

Newsletter

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
9th & 10th September 2023



Reflection

The theme for this Sunday's liturgy is that of personal and communal growth. Being a human community, the Church always needs to find ways of relating with those who do not adhere to the values and standards which define it. In the first reading from Ezekiel, we learn that the prophet is authorised by the Lord to warn and correct those behaving in a malicious way. In fact, if one is not proactive in this regard, he or she is accountable. In the Gospel, St Matthew gives the New Testament context for altering any behaviour that could be identified as unchristian. This process of correction, with the steps detailed by Matthew, is always to be done in a relational way and grounded in prayer. Such behavioural issues have always been part of



the Church, a community of people on the way who seek forgiveness rather than perfection. Today this Gospel calls each of us to live authentically as we witness to what it means to be people who forgive and are forgiven.

May the warm embrace of our Christian community extend to the Lindner Family as we joyfully welcome Harrison and Mackenzie into our midst, showering them 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 Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 11th—15th September

Wednesday: 12.00pm Communion Service (Church)

Thursday: 9.00am 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

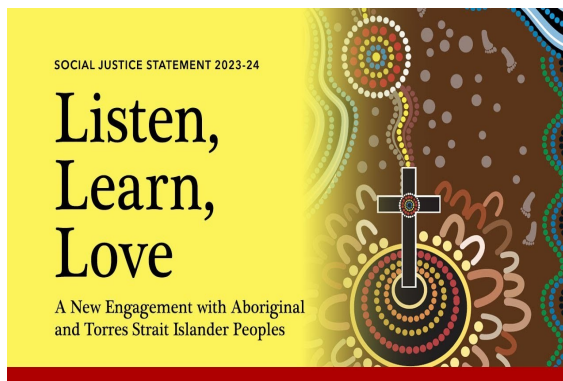
This weekend we celebrate **SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**.

In this year's Social Justice Statement, *Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, the Australian Bishops join with the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) to call on us to develop relationships of humility and love with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

NATSICC supports a Yes vote in the upcoming Referendum. The Bishops do not tell us how to vote but they urge us to inform ourselves - and to LISTEN to First Nations People [NATSICC] about their experiences and hopes. The referendum is an important moment in our history. As the Bishops and NATSICC say, we, in the Church, can model how Jesus' way of love can make a difference. Read the Bishops' Statement at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

The Bishops strongly suggest that people participate in discussion to enable discernment and recommend the **Kitchen Table Conversations** which have been developed by NATSICC. These conversations enable us to think more deeply and gain more insights into the referendum question.

You may join a conversation over a cuppa: after Mass this Sunday, after Soup and Sandwiches Wed 27th Sept or keep a look out for some other options in the coming weeks.



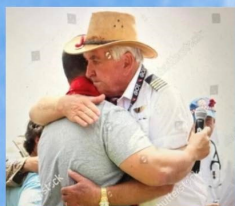
Hoodys Community of Unity Tour Echuca



Graham and Michelle Hood

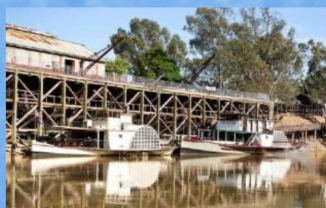
Hoody is passionate about restoring communities and uniting people in these uncertain times. Come along for a wonderful night of friendship and inspiration! 8:32

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.

St Hildegard of Bingen 1098-1179 wrote:

Glance at the sun, see the moon and stars
Gaze at the beauty of Earth's greening.
Now think what delight God gives to humankind.
But we are to work with it
For without it we cannot survive.

Date saver: 2pm Sunday Oct 1st
Showing of film **The Letter** in Meeting Room.
Pope Francis and people from around the world share ways we can work together to Care for Creation.

Parents, Grandparents, Parishioners,
please feel most welcome to come to

Year Five Community Mass

Celebrating Term 3

Tuesday • September 12, 2023 • 12:30pm
The Brigidine Centre
St. Mary's School

• 'WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM' MK 8:29

Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal for retired Priests of Sandhurst.

We have 13 retired Priests. Fundraising assists the provision of housing, annual recurrent and everyday expenses and for hospital and major medical expenses for all priests. The Foundation relies on the generosity of the priests and people of the Diocese. A special collection will be taken on the weekend of the 16th and 17th of September and is the major fundraiser of the year. Your Donations (tax deductible over \$2) are essential. This day is an opportunity to thank God for their ministry and dedication; and to pray for our priests, active and retired. Those requiring receipts of donations over \$10 are asked to use the envelopes provided. Thank you.

ST. MARY'S PARISH, ECHUCA

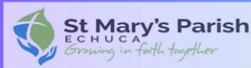
WEDNESDAY IS LADIES' NIGHT!

We will gather in the meeting room for a relaxing get-together and catch-up. We will provide some nibbles; you will need to bring along your own drinks.

(We aim to share the hosting role each month.)

All are welcome - please come along with a friend or two! Looking forward to seeing you there.

ON THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH (COMMENCING 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023)



PARISH CALENDAR (September)

- 10th Sept**— After Mass Voice Referendum Kitchen Table Conversation
- 11th Sept**— Care for Creation Team meeting 7.30pm
- 12th September**—Year 5 Community Mass Brigidine Centre, St Mary's 12.30pm All welcome
- 13th September**—Council of Priests Shepparton — Liturgy Team Meeting 5.00pm
- 16th & 17th**—G'Day weekend Family Groups and Teams
- 17th September**—Priest Retirement Fund Weekend
- 19th September**— Finance Committee Meeting
- 22nd September**—Care for Creation Equinox Celebration 5.30pm Little Tree
- 24th September**—Testimony Saturday
- 27th September**—Soup and Sandwiches with Voice Referendum Kitchen Table Conversation Wednesday Ladies' Night
- 1st October**—Care for Creation Movie- "The Letter" Sunday 2pm in the Meeting Room.

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.



Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

ROSTERS: This Week - 9th & 10th September

Commentators/Lectors:

- 6.00pm:** Chris Lee
Tania Dixon, Christine Sebire
- 9.30am:** Jarrod O'Brien
Anne Marie Cairns, Lauren Gould

Ministers of the Eucharist

- 6.00pm:** Carol Purdon
- 9.30am:** Kay Westblade, Eric Melad
- St Anne's: 9th** Pat Sanderson, Bev Kenna

Setting up the Church: 9th Carol Purdon

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 12th Eileen Pineo & Lois Williams

Gardening: Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver, David Baker

ROSTERS: Next Week - 16th & 17th September

Commentators/Lectors:

- 6.00pm:** Tania Dixon
Chamali Stouter, Chris Lee
- 9.30am:** Margaret Hart
Barb Green, Lisa Napier

Ministers of the Eucharist

- 6.00pm:** Allison McKitterick
- 9.30am:** Julie Moyle, Leilani Dorupa
- St Anne's: 16th** Eileen Roberts, Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 16th Christine Sebire

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 19th Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy, Peter Davey

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, Stephen Baker, Monica Beckwith, Julio and Nati Acebron

Anniversaries: Alan Ash, Bill Carr, Annie Pineo, Kevin Williams, Terry Nanscawen, Gerry Fitzgerald, Ruby Jasper, John Egan, Bill Carr, Des Byrne, Kath Kells, Geoffrey Garden.

Deaths: Edith Daug, Peter Davidson (Jessie's Son)

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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

R. O that today you would listen to his voice!

Harden not your hearts.
Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

Next week: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

16th & 17th September Year A

1st Reading: Sirach 27:30 - 28:7

Responsorial Psalm: 102:1-4, 9-12

2nd Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Second Reading Romans 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted
to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.'

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

