

# Newsletter

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
19th & 20th August 2023



## Reflection

Today's scriptures all address the question of who belongs to the People of God. Isaiah makes clear that anyone can belong: it is faithful service of the Lord, not ethnicity, class or caste, that qualifies. Paul also affirms that all are included—his mission to the pagans in not intended to exclude this fellow Jews from Christ's salvation but to help them see that it is offered to everyone. The persistence of the Canaanite woman in the Gospel further demonstrates that deep faith is not the prerogative of any particular ethnicity. We may be left wondering why Jesus failed to show her the compassion we see in so many other encounters, but the dialogue about children's food and house-dogs makes it very clear that this Canaanite woman—a foreigner—has a rightful place as a follower of this amazing Rabbi, Jesus of Nazareth. May we always rejoice in the diverse community of faith to which we belong.



**Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim**  
**Email:** [nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:admin@stmarysechuca.org.au)

**Website:** [www.stmarysechuca.org.au](http://www.stmarysechuca.org.au)

**Facebook:** St Mary's Parish Echuca

**Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle**

**Email:** [pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au](mailto:pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au)

## PARISH MASS TIMES

### Weekend Mass Times:

**Saturday: 6:00pm Church**

**Sunday : 9:30am Church**

### Weekday Masses: **21st—25th August**

**Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass (Church)**

**Thursday: 9.00am Mass (Parish Centre)**

**12.30pm School Mass SMS**

**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

# G'DAY Weekend

EVERY 3RD WEEKEND  
OF THE MONTH

Please wear your **NAME TAGS** and join us for **CUPPA** after the Mass.

### Parish Pastoral Council

**What does our parish – here at St Mary's - look like in 2, 5, 10 years.?**

The role of the Parish Council is to guide, support and nurture the many ministries that we have actively working in our Parish. As a Parish Council we will endeavour to support and promote initiatives that will ensure meaningful connections are made between our Parish, and the community, to whom we need to Minister. As a Parish Council we are continually evaluating and developing strategies, that will support our ministries, in their endeavour to provide for the needs of our community both near and far. Our current council have regular monthly meetings with enthusiastic discussion a plethora of ideas and actions to take away and develop. The Parish Council is a team that values your input, your ideas and support as we continually strive to enact the Gospel message of Social Justice, Love and Hope within our Faith community. Over the next 12 months the council hopes to formulate and actively engage a positive action plan to support and encourage our many ministries in their endeavour to build a stronger and more vibrant parish here in Echuca. In the year 2025 we are going to celebrate 150 years as a Parish. May we move positively towards this milestone. With a strong, shared vision and all ministries working towards a vibrant, healthy Parish for future generations.

### ST. MARY'S BAPTISM TEAM

The St. Mary's Baptism team welcomes and assists families in the initiation of their child into the Catholic Faith. Team members, Mary Byrne, Holly Morris, Sarah Byrne and Jacqui Deola facilitate Baptism Preparation sessions each month, in conjunction with Parish administration. Baptism Preparation evenings aim to support parents in deepening their understanding and appreciation of the Sacrament of Baptism.

The team works closely together under the guidance of Father Novie to ensure the ceremony runs seamlessly for both the families and Father.



**If you are interested in joining the Baptism team or wish to arrange a Baptism, please contact the Parish Office.**

### 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. Date: Sept 9th. Hours open: 10am - 12 Noon.** For more information, or to offer to volunteer, contact: Cecilia Merrigan 0400 863 190



## 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.

### CCR Sandhurst:

You are invited to "Living in the Holy Spirit", guest presenter is author Adrian Commadeur. Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 start 9am to 4pm, at the Monsignor Peter Jeffrey Centre, St Brendan's, Knight Street Shepparton Shared lunch, tea and coffee provided.

For more information contact Brigita Hore 0412 042 196 or Denise Illott 0407506813.



# 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 CALENDAR (August— September)

19th 20th August— G'Day Weekend

22nd August— Women's Prayer Day 2.00pm

23rd August—Confirmation Mass Rehearsal (5.00pm)

24th August— Yr 6 Mass, Reconciliation of Shewan, Maddie, Jackson (12.30pm)

26th August—Confirmation Mass 6.00pm

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

29th August—Women's Prayer Day 2.00pm

30th August—Soup and Sandwiches

1st September—Teams

2nd September—Ladies Breakfast 9.30am

3rd September—Fathers Day

6th September—PPC Meeting

4th -7th September—Priests In-Service Moama

7th September— St. Joseph's Spirituality Day

8th September—Aged- Care Liturgy

### Divine Renovation: Embracing the Power of the Holy Spirit

As we embark on our journey of Divine Renovation, shifting our focus from maintenance to mission, we're excited to share one of the key pillars that will breathe new life into our parish: the Power of the Holy Spirit. Through the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, incredible renewal takes place, and our parish blossoms into a vibrant centre of faith and community. How do we tap into this divine source of transformation?

**Developing a Culture of Prayer: Let's nurture a daily culture of prayer, allowing us to encounter Jesus personally. Starting small, after the homily on the weekend Masses, we will take just a few minutes to pause and open our hearts to the Holy Spirit's guidance. By doing so, we invite the Spirit to speak to us, igniting our spirits and enriching our lives.** Listening to the Spirit: As we make space for the Spirit to speak, we anticipate personal transformations. Through these moments of reflection, we draw closer to God and cultivate a deeper relationship with our Saviour.



### ROSTERS: This Week - 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> 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: 19<sup>th</sup>: Mel Slattery, Prasanga Fonsenka

Setting up the Church: 19<sup>th</sup>: Kate Bruty

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 22<sup>nd</sup>: Brendan Shingles, Peter Davey,  
Andrew Kennedy

Gardening: Michael Delahunty, Damien Byrne, Fr Des

### ROSTERS: Next Week - 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> August

#### Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Sacramental Program Families

9.30am: Sacramental Program Families

11.30am: Sacramental Program Families

#### Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Ruth Phillips

9.30am: Margaret Walter

11.30am: Rob Morris

St Anne's: 26<sup>th</sup>: Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green,  
Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 26<sup>th</sup>: Tania Dixon

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 29<sup>th</sup> Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

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:** Tony Oliveri, Christine Fenn, Bill Barry, James Kyle, Billy Williams, Tim Dullard, Adam Mooney, Neil Vagg, Maria Berzuela, Lawne Pitts, Des Crowe, Mary Mullane, Joan Doyle, Molly Shannan, Ken Umbers.

**Death:** Josephine Rennie (John Vagg's cousin)

**First Reading**     *Isaiah 56:1, 6-7*

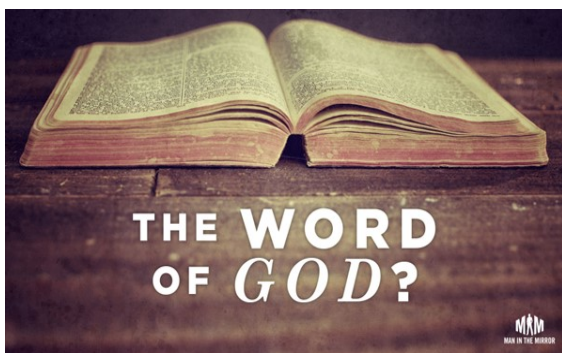
**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**



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

**R. O God, let all the nations praise you!**

O God, be gracious and bless us  
and let your face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth  
and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

Let the nations be glad and exult  
for you rule the world with justice.  
With fairness you rule the peoples,  
you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
May God still give us his blessing  
till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

**Next week: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

**26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> August Year A**

**1st Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23**

**Responsorial Psalm: 137:1-3, 6, 8.**

**2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36**

**Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20**

**Second Reading**     *Romans 11:13-15, 29-32*

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**     *Matthew 15:21-28*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

