire Sutton, Sam Nastasi, Leo Sheldon, Allan Pollock, Betty Hession, Jacob Symmons, Bill Blance, Simone Slaughter, Frank Sanderson, Charlie Pellegrino, Reece Lamb, Joe Westblade, Matthew Roberts, Sr Athanasius Griffiths, Jack O'Mullane, Jim Pickett, Marlene Beck, Pat Hansen, Fr Brendan Quirke, Jonathon Barber.

Deaths: Eileen Anderson, Veronica Williams, Russel Roberts

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: nothing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 24:4-9

R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Lord, make me know your ways.
 Lord, teach me your paths.
 Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
 for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
 and the love you have shown from of old.
 In your love remember me,
 because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.
 He shows the path to those who stray,
 he guides the humble in the right path;
 he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

Next week: 2nd Sunday of Lent**24th & 25th February Year B****1st Reading:****Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18****Responsorial Psalm:****Ps 115:10, 15-19****2nd Reading:****Romans 8:31-34****Gospel:****Mark 9:2-10****Second Reading**

1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Gospel Acclamation****Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

No one lives on bread alone,
 but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**Gospel**

Mark 1:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**