

Newsletter

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
16th & 17th September 2023



Reflection

This Sunday's readings focus on divine forgiveness which flows from the merciful heart of God. Matthew describes the experience of receiving and giving mercy in the parable of the unforgiving debtor. We hear that the one who has been released from a huge insurmountable debt through the mercy of the one he is indebted to, cannot repeat such graciousness to another who owes him such a small amount. On first reading, this event may seem incomprehensible to us. We may have a sense that if we were released from such a huge debt and offered a second chance at a less burdensome life we would, in gratitude, do likewise to others. However, the fact is that even though we experience being loved and forgiven beyond measure we can still engage in petty, small and unforgiving behaviour towards others. The writer of the Book of Sirach urges us always to forgive our neighbour and any hurt done to us. Then, when we pray, our sins will be forgiven. Pay reminds us of our human interconnectedness and that in everything we do we have an effect on the other.



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: **18th—22nd September**

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass (Church)

Thursday: 9.00am Mass (Parish Centre)

Friday: 9.00am Mass (Parish Centre)

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

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.

Passionist Parish Family Groups

Passionist Parish Family Groups have been operating at St. Mary's for 26 years. Some groups began with a cross section of ages including children. At present there are 3 groups with mainly senior adult members and we would like to add to some of these and begin some younger family groups to grow up together as a family. With many people from other countries in our Parish, Family Groups help to bring a sense of belonging. Groups meet once a month to enjoy a BBQ, picnic or shared meal etc. and are generally made up of 10 -12 family units. Being a family for all, Family Groups provide an extended family for anyone wishing to belong whatever their faith, tradition, or whether they are married, widowed, single or divorced. Limiting group numbers enables members to more easily accept, appreciate and know each other well allowing them to give support in times of need and assisting people to live their faith in a practical way. Completing registration forms assists coordinators to place newcomers in appropriate groups. Each year there are at least 2 Combined Group Functions where we can also associate with members from other groups.

Caritas Australia's Emergency Appeals – Morocco / Libya

Caritas Australia is helping in responding to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals at www.caritas.org.au



EMERGENCY APPEALS

Morocco Earthquake and Libya Floods
www.caritas.org.au

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.

"TEAMS OF OUR LADY"

A MOVEMENT FOR MARRIED SPIRITUALITY

"Teams" is a small group of married couples who meet on a Monthly basis, usually at each other's homes, to share a meal, fun and fellowship. The Host Couple also presents a Prayer and Reflection time, which often sparks interesting discussions.

Being a member of "Teams", with Our Lady as our model, helps to support the growth of married couples together. If you would like to enquire further, please call Prue Galea 0418 543495 or Rob Morris 0400 512021)

The **Victorian Ministry Through Christ** are an ecumenical group who are hoping to establish a group in Echuca. For more information call Allan and Maree Johnson 0429837523.

Fellow Parishioners – Can you Help?

As a Parish initiative we are going to have an annual **Parish Magazine** – but we do not have a name! The magazine will focus on our ministry groups, their people and the general Parish community. Our magazine's name should reflect our community and the place in which we live.

All suggestions should be forwarded to pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au (Julie Moyle). The final date for name suggestions will be 26th September.

**All ministry leaders will be contacted in the near future for their contributions.

Thanks again everyone for your support and commitment to growing our Parish community.

A date to note – Our magazine will be launched at the Parish Christmas Party on 10th December – put the date in your diary now!

Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal for retired Priests of Sandhurst.

A special collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend for the support of the retired priests of our Diocese. The Retired Priests Foundation seeks your generosity in giving to this collection. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Those requiring receipts of donations over \$10 are asked to use the envelopes provided. Thank you.

ST. MARY'S PARISH, ECHUCA

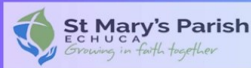
WEDNESDAY IS LADIES' NIGHT!

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 - October)

- 16th & 17th—G'Day weekend Family Groups and Teams
- 16th & 17th September—Priest Retirement Fund Weekend
- 18th September—Care for Creation Meeting 7.30pm
- 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 Kitchen Table Conversation
5:30pm Wednesday Ladies' Night
- 1st October—Care for Creation Movie-The Letter Sunday 2pm
- 2nd October—Social Committee Meeting 2.00pm
- 4th October—PPC Meeting
Bereavement Meeting
- 8th October—St. Joe's (Brigid, Delaney, Chisholm Houses)
Involved in Sunday Mass
- 11th October—Liturgy Team Meeting

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.



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

ROSTERS: This 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, Bebber Mitchell

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

ROSTERS: Next Week - 23rd & 24th September

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Terry McKitterick
Ruth Phillips, Kristy Serpell

9.30am: Noela Boyer
Lyn Addun, Kerry McLoughlan

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Carmel MacKenzie
9.30am: Cecilia Merrigan, Phil Stiles

St Anne's: 23rd Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green,
Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 23rd Tania Dixon

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 26th Roma Bowman & Margaret Hart

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 Vogeles, Fred Molluso, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Peter Phillips, Stephen Baker, Monica Beckwith, Julio and Nati Acebron

Anniversaries: Des Byrne, Kath Kells, Geoffrey Garden, Ethan Wood, Reno Borea, Nell Barry.

Deaths: Ryan Archard, Roma's grandson, Sr Anne Boyd C.S.B.

First Reading Sirach 27:30 - 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance
of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by the
commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your
neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most
High, and overlook the offence.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

Next week: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

23rd & 24th September Year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Responsorial Psalm: 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Second Reading Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on
others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die,
we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong
to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and
came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of
the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I
forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven
times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy
-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a
king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants.
When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who
owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of
paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold,
together with his wife and children and all his possessions,
to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down
at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay
the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for
him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this
servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant
who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by
the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe
me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and
implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you."
But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had
him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His
fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw
what had happened, and they went to their master and
reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for
him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that
debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not
bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I
had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him
over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And
that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless
you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.