



St Mary's Parish
E C H U C A
Growing in faith together

Newsletter

**2nd Sunday of Lent.
24th & 25th of February 2024**

Reflection

The account of the Transfiguration of the Lord appears in the three synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. The three accounts conclude with Jesus' command (implicit in Luke) to Peter, James and John to tell no one about it. It would be very difficult to explain what happened and even more difficult to explain its meaning for them and for others at the time. It was easier to keep it secret. Only in Mark's account we read the line: "though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean." The transfiguration and appearance of Moses and Elijah was a graced and opportune moment in their journey to Jerusalem and the conflicts they would endure.



The second reading, like last week's, alludes to the first reading As Abraham is asked to sacrifice his son, Isaac, God the Father offered his Son up to death to benefit us all. St Paul's letter to the Romans develops the paschal mystery for his readers. We come to learn God's actions of offering Christ as Gift, choosing and forgiving his loved ones and sharing his Son's glorious resurrection with believers. God does not want the death of anyone, Isaac, Jesus or the sinner. He is all for us!

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times: 24th & 25th February 2024

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass
Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 26th February—1st March

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass (Church)
Thursday: 9.00am Mass (Parish Centre)
Friday: 9.00am Mass (Church)

Weekend Mass Times: 2nd & 3rd March 2024

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass
Sunday : 9:30am 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

Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim

Email: nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au

Mobile: 0450 185 021

Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle

Email: pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au

Mobile: 0409 826 336

Admin Assistant: Marianne Kelly

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday—Thursday : 9am - 1pm (February)

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

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

PARISH CALENDAR (February/March)

26th February—Social Committee Meeting 2.00pm
27th February—Lenten Community Reconciliation 7.30pm
28th February— *Ladies' Night 5.30pm
3rd March—*Clean Up Australia Day * St Mary's Foundation Family Mass
6th March—PPC meeting 6.30pm
8th March—Aged Care Anointing Mass Wharparilla 10.30am Bupa 2.00pm

Caritas Ks: Tuesday 19th March 2024

Put your compassion into action.

Make every step count – encourage your family and friends to come and be part of the day!

8am- 6pm based in the St Mary's Church grounds

***Raising Awareness, Raising Funds, Building Community
Join our parish community for a day of celebration!***

*Come for a walk, come for a cuppa with special guests,
come for Mass or just come to be part of a great day. Stay
tuned to find out more!*



Join us for the **Lenten Community Reconciliation** this upcoming Tuesday (27th Feb) at 7:30 pm. The Men's Ministry has prepared for us the liturgy with an emphasis on seeking forgiveness, allowing us to be harmoniously reconnected with God and embark on a journey of renewal.



Sunday March 3rd

8-11.00am



Meet under the Old Echuca Bridge/Onion

Patch behind the former Information Centre.

Bring your hardy shoes, sunhat and water and join our community in Caring for Creation.

You might like to pick up rubbish, give moral support or just enjoy the riverside bush in the morning!

Morning Tea and garbage collection materials provided.

Unveiling Hidden Wardrobe Gems

FUNDRAISING FASHION EVENT

Date: Friday, 15th of March 2024
Time: 6:30 pm for 7 pm start
Venue: St Mary's Parish Hall, Anstruther Street, Echuca
Cost: \$40 per person
(includes food and complimentary drink)

Tickets are available for purchase at
Trybooking - QR Code
or after Parish Mass on the weekends.



Contact Person:

Mel Slattery - 0417822589
or email the parish office
at admin@stmarysechuca.org.au



Join the 150th Anniversary Committee for St. Mary's Parish!

In the exciting anticipation of our upcoming milestone, the 150th Anniversary of St. Mary's Parish in 2025, we are thrilled to announce the formation of a dedicated Anniversary Committee. We cordially invite you to join us in planning and preparing for this significant event that celebrates our rich history and community spirit.

For those interested, please don't hesitate to contact me at 0450185021 or email me at nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au. Your commitment and creativity will be highly valued as we work together to make this anniversary a truly exceptional experience for the entire St. Mary's Parish community.

Let's come together to create lasting memories and celebrate the legacy of St. Mary's Parish.

- Fr. Novie-

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 FAMILY GROUP STORIES

These stories are at the back of the church in folders and are available for everyone to read.

Please sign in the book provided when taking out and returning. This is an opportunity for you to learn something of the lives of some fellow parishioners.

Parish Sacramental Information Evening

Wednesday 20th March,
7pm at St Mary's Church, Echuca

If you're considering enrolling your children in the Sacramental Program 2024 to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Communion, we invite you to attend this information evening.

There will be significant changes in our program based on feedback from the Sacramental Team and families during the review.

For more information, please contact Tania Dixon on 0448 063 304 or email at tdixon@smechuca.catholic.edu.au or the parish office at St. Mary's Parish on 54821127 (Tuesday to Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm), or email the parish at admin@stmarysechuca.org.au



This weekend we welcome and extend our prayers and support to **Danielle Johnstone (Catechumen) and Wilma Vesty (Candidate)** as they embark on this journey, becoming integral members of the Catholic community through the RCIA Program.

ROSTERS: This Week - 24th & 25th February 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire
Tania Dixon, Marie McDonald

9.30am: Rachel McAsey
Julie Moyle, Lynn Addun

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Allison McKitterick
9.30am: Adrian Costello, Bernie Oliver

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 24th
Kay Westblade, Eileen Pineo, Bev Stapleton

Setting up the Church: 24th Christine Sebire

Setting up the Church: 25th Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Bec Lloyd

Counters: 27th Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: 26th Carmel Mackenzie

Gardening: Michael Delahunty, Damien Byrne,
Fr Des.

ROSTERS: Next Week - 2nd & 3rd March 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Chris Lee
Nick Lee, Kristy Serpell

9.30am: Margaret Hart
Cecilia Merrigan, Rob Morris

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Bob Cooper
9.30am: Kay Westblade, Loretta Holman

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 2nd
Pat Sanderson, Bev Kenna

Setting up the Church: 2nd Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 3rd Julie Moyle

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 5th Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy
& Peter Davey

Hospital Visiting: 26th Barb Green

Gardening: Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver & David Baker

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: Julio and Nati Acebron, David Baker, Bruno Barbera, Monica Beckwith, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, John & Chloris Dignan, Anne Dodd, Caroline Farley, Bernadette McClelland, Fred Molluso, John Monigatti, Margaret Oman, Murray Perrett, Beatrice Phillips, Peter Phillips, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Patricia Vogege, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace.

Anniversaries: Charlie Pellegrino, Reece Lamb, Joe Westblade, Matthew Roberts, Sr Athanasius Griffiths, Jack O'Mullane, Jim Pickett, Marlene Beck, Pat Hansen, Fr Brendan Quirke, Jonathon Barber, Maurie Kenna, Josh Kenna, Christine Hughes, Vera Wragg, Jill Hooper, Betty McCluskey, Jim Smith, Allan Pollock.

Deaths:

First Reading

Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Second Reading**

Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Gospel Acclamation****Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 115:10, 15-19

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said:

'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:

I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

Gospel

Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.****Next week: 3rd Sunday of Lent****2nd & 3rd March Year B****1st Reading:****Exodus 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17****Responsorial Psalm:****Ps 18:8-11****2nd Reading:****1 Corinthians 1:22-25****Gospel:****John 2:13-25**