

Reflection

In every life there is a struggle between obedience and disobedience, and this struggle takes various twists and turns. At times we are willing to conform to regulations set from the outside, and at times we are not. We are invited to choose in favour of the reign of God, or we are free to ignore the invitation. Those who are fundamentally righteous sometimes fall from grace, and people considered evil to the core sometimes reform their lives. What ultimately counts are not the promises made, but the actions taken.

We are called to discipleship, and there may well be urgency in this call, but it is an invitation that is to be accepted freely. As is the case with life itself, options are placed before us all the way along the road. We are invited to choose in favour of the reign of God, or we are free to ignore the invitation.

However, the invitation always remains open to us because God's desire for our acceptance is persistent and enduring.

The real choice set before us today is the imitation of Christ. The specific characteristic of Christ today is his humility. Since demanding one's rights can undermine the loving quality of community, Jesus' humility is offered for our imitation. It is very clear that whichever aspect of discipleship we examine, some aspect of community is also present. To be a disciple of Jesus is to follow him humbly as a member of a believing community.

© Dianne Bergant CSA.



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: **2nd - 6th October**

Wednesday: 11.00am Funeral Prayers (K. Russel)
12.00pm Memorial Service for Cameron Purdon
12.00pm Mass (Church)
w/children from St. Mary's School

Thursday: 9.00am Mass (Parish Centre)
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)

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

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.

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



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

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

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.

An Invitation too good to resist!!! Last Chance!!!

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.

Senior Leadership Team Report and Discussion (September 2023)

Fr. Novie, Rob Morris, Margaret Hart, Julie Moyle and Christine Sebire

G'day Weekend: The G'day Weekend has been a success so far, with a positive response and feedback from the parishioners. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our parish ministries in organising this event. We should continue to gather feedback and make improvements where necessary to ensure it remains a highlight of our parish calendar.

Financial Outlook and Parish Direction: There are concerns about our parish's financial situation not keeping pace with the growth and vitality of our community. We must explore strategies for better stewardship and leveraging the talents and gifts within our parish for various tasks. This includes fundraising initiatives and responsible financial planning to support our ongoing ministries.

Multicultural Inclusion: While the hospitality space has effectively welcomed multicultural communities, we must take more intentional steps to foster inclusion. This might involve creating opportunities for different cultural groups to interact and share their traditions and experiences. We should consider organising events or initiatives encouraging parish members to mix and build relationships across cultures.

School Involvement: Acknowledging the positive contributions of our local schools is important. Involving them as hosts for events like the G'day weekend can be mutually beneficial. Introducing St. Mary's Family Masses and the upcoming St. Joseph's Family House Masses is a positive step towards deeper engagement with school families. We should remain open and adaptable to their responses and continue collaborating to benefit our parish and the wider community.

In conclusion, our discussion has highlighted key areas where we can strengthen our parish's vitality and community engagement. By addressing financial challenges, enhancing multicultural inclusion, and deepening our collaboration with schools, we can continue to grow and thrive as a faith community. These initiatives align with our mission to live out the Gospel and serve our parishioners effectively.

Elizabeth Lozano is giving away her late husband's Yamaha Grand GC1 to a passionate instrument lover. If you know of a fellow teacher, student, family or church that might be interested please contact the office 5482 1127

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.

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

PARISH CALENDAR (September - October)

- 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
- 17th October**—St Joe's Graduation Mass 5.00pm
- 17th & 18th**—Colette away: Secretaries Conference
- 18th October**—Mass with St Mary's children 12.00pm
Liturgical Ministries Seminar 3.00pm
- 21st October**—St Joe's Family Mass
- 22nd October**—Combined Family Groups Gathering

Cameron Purdon's memorial service will be on Wednesday the 4th of October at 12.00pm.



ROSTERS: Next Week - 30th September & 1st 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: 30th** Kay Westblade, Anne Bennett, Eileen Pineo

Setting up the Church: 30th Kate Bruty

Setting up the Church: 1st Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Jaqui Deola

Counters: 2nd Pat Whyte & Adrian Costello

Gardening: John Zealley, Ken Hatfield, Alfred Grigg

ROSTERS: Next Week - 7th & 8th October

Commentators/Lectors:

- 6.00pm:** Christine Sebire
Terry McKiterick, Kajini Karunanayke
- 9.30am:** Barb Green
Rachel McAsey, Rod Chisholm

Ministers of the Eucharist

- 6.00pm:** Nick Lee
- 9.30am:** Erik Melad, Margaret Hart
- St Anne's: 7th** Pat Sanderson, Bev Kenna

Setting up the Church: 7th Rose Quinn

Setting up the Church: 8th Julie Moyle

Baptism Preparation: Jaqui Deola

Counters: 9th Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

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

Anniversaries: Leslie Noonan, Wilma Scott, Mini Sanehez, Fran O'Neale, Harry McCann, Jan Hynes, Alicia Miller, Clarrie Worsnop, Grace Sciotto, Magno Alcanzia, Roseanne Taylor and Greg Pollock

Death: Kevin Russell

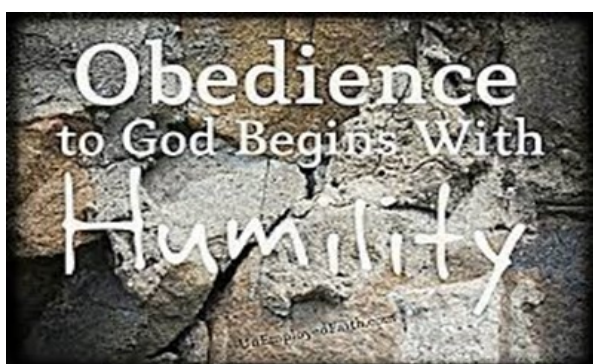
First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

Next week: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

7th & 8th October Year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: 79:9, 12-16, 19-20

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.