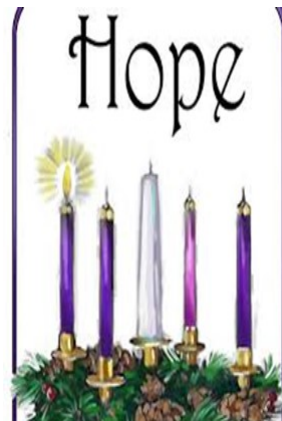


Reflection

'Advent' means 'coming' and this season reminds us of the 'already' and the 'not yet'. Jesus has 'already' come in his incarnation, and at Christmas we recall the events of his historical coming among us as a babe at Bethlehem. But today's liturgy invites us to consider the 'not yet' which will happen at the Parousia or his second coming.

Jesus will come again to gather everything and present it to the heavenly Father. While waiting for that blessed time, we have to keep awake and attend to our duties as responsible servants of the Lord waiting for his return. Times will continue to be trying, but we are strengthened by our blessed hope and our conviction that the Messiah has come and will come again in glory.

At Jesus' first coming, the angels sang of 'joy to the world'. This joy, Pope Francis reminds us, fills the hearts and lives of people today when they encounter Jesus. This joy will be complete when Christ comes again in glory. At that time God 'will wipe away every tear; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone' (Apocalypse 21:4)



Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim
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Mobile: 0450 185 021

Parish Secretary: Colette Porter
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
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Facebook: St Mary's Parish Echuca

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

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times: 2nd & 3rd December

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass
Sunday : 9:30am Mass
11.00am Tongala

Weekday Masses: 4th - 8th December

Wednesday: 12.00pm Anointing Mass (Church)
Thursday: 9.30am Christmas Liturgy St Mary's School
Friday: 9.00am Mass (Church)

Weekend Mass Times: 9th & 10th December

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass
Sunday : 9:30am Mass followed by Christmas Party

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



Advent and Christmas Celebrations

6th December 2023

12 Noon Advent Anointing Mass

10th December 2023

Christmas BBQ and AGM

9:30 am Mass

Followed by BBQ and Christmas Raffle
BYO Drinks and Picnic Rug

19th December 2023

Advent Community Reconciliation

7:00 pm Liturgy

23rd December 2023

6 pm Vigil Mass

24th December 2023

9:30 am Sunday Mass

24th December 2023

6:00 pm Christmas Family Mass

(St. Joseph's College, Oak Centre)

10:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

(Church)

25th December 2023

9:30am Christmas Day Mass

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

10 DECEMBER 2023

9:30am Mass followed by Parish Aussie BBQ and dishes from Italy, Philippines, Sri Lanka, East Timor

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

TICKETS

\$2 EACH OR 3 FOR \$5

ALL PARENTS, FRIENDS & PARISHIONERS ARE WARMLY WELCOME TO ATTEND

St. Mary's Primary End of Year Christmas Liturgy

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY FOUNDATION,
YEAR ONE & YEAR TWO

Thursday
December the 7th
9.30 am
Brigidine Centre

the first Christmas



During Advent 2022, all Australian dioceses were invited to take up a special collection for the people of Ukraine. Money raised was used to support the evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons. Though we are now faced with the horror of the war in Gaza the people of Ukraine continue to endure a war that the world is forgetting.

At the Bishops Conference's November 2023 meeting, bishops were asked to again consider if an appeal could be taken for the people of Ukraine during Advent. To this end we will have a special collection on the 16/17th December to donate to the Advent Appeal for Ukraine. Funds will again be directed to *Mudra Sprava* via the Eparchy of Sts Peter and Paul.

You might need to remember to bring some cash to Mass.
Parish Justice Team



Are you in Echuca over Christmas? We need people to take on roles eg, lector, minister of the Eucharist, etc. at our 10pm mass Christmas Eve and our 9.30am mass Christmas morning. If you would like to do this please place your name on the list at the back of the church or let the parish office know or message Mary Atkins 0428515588.

We hope you can be a part of our Christmas celebrations.

PARISH CALENDAR (December)

- 6th December - Advent Anointing Mass 12.00pm, Bereavement Meeting 5.00pm,
 PPC Christmas Party 6.00pm, Year 7-9 St Joe's School Liturgy 9.15am,
 Wallies Family Group "Brunch"
- 7th December - St Mary's Primary End of Year Christmas Liturgy 9.30am Brigidine Centre
- 8th December - Christmas Anointing Day for the Aged Care Facilities
 Wharparilla 10.30am and BUPA at 2.00pm
- 10th December - Parish Christmas Party after 9.30am Mass followed by BBQ and raffle draw.
- 11th December - Award's Night at St Joe's 7.00pm
- 12th December - Finance Meeting 5.00pm
- 13th December - St Mary's Graduation Liturgy 12.00pm St Joe's College Staff Mass 10.30am
 Liturgy Team Meeting 5.00pm
- 19th December - St Mary's Staff Mass 12.00pm Community Reconciliation Liturgy 7.00pm in the Church

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.

ROSTERS: This Week - 2nd & 3rd December

Commentators/Lectors:

- 6.00pm: Chris Lee
 Nick Lee, Chamali Stouter
- 9.30am: Noela Boyer
 Barb Green, Julie Moyle

Ministers of the Eucharist

- 6.00pm: Bob Cooper
- 9.30am: Kay Westblade, Bebber Mitchell

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 30th

Pat Sanderson, Bev Kenna

Setting up the Church: 2nd Kate Bruty

Setting up the Church: 3rd Rod Chisholm

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 5th Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: Jackie Delahunty

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

ROSTERS: Next Week - 9th & 10th December

Commentators/Lectors:

- 6.00pm: Mary Atkins
 Tania Dixon, Sr Margaret
- 9.30am: Margaret Hart
 Chris Armstrong, Felix Pontejos

Ministers of the Eucharist

- 6.00pm: Kim Wallace
- 9.30am: Divanne Walker, Rob Morris

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 7th

Elaine Roberts, Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 9th Rose Quinn

Setting up the Church: 10th Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 12th Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy
 Peter Davey

Hospital Visiting: John & Julie Moyle

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

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

Anniversaries: Syd McCann, Eileen Kirchofer, Giffie O'Brien, John Dodd, Frank Clarke, Mary & Donald Scurrah, Veronica Cedeno.

Deaths: Mary Roberts, Shaun Christiansen

First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come
down - at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face
and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see,
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians**

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you
grace and peace.
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have
received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have
been enriched in so many ways, especially in your
teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed
been strong among you so that you will not be without
any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our
Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you
steady and without blame until the last day, the day of
our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has
joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake,
because you never know when the time will come. It is
like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and
left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he
has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake,
because you do not know when the master of the house
is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he
comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.
And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



**Next week: 2nd Sunday of
Advent**

9th & 10th December Year B

1st Reading:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm:

84:9-14,

2nd Reading:

2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8