

Reflection

The Scriptures offer a profound and multi-faceted revelation of God. In different situations God is revealed as judge, as saviour, as servant, as creator, as father, as mother, as lover, etc. One of the most powerful and perhaps shocking images we find, especially in the book of Exodus, is of God as a warrior who frees the Israelites from slavery by slaying their enemies.

Clearly God, the warrior, is not one to ignore. The Israelites would not have treated lightly the Lord's threat to kill them with the sword if they molested or oppressed the stranger in their midst or treated widows and orphans harshly.

This warrior God is praised in today's responsorial psalm. The Scriptures put this psalm on the lips of David after the Lord had rescued him from the clutches of his enemies. Using military images, David praises the Lord for being his fortress, his shield, his stronghold and his mighty strength against his foes.

The image of God as a warrior can be very disturbing. We need to see that what motivates the Lord to be a warrior is a deep love for those who are oppressed. We can think of the fierce love of parents who will do anything to protect their vulnerable children.

We cannot love this God without also loving God's people. Not to love our neighbour is to put ourselves at enmity with God. Today's first reading urges us not to adopt a narrow definition of neighbour. The stranger is our midst will always be the object of the special love of our warrior God.

Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim

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Parish Secretary: Colette Porter

Mobile: 0457 583 536

Admin Assistant: Marianne Kelly

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday : 9am - 1pm

St Mary's Parish Centre

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Facebook: St Mary's Parish Echuca

Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle

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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times: 28th—29th October

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass (Testimony Saturday)

Sunday : 9:30am Mass (Family Mass St. Mary's)

Weekday Masses: 30th—3rd November

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass All Saints' Day (Church)

Thursday: 12.30pm All Souls' Day (St Mary's School)

Friday: 9.00am Mass

6.00pm Memorial Liturgy

Weekend Mass Times: 4th—5th November

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

11:30am Mass (Tongala)

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

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,

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 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.



FOUNDATION MASS

SUNDAY OCTOBER 29TH

9.30AM AT ST MARY'S PARISH
ECHUCA

COME AND CELEBRATE THE
FOUNDATION FAMILY MASS

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS NOVEMBER 2023

1st Nov, 12:00 NN - All Saint's Day Mass (Church)
2nd Nov, 12:30 PM - All Soul's Day Mass (St. Mary's School)
3rd Nov, 6:00 PM - Remembrance Liturgy (Church)

All Welcome



G'Day Weekend and Family Mass

St. Mary's Primary School and St. Joseph's College,
in partnership with the Parish Sacramental Team,
cordially invite all to join us in celebrating
the remarkable journey of our Sacramental Children in 2023.

Picnic Day

9:30 am Mass followed by morning tea,
entertainment, including a jumping castle,
face painting, and games for the children
on the parish grounds

19 NOVEMBER 2023



We're excited to announce our partnership with the Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services (LCMS) to serve our growing multicultural community better. LCMS is committed to helping us in any way they can.

In our ongoing support for the multicultural community, we're pleased to offer fridge magnet information cards in 13 different languages, including Tagalog, English, Italian, and Singhalese. These cards provide essential information and resources.

Additionally, we have little emergency first aid kits, sunscreens, and hand sanitisers available for free at the back of the church, accessible to everyone. We extend our heartfelt thanks to LCMS for their collaboration and look forward to continued cooperation with their organisation.

LODDON CAMPASPE



MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

Hoody's Community of Unity Tour



Graham and Michelle Hood

Echuca

Wednesday 01 November @ 7pm

St Mary's Parish Hall
Anstruther street Echuca

Hoody is passionate about restoring communities and uniting people in these uncertain times. Come along for a wonderful night of friendship and inspiration! 8:32



A light supper
will
be provided

Gold coin donation
towards hall
hire costs and



there will also be an opportunity to give a donation to the Hoodys to cover the costs of the Tour.

Fellow Parishioners

We have a new 'family group' in our Parish without a television. If any of you have a television you no longer need, could you please let Fr Novie know?



Thanks in advance.

ROSTERS: This 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

PARISH CALENDAR (October-November)

28th October—6.00pm Mass Fr Des Testimony Weekend

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

30th November—Social Committee Meeting 2.00pm

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

7th November— Office is closed Melbourne Cup holiday

8th November—Liturgy 5.00pm

12th-17th November—Fr Novie away

18th-19th November—G'Day Weekend

Social Justice and Sacramental Teams.

21st November—Finance Meeting

22nd November—Fr Novie's Birthday



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: Next Week - 4th & 5th November

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Rose Quinn
Sr. Margaret, Marie McDonald

9.30am: Barb Green
Win Lavery, Michelle Shingles

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Dominic Karunanayke
9.30am: Margaret Hart, Phil Stiles

St Anne's Church Cleaner: 2nd

Pat Sanderson, Bev Kenna

Setting up the Church: 4th Rose Quinn

Setting up the Church: 5th Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 7th Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: Noela Boyer

Gardening: Doug Black, Jegan Puvan, Ray Lewis

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 Voegel, Fred Molluso, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Peter Phillips, David Baker, Stephen Baker, Monica Beckwith, Julio and Nati Acebron, Bernadette McClelland.

Anniversaries: Stanley Walsh, Harold Oliver, Peter Hervey, Helen Scampo, Alan McCall, Margaret Henwood, Stella Moore, Geraldine Shannon, Pat, Helen and Marcus Timms, Don Oberin, Nina Petrini, Desmond Taylor, Jean Gorse.

Deaths: Helen Fusti, Estelle Errey

First Reading Exodus 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

The word of the Lord.

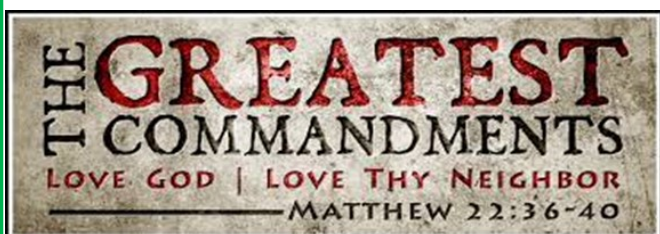
Thanks be to God.

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

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**



**Next week: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)
4th & 5th November Year A**

1st Reading: Malachi 1:12—2:2, 8-10

Responsorial Psalm: 130

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

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

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread - and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

