

# Newsletter

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
23rd & 24th September 2023



## Reflection

Our attention shifts slightly in these last Sundays of Ordinary Time. We turn from concentration on the character and responsibilities of discipleship to reflection on the importance of the end of time. As we move toward the close of the liturgical year, we are invited to consider the final coming of Christ and the last judgment.

The thought of judgment is enough to strike fear in the hearts of many. We sometimes experience tension between the idea of divine justice, which requires that the good be adequately rewarded and the evil be appropriately punished, and that of the mercy of God, which we hope will be generously extended to us. As seen in the readings for this Sunday, the justice of God does not conform to the standards of human justice. It is incomprehensible, because its foundation is mercy. While we might find consolation in this view of



divine judgment when it is directed toward us, our hearts do not always seem to be generous enough to rejoice in the mercy extended to others. It is almost as if we feel that we have been cheated in some way when God is merciful to others. However, divine mercy can work in us to abolish our pettiness and indignation and replace it with generosity of heart. We are called to conduct ourselves with this kind of generosity, this kind of love, this kind of mercy. © Dianne Bergant CSA

**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 Mass**

**Sunday : 9:30am Mass**

### Weekday Masses: **25th—29th 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

## 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](mailto:pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au) (Julie Moyle). The final date for name suggestions will be 26<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> December – put the date in your diary now!

If any of you have any spare TIP Passes that you do not need, could you please drop them to the Parish Office? We have green waste from both the Parish house and Church to dispose of. Thanks everyone.

## 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](http://www.caritas.org.au)



## Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River  
Amos 5: 24

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.

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*I love a sunburnt country,  
A land of sweeping plains,  
Of ragged mountain ranges,  
Of droughts and flooding rains.*

In a few lines Dorothea Mackellar's poem captures Australia's harsh reality. Fittingly she also recognises that there is beauty in this wildness. Something to be admired.

Floods are traumatic experiences, but they also bring renewal to the land, the waterways, the community and to nature. Here on the floodplains of the Murray floods are in the fifth season. Watch as our landscape comes back to life. Pray that our communities are able to partake in that renewal.

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## Come and See

*Imagine a letter arrives at your inbox bearing the Vatican crest. What would Pope Francis want of you. The message offers you the opportunity to view the film titled **“The Letter”**. It is an engaging film based on the Pope's *“Laudato Si”*. It pulls at the heart strings but leaves you with much to contemplate and discuss.*

**October the 1st, 2.00pm at the Parish Centre.**

**Admission is free and afternoon tea will be served.**

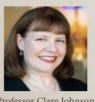
Diocese of Sandhurst

## Liturgical Ministry Seminars

- Our Lady's Church, Wangaratta Sth (Sat 14 Oct 2023, 10:30-2pm)
- St Brendan's Church, Shepparton (Wed 18 Oct 2023, 5:30-8:30pm)

### Plenary Keynote Presentation

Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter *Desiderio Desideravi* (2022) on Liturgical Formation of the People of God invites renewed reflection on the preparation and celebration of the Church's liturgy. In this keynote address, Prof. Clare Johnson, Director of the ACU Centre for Liturgy will provide an overview of Pope Francis' letter and suggest some implications for liturgical ministries. This will be followed by a choice of 3 workshop options: 1. Ministry of the Word - Dr Chris Cotter; 2. Extraordinary Ministry of Holy Communion - Ms Lyn Breen; and 3. Ministry of Liturgical Music - Dr Paul Taylor; that will explore areas of affirmation, challenge and invitation in these ministries.



Professor Clare Johnson



Dr Paul Taylor



Dr Chris Cotter



Ms Lyn Breen

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)

**24th September**—Testimony Saturday

**27th September**—**Soup and Sandwiches**  
with Kitchen Table Conversation  
**5:30pm Wednesday Ladies' Night**

**28th September**—SLT 10.00am

**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, Delany, Chisholm Houses)  
Involved in Sunday Mass

**11th October**—Liturgy Team Meeting

**13th October**—Aged-Care Liturgy

**14th & 15th October**—G'Day Weekend –Men's Ministry and  
Care for Creation Team

**14th & 15th October**—Community Connect Share the Dignity

## "Changing Places":

Across Australia, 259 "Changing Places" are available to people who have their own key. These very large toilet facilities allow people with high support needs to access them when required. Within our Diocese we have such facilities in Bendigo, EchUCA, Kerang, Shepparton and Yarrawonga. Location information and more details can be found in Sandpiper eNews this week. Mary Pianta. Disability Contact Coordinator.

You can apply for a 24/7 access key (MLAK key) <https://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-services/Community-support-programs/Access-inclusion>

### ROSTERS: This Week - 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September

#### Commentators/Lectors:

**6.00pm:** Terry McKiterick  
Ruth Phillips, Kristy Serpell

**9.30am:** Noelas Boyer  
Lyn Addun, Kerry McLoughlan

#### Ministers of the Eucharist

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

**St Anne's: 23<sup>rd</sup>** Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green,  
Kerry McLoughlan

**Setting up the Church: 23<sup>rd</sup>** Tania Dixon

**Setting up the Church: 24<sup>th</sup>** Bernie Oliver

**Baptism Preparation:** Jaqui Deola

**Counters: 26<sup>th</sup>** Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

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

### ROSTERS: Next Week - 30<sup>th</sup> September & 1<sup>st</sup> October

#### Commentators/Lectors:

**6.00pm:** Rose Quinn  
Marie McDonald, Carla Chisholm

**9.30am:** Theresa Jacobs  
Felix Pontejos, Rob Morris

#### Ministers of the Eucharist

**6.00pm:** Matthew Scott  
**9.30am:** Adrian Costello, Divanne Walker

**St Anne's: 30<sup>th</sup>** Kay Westblade, Anne Bennett,  
Eileen Pineo

**Setting up the Church: 30<sup>th</sup>** Kate Bruty

**Setting up the Church: 1<sup>st</sup>** Noela Boyer

**Baptism Preparation:** Jaqui Deola

**Counters: 3<sup>rd</sup>** Pat Whyte & Adrian Costello

**Gardening:** John Zealley, Ken Hatfield, Alfred Grigg

## YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

**Sick:** Bruno Barbera, Pat Davey, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Jayden Williams, Jodie Walton, Murry Perrett, John & Chloris Dignan, Beatrice Phillips, Anne Dodd, Patricia Voge, Fred Molluso, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Peter Phillips, David Baker, Stephen Baker, Monica Beckwith, Julio and Nati Acebron

**Anniversaries:** Ethan Wood, Reno Borea, Nell Barry, Leslie Noonan, Wilma Scott, Mini Sanehez, Fran O'Neale.

**Deaths:** Cameron Purdon (Carol Purdon's Son), Kevin Doyle (Elmore)



**First Reading**      Isaiah 55:6-9

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**R. The Lord is near to all who call him.**

I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. **R.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

**Next week: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

**30<sup>th</sup> September & 1<sup>st</sup> October Year A**

**1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28**

**Responsorial Psalm: 24:4-9**

**2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-11**

**Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32**

**Second Reading**      Philippians 1:20-24, 27

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

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or  
by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then  
death would bring me something more; but then again, if  
living in this body means doing work which is having good  
results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught  
in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ,  
which would be very much the better, but for me to stay  
alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.  
Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be un-  
worthy of the gospel of Christ.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**      Matthew 20:1-16

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a  
landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his  
vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for  
one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going  
out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in  
the market place and said to them, "You go to my vine-  
yard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At  
about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he  
went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh  
hour he went out and found more men standing round,  
and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here  
idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they an-  
swered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too."  
In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bail-  
iff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting  
with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those  
who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward  
and received one denarius each. When the first came,  
they expected to get more, but they too received one  
denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landown-  
er. "The men who came last" they said "have done only  
one hour, and you have treated them the same as us,  
though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat."  
He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not  
being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius?  
Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer  
as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like  
with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?"  
Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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