

# Newsletter

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
2nd & 3rd September 2023



## Reflection

The concepts of rejection, sacrifice, suffering and acceptance are contained in the readings this Sunday. While rejection and suffering are not sought by the faithful follower, they are consequences of the greater good that the believer seeks as expressed in the responsorial psalm: "O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting..." Ps 62:2. Jeremiah suffered rejection by his people but accepted it as a consequence of being faithful to his calling as a prophet of God.

Jesus in preaching the good news to the poor and freedom to the captives makes himself vulnerable to the rich and the powerful. He is aware of the passion and fate of Jeremiah as the archetype of his own passion and fate. Peter has not become aware of these things and the direction Jesus is taking. Peter tempts Jesus to take it easy. This is reminiscence of the devil tempting Jesus to take it easy in the wilderness and enjoy the power and good life of the world. Jesus rebukes him and then addresses him and the others to take up the cross, follow his direction and "gain life".

While it takes time and experience to understand and accept, Peter does follow Jesus and is strengthened by the cross and suffering to lead the apostles and the early church after the resurrection. Jesus is able to transform the weak and the doubtful into strong and committed disciples and leaders.



**Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim**  
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**Parish Secretary: Colette Porter**  
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**Admin Assistant: Marianne Kelly**

**Parish Office Hours**  
**Tuesday - Friday : 9am - 1pm**  
**St Mary's Parish Centre**  
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**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**

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## PARISH MASS TIMES

### Weekend Mass Times:

**Saturday:** 6:00pm Mass led by Sri Lankan Team  
**Sunday :** 9:30am Mass followed by "Tasty Treat"  
11.30am Tongala

### Weekday Masses: 4th—8th September

**Fr Novie is away at Inservice**  
**Wednesday:** 12.00pm Communion Service (Church)  
**Thursday:** No Mass  
**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)  
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

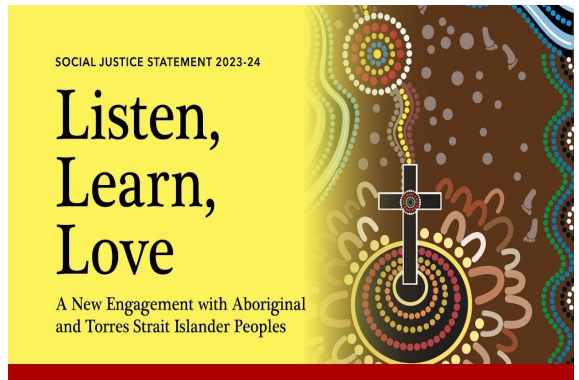
**Child Safety:** Through our policies and practices, we protect the right of children to feel safe and to be safe. We promote the well-being and inclusion of all children. For more information, contact the parish office and look for the Child Safety Officer Mel Slattery.

# PARISH NEWS

## Social Justice Statement 2023: Listen, Learn, Love – A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

In 1967, Australians gave overwhelming support to a referendum that recognised Australia's First Peoples as citizens. Next month we will be given a chance to vote in another referendum to constitutionally recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through a Voice to Parliament. Australia's Bishops see it as an opportunity for all Australians to renew our engagement with the First Peoples of Australia. They have come to this view through much listening to the First Peoples and they encourage us all to listen to them in a spirit of love and humility. The Bishops do not tell us how to vote in the referendum, but they encourage us to inform ourselves about the issues through respectful dialogue, especially with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The Social Justice Statement Listen, Learn, Love – A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples was launched last week across Australia. We will launch the statement in our parish next weekend 9/10 September. Following the launch of the statement during Mass we offer the opportunity for people to gather with a cuppa to have a conversation to find out more about the referendum. All are invited to join in.

There will be a number of opportunities to participate in these Referendum Coffee Table Conversations in the next six weeks. In the meantime, the Statement can be found on line at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>



## Hoodys Community of Unity Tour Echuca



Graham and Michelle  
Hood

Hoodys is passionate about restoring communities and uniting people in these uncertain times. Come along for a wonderful night of friendship and inspiration! 8:32

Wednesday 01 November @ 7pm  
St Mary's Parish Hall  
Anstruther street Echuca



A light supper  
will  
be provided

Gold coin donation  
towards hall  
hire costs and



there will also be an opportunity to give a donation to the Hoodys to cover the costs of the Tour.

## A Prayer for Father's Day

Gracious God, bless fathers and all father figures with such love and faithfulness that children flourish and grow in uprightness and joy. Bless those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult.

Amen

Sri Lankan  
Mass



"Embrace the vibrant spirit of our Sri Lankan community! 🇱🇰  
Join us for a special Mass led by our Sri Lankan members, followed by a delightful Sri Lankan feast. A cultural experience not to be missed! 🙌🍴  
#SriLankanCommunity  
#MassAndFeast"

2nd September 2023  
Saturday  
6:00 pm Mass

Father's  
Day Treat

"Join us post-Mass for a tasty treat! 🍴  
Our Filipino friends are hosting a special quick bite and sharing their delicious 'Pancit' noodles. Let's celebrate and honour the fathers in our community together. See you there! 🇵🇭  
#CommunityTreat  
#FilipinoFlavors #HonoringFathers"

3rd September 2023  
Sunday  
9:30 am Mass

Father's Day Weekend

Community  
Connect

St Mary's Parish  
ECHUCA  
Growing in Faith Together

## 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

## 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.

From September 1 - October 4, the Christian family unites worldwide in prayer and action for creation.

The 2023 theme is **"Let Justice and Peace Flow."** The symbol is the **mighty river**.

Prophet Amos cries out: *"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"* and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to live with thoughtful care for our local environment and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

## **ROSTERS: This Week - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

### **Commentators/Lectors:**

**6.00pm:** Doug Black  
Dominic & Lasanta Karunanayke

**9.30am:** Cecilia Merrigan  
Julie Moyle, Judi O'Farrell

### **Ministers of the Eucharist**

**6.00pm:** Kristy Serpell  
**9.30am:** Kay Westblade, Eric Melad

**St Anne's: 2<sup>nd</sup>** Kay Westblade, Anne Bennett,  
Eileen Pineo

**Setting up the Church: 2<sup>nd</sup>** Rose Quinn

**Baptism Preparation:** Mary Byrne

**Counters: 5<sup>th</sup>** Pat Whyte & Adrian Costello

**Gardening:** Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver, David Baker

## **PARISH CALENDAR (September)**

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

**6th September**—PPC Meeting

**7th September**— St. Joseph's Spirituality Day

**8th September**—Aged- Care Liturgy

**10th Sept**— after Mass Voice Referendum Kitchen  
Table Conversation

**11th Sept**— Care for Creation Team meeting 7.30pm

**13th September**—Council of Priests Shepparton  
— Liturgy Team Meeting 5.00pm

**14th September**—Sacramental Kids Movie Night

**16th & 17th**—G'Day weekend Family Groups and Teams

**17th September**—Priest Retirement Fund Weekend

**19th September**—Deanery Meeting (Eaglehawk)  
— Finance Committee Meeting

**24th September**—Testimony Saturday

**27th September**—Soup and Sandwiches



**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

## **ROSTERS: Next Week - 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September**

### **Commentators/Lectors:**

**6.00pm:** Chris Lee  
Tania Dixon, Christine Sebire

**9.30am:** Rachel McAsey  
Anne Marie Cairns, Lauren Gould

### **Ministers of the Eucharist**

**6.00pm:** Carol Purdon  
**9.30am:** Divanne Walker, Catherine Linder

**St Anne's: 9<sup>th</sup>** Pat Sanderson, Bev Kenna

**Setting up the Church: 9<sup>th</sup>** Carol Purdon

**Baptism Preparation:** Mary Byrne

**Counters: 12<sup>th</sup>** Eileen Pineo & Lois Williams

**Gardening:** Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver, David Baker

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

**Anniversaries:** Jim Lawford, Tom Turner, Bill Slattery, Jack Oman, Jack Thomas, Pat Mueller, Maria Tanda, Mary Victor, Bryan and Kenneth Warde, Alberta Villaruz, Alan Ash, Annie Pineo, Kevin Williams, Terry Nanscawen, Gerry Fitzgerald, Ruby Jasper, John Egan, Bill Carr.

**Death:**

**First Reading**      Jeremiah 20:7-9

**A reading from the prophet Jeremiah**

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**      Ps 62:2-6, 8-9

**R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

For you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

**Next week: 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

**9th & 10th September Year A**

**1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9**

**Responsorial Psalm: 94: 1-2, 6-9**

**2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10**

**Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20**

**Second Reading**      Romans 12:1-2

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

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**      Matthew 16:21-27

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

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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