

Reflection

Signs of a true prophet are humility and that the message is greater than the messenger. John the Baptist is the model prophet-precursor as a prophet his words focus on repentance and as a precursor he comes before Christ but never puts himself in front. He prepares the way for the Lord and prepares the people to receive him. John baptises with water, The Christ will baptise with Holy Spirit.

Mark begins his gospel with the very simple words: "The Beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ the Son of God." What is professed at the beginning is hidden or "Secret" until the end when Jesus shows himself to his disciples as the Risen Lord. The Good News is offered to those who wish to listen. And in listening they come to conversion and discipleship. The mystery of Christ is with us. We come to celebrate this mystery through conversion, witness and love.

The words in the first reading are spoken in the Gospel. Prepare, Shout out and Believe the Lord is among us. The image of making a straight path through valleys and mountains is again repeated. This work of levelling is not just topographical but spiritual. We must identify our own depths and heights that prevent the Lord coming into our lives.



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Parish Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday : 9am - 1pm
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Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle
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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times: 9th & 10th December
Saturday: 6:00pm Mass
Sunday : 9:30am Mass Christmas Party

Weekday Masses: 11th - 15th December
Wednesday: 10.30am St Joe's Staff Mass
12.00pm St Mary's Graduation
Thursday: 9.30am Mass
Friday: 9.00am Mass (Church)

Weekend Mass Times: 16th & 17th December
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

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



Advent and Christmas Celebrations

6th December 2023

12 Noon Advent Anointing Mass

10th December 2023

Christmas BBQ and AGM

9:30 am Mass

Followed by BBQ and Christmas Raffle
BYO Drinks and Picnic Rug

19th December 2023

Advent Community Reconciliation

7:00 pm Liturgy

23rd December 2023

6 pm Vigil Mass

24th December 2023

9:30 am Sunday Mass

24th December 2023

6:00 pm Christmas Family Mass

(St. Joseph's College, Oak Centre)

10:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

(Church)

25th December 2023

9:30am Christmas Day Mass

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

10 DECEMBER 2023

9:30am Mass followed by Parish Aussie BBQ and dishes from Italy, Philippines, Sri Lanka, East Timor

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

TICKETS \$2 EACH OR 3 FOR \$5

During Advent 2022, all Australian dioceses were invited to take up special collections for the people of Ukraine.

Money raised was used to support the evacuation of people from frontline territories; food packages for people in need; shelters for internally displaced persons.

Though we are now faced with the horror of the war in Gaza the people of Ukraine continue to endure a war that the world is forgetting.

At the Bishops Conference's November 2023 meeting, bishops were asked to again consider if an appeal could be taken for the people of Ukraine during Advent. To this end we will have a special collection on the 16/17th November to donate to the Advent Appeal for Ukraine.

Funds will again be directed to *Mudra Sprava* via the Eparchy of Sts Peter and Paul.

You might need to remember to bring some cash to Mass
Parish Justice Team



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

Collins Hanna Triffett

Daughter of

Beau & Jessica

&

Ambre, Lison & Fleur Follis-Petit

Children of

Lucas & Margaux

as they receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

Are you in Echuca over Christmas? We need people to take on roles eg, lector, minister of the Eucharist, etc. at our 10pm Mass Christmas Eve and our 9.30am Mass Christmas morning. If you would like to do this please place your name on the list at the back of the church or let the parish office know or message Mary Atkins 0428515588.

We hope you can be a part of our Christmas celebrations.

PARISH CALENDAR (December)

- 10th December - Parish Christmas Party after 9.30am Mass followed by BBQ and raffle draw.
- 11th December - Award's Night at St Joe's 7.00pm
- 12th December - Finance Meeting 5.00pm
- 13th December - St Mary's Graduation Liturgy 12.00pm
St Joe's College Staff Mass 10.30am
Liturgy Team Meeting 5.00pm
- 19th December - St Mary's Staff Mass 11.00am
Community Reconciliation Liturgy 7.00pm in the Church
- 22nd December - Office closes at 1.00pm.
- 26th December - Fr Novie away for 4 weeks
- 28th December - Office open from 9.00 to 1.00



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.

ROSTERS: This Week - 9th & 10th December

Commentators/Lectors:

- 6.00pm:** Mary Atkins
Tania Dixon, Sr Margaret
- 9.30am:** Margaret Hart
Chris Armstrong, Felix Pontejos

Ministers of the Eucharist

- 6.00pm:** Kim Wallace
- 9.30am:** Divanne Walker, Rob Morris

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 7th

Elaine Roberts, Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 9th Rose Quinn

Setting up the Church: 10th Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 12th Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy Peter Davey

Hospital Visiting: John & Julie Moyle

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

ROSTERS: Next Week - 16th & 17th December

Commentators/Lectors:

- 6.00pm:** Christine Sebire
Carol Purdon, Chris Lee
- 9.30am:** Barb Green
Win Lavery, Rob Morris

Ministers of the Eucharist

- 6.00pm:** Nick Lee
- 9.30am:** Julie Moyle, Catherine Lindner

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 14th

Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 16th Mary Atkins

Setting up the Church: 17th Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 19th Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: Kym Bridges

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

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 Voegel, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams.

Anniversaries: Frank Clarke, Mary & Donald Scurrah, Veronica Cedeno, Fortunato Oliveri, Nancy Goldrick, Anne Kirchhoffer.

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the
hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be
laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a
valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord
has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast and leading to their rest
the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your
salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

Next week: 3rd Sunday of Advent

16th & 17th December Year B

1st Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Responsorial Psalm:

Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

2nd Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28



Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never
forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand
years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not
being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else
might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all,
wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought
to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a
thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the
elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all
that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should
be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for
the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in
flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are
waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and
new earth, the place where righteousness will be at
home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your
best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find
you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the
Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:
Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the
Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the
Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism
of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and
all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as
they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they
confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin,
and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of
his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone
who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel
down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised
you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy
Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.