

Reflection

In the ancient world it was not uncommon for rulers to describe themselves as gods, claiming to have certain divine powers and qualities. The people of Israel would never allow their rulers to be called gods. There is only one God, the Lord. Their faith is expressed in today's psalm: "The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods (pagan rulers). The gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens.'

The people of Israel were, however, tolerant of pagan rulers calling themselves gods. They saw these rulers as having a subordinate role in God's governance of the world. Through them God's will could be accomplished among the peoples. A good example was Cyrus, the Persian king mentioned in today's reading, whom the Jews saw as God's chosen instrument to liberate them from their exile in Babylon. In our day the leaders of nations have the power to effect good and promote the values of the kingdom of God. Not all leaders do this but there are many who strive to exercise wise and just leadership. There need not be an unbridgeable gulf between civil governance and the governance of God. In fulfilling our obligations toward the State, we can in fact be promoting the values of the kingdom of God. Respecting legitimate temporal authority is one means of paying homage to God, the only One to whom all praise and honour are due.

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Parish Office Hours
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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: 23rd - 27th October

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass (Church)

Thursday: No Mass

Friday: No Mass

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

Community Connect - 14th and 15th October 'Share the Dignity'

'Share the Dignity' is a national charity making a difference in the lives of women experiencing homelessness, domestic violence or simply doing it tough. The charity collects and distributes period products and other personal hygiene products. Items include – Shampoo and Conditioner, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Deodorant, Soap and Period Products. A collection box will be available at Mass for the next couple of weeks. If you are able to donate, please note that all products collected locally are distributed to local women experiencing hardship. Feel free to call Julie Moyle on 0409 826336 if you have any questions or queries. Thank you.



REVELATIONS

We're thrilled to announce the inaugural Parish magazine launch in December 2023 and invite you to join this exciting endeavour. The launch event is on the 10th of December 2023, at our Parish Christmas Party.

To ensure the success of this project, we are seeking your help for sponsorship to assist with production costs. Your support in the following categories is greatly appreciated:

Gold Sponsorship: \$150
(includes a quarter-page advertisement)

Silver Sponsorship: \$100
(offers a double business card-size advertisement)

Bronze Sponsorship: \$50
(provides a business card-size advertisement)

We are also seeking one major sponsor for the second-to-last page of the magazine, available for a \$1000 contribution.

We plan to print 200 hard copies for distribution and will feature the magazine on our Parish website. Sponsors can provide a JPEG image or business card for inclusion, and tax invoices/receipts are available upon request.

Your consideration and potential support are highly valued as we aim to make our inaugural Parish magazine a vibrant reflection of our community. For more information, please contact Julie Moyle, Parish Community Coordinator, at 0409-826-336 or via email at pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au.

COMBINED FAMILY GROUP

LUNCHEON

DOOR
PRIZES

ALL PARISHIONERS MOST WELCOME

Where: FROMELLES
RSL

When: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd 2023

Time: 12.00pm

RSVP SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER

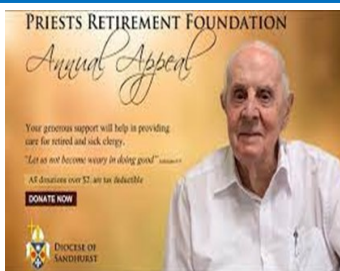
TO LEADERS IF IN FAMILY GROUP OR
OTHERWISE CARMEL 0417 164 669

PURCHASE OWN MEALS

Join us for the **Catholic Mission Weekend** on October 21st and 22nd, 2023, and be part of a meaningful experience. Don't forget to pick up envelopes at the entrances of the church to support the Catholic Mission.



PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF SANDHURST



The parish has gathered a total of \$1,694.25, which includes contributions in the form of cash, checks, and credit cards for our Priest Retirement Fund Appeal. This appeal is dedicated to supporting the retired priests of the Diocese of Sandhurst, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your generous donations to this important cause.

Festive Christmas Raffle

Hello fellow Parishioners

Our Christmas raffle for 2023 will be bumper hampers! We are asking all Parish families to donate an item for a hamper. Non-perishable goods, such as wine, chocolates, gourmet goodies, home décor, books or vouchers would be great. If you're

not able to purchase goods, you might like to make a donation for us to purchase something on your behalf.. The Festive Christmas raffle will be drawn on 10th December at our Parish Christmas party. Tickets will be available for sale at both Masses from the 11th/12th November - \$2 each or 3 for \$5. If you have any queries please contact Margaret Hart on 0419 506 254 or Julie Moyle on 0409 826 336. Thank you so much for your support.



Fr Novie, Margaret and Julie.

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.

PARISH CALENDAR (October-November)

22nd October—Combined Family Groups Gathering

24th October—Finance Meeting 4.30pm

27th to 31st— Fr Novie away

28th October—6.00pm Mass Fr Des Testimony Weekend

29th October—9.30am Fr Des St Mary's Family Mass

1st November—All Saints' Day Mass 12.00pm

1st November—PPC Meeting 5.30pm

2nd November—All Souls' Day Mass at St Mary's School 12.30

—PPC Meeting 5.30pm

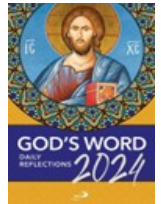
3rd November— Memorial Liturgy 6.00pm

5th November—11.00am Mass Tongala

God's Word & Columban Calendar 2024



If you wish to purchase God's Word or the Calendar, please let the office know. The closing date for the order is 30th November 2023. Thank you



We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new Kid's Corner, located at the back of the church. In Kid's Corner, you'll find a variety of activities to keep you engaged during the service: **Colouring Sheets: We have prepared delightful colouring sheets for you to unleash your creativity. You can choose to stay at the back of the church to colour or take them to your seats. Books: We have a collection of wonderful books for you to enjoy. You can borrow a book to read and discover new adventures.** We hope the Kid's Corner adds more joy to your church experience. Feel free to explore it during your next visit!



ROSTERS: This Week - 21st & 22nd October

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Chris Lee

Nick Lee, Sr. Margaret

9.30am: Rachel McAsey

Anne Marie Cairns, Noela Boyer

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Kate Bruty

9.30am: John Moyle, Bebher Mitchell

St Anne's Church Cleaner: 21st

Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 21st Carol Purdon

Setting up the Church: 22nd Rachel McAsey

Baptism Preparation: Jacqui Deola

Counters: 23rd Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: John and Julie Moyle

Gardening: John Zealley, Ken Hatfield, Alfred Grigg

ROSTERS: Next Week - 28th & 29th October

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Mary Atkins

Marie McDonald, Ruth Phillips

9.30am: Margaret Hart

Chris Armstrong, Lyn Addum

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Tania Dixon

9.30am: Kay Westblade, Catherine Lindner

St Anne's Church Cleaner: 28th

Kay Westblade, Eileen Pineo, Bev Stapleton

Setting up the Church: 28th Christine Sebire

Setting up the Church: 29th Julie Moyle

Baptism Preparation: Jacqui Deola

Counters: 30th Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: Kym Bridges

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, Bernadette McClelland.

Anniversaries: Ray Wallace, Betty Kyne, Anthony Allan, Stanley Walsh, Harold Oliver, Peter Hervey, Helen Scampo, Alan McCall, Margaret Henwood, Stella Moore.

Death:

First Reading Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:
It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the
setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**

Worship the Lord in his temple,
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king,'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

Next week: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

28th & 29th October Year A

1st Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

Responsorial Psalm: 17:2-4, 47, 51

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he replied, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.