

Reflection

The call of Samuel by God and the call of the first two apostles by Christ are announced in the readings today. Samuel is a young boy and does not quite understand what is being said and how he is called. Taking Eli's advice he waits for the voice to call him a fourth time: Samuel! Samuel! And he is ready to reply: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." God gave Samuel a most difficult task to do which is omitted from the reading today. Then the next morning, again with Eli's firm encouragement Samuel gave him the message. For today the message is not the issue, the call of a young boy to be God's servant and mouthpiece is the crucial point.



John the Baptist, similar to Eli, guides Andrew and the unnamed disciple to follow Jesus. The next morning Andrew finds his brother, Peter, and introduces him to Jesus. This time the mission with its message is not yet revealed but in trust and faith they start their discipleship.

"Come and see" is more than a call, more than an invitation. The disciples embarked on a personal encounter with the Lord. They "saw and stayed with him" which deepened their relationship and enabled Andrew to say: "We have found the Messiah". The Gospel according to John repeats the call to the reader to "Come and See"; to "Stay and Believe" by the words and actions, the signs and wonders that the Lord has given.

Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim

Email: nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au

Mobile: 0450 185 021

Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle

Email: pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au

Mobile: 0409826336

Admin Assistant: Marianne Kelly

Parish Office Hours

Thursday : 9am - 1pm (January)

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

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times: 13th & 14th January 2024

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 15th - 19th January

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass/Communion Service

Weekend Mass Times: 20th & 21st January 2024

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Reconciliation: Not in January

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

PARISH CALENDAR (January)

January.

The office will only be open on a Thursday from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

24th January—Ladies' Night 5:30pm

26th January—Australia Day (Public Holiday)

29th January—Combined Staff Mass (St. Mary's and St. Joe's)

You're all invited to our **'Wednesday's Ladies' Drinks'**. On the 4th Wednesday of each month 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.

Kay Westblade 0447 501 069 and Jan Tarr 0429 237 780



**May the warm embrace of our
Christian community extend a joyful
welcome to**

**Sage Elizabeth Hay
daughter of
Sean and Jordyn**

**as she receives the sacrament of
Baptism this weekend.**

Can and Bottle Collection Point!

We will have a collection point beside the Parish kiosk for aluminium cans (not crushed) and glass bottles.

Please encourage your friends and family to collect too!

All funds raised by the Parish will go to supporting the needs of our community.

Looking forward to your support.



Dear Parishioners,

Temporary Parish Office Arrangements for January 2024

I'll be away on my annual holiday, returning to the Philippines from December 26th to January 26th. With no permanent Parish Secretary available, we've collaborated with the Senior Leadership Team to create a temporary plan for smooth operations.

In January, the Parish Office will be open exclusively on Thursdays from 9 am to 1 pm, managed by Marianne Kelly, our administrative assistant. On days when Marianne is unavailable, Julie Moyle will be the point of contact for urgent matters like Anointing of the Sick (reaching out to Fr. Des or Fr. Damien), parish emergencies, pastoral concerns, and essential needs. Julie will coordinate with various ministry groups. Building issues will go to the Maintenance Team (Rob Morris, Bob Cooper, and Bunny Oliver), and financial matters will go to Margaret Hart. Mary Atkins and our team will continue managing funerals and liturgical matters.

We regret any inconvenience caused and appreciate your patience. We're maximising the support of our staff and volunteers during this time. Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We hope to resume normal parish office operations soon.

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.

Columban Calendars are available at the Office for \$10.00.

"God's Word 2024" have not arrived as yet.

If you have any news items/events please email to the office.



ROSTERS: This Week - 13th & 14th January 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Chris Lee
Marie McDonald, Sr Margaret
9.30am: Chris Armstrong
Lyn Addin, Felix Pontejos

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Bob Cooper
9.30am: Divanne Walker, John Vagg

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 13th

Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 13th Kate Bruty

Setting up the Church: 14th Rod Chisholm

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 16th Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: Barb Green

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

ROSTERS: Next Week - 20th & 21st January 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Terry McKitterick
Chamali Stouter, Carla Chisholm
9.30am: Rachel McAsey
Kerry McLoughlan, Anne Marie Cairns

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Tania Dixon
9.30am: Mel Slattery, Marg Walter

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 20th

Pat Sanderson, Bev Kenna

Setting up the Church: 20th Christine Sebire

Setting up the Church: 21st Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 23rd Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: Jackie Delahunty

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

I have emailed out the rosters for Hospital Visiting and St Anne's cleaning. Please let me know if I have missed any body or you have not received them. Also let me know if you have not received any other of the rosters, I can't fix what I don't know.

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: Julio and Nati Acebron, Eileen Anderson, 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 Voge, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace.

Anniversaries: Isahia Coghill, Antonio Lucic, Bill Quinn, Mary Sidorow, Vincent Connellan, Carmela Stivala, Molly Condon, Evie Parsons, Olive Clark, Terry O'Brien, Molly Fish, Molly Booth, Robert Russell, Dianne Egan, Bill Sidorow, Maggie Mullens, Mary McWhinney, Fabian Lucic, Pino Surake, Yvonne Dargan, Patricia Bannon, John Gleeson.

Deaths: Nada Barkas, Shane McDonald

First Reading

1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me'. Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening"'. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10

**R. Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. **R.**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. **R.**

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.

My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. **R.**

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. **R.**

Next week: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**20th & 21st January Year B****1st Reading:****Jonah 3:1-5, 10****Responsorial Psalm:****Ps 24:4-9****2nd Reading:****Corinthians & 29-31****Gospel:****Mark 1:14-20****Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

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

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Gospel Acclamation****Alleluia, alleluia!**

We have found the Messiah:
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia!**Gospel**

John 1:35-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' - which means Teacher - 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' - which means the Christ - and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' - meaning Rock.

The Gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**