

Reflection

Today's first reading from Proverbs speaks of the gift that a good wife is to her husband. A good marriage is certainly something to be valued and nurtured. The second reading from St Paul continues with that sense of urgency we've had in our readings as Advent approaches, a reminder that we will one day have to give an account of how we've lived our lives. And the Gospel ties these themes together in the parable of the talents. Jesus tells his disciples of a property owner entrusting three of his servants with a large amount of money (talents). Two of them go off, and taking some risk, they trade their talents and increase their bounty. The third buries his, afraid to lose what he's got. The Master rewards the first two and chastises the third. Jesus is telling us that we are to use our gifts in the service of the kingdom, not sit on them or bury them. This might include some risk.

When I look back over my life I find it's often the times I stepped out into the deep with my gifts, even though I was afraid, that my life has borne most fruits.



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Parish Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday : 9am - 1pm
St Mary's Parish Centre

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Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle

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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times: 18th—19th November

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass Social Justice

Sunday : 9:30am Mass (Family Mass and Picnic)

Weekday Masses: 20th—24th November

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass

Thursday: 9.00am Mass

Friday: 9.00am Mass

Weekend Mass Times: 25th—26th November

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass Christ the King followed by Parish BBQ.

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

Festive Christmas Raffle

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.



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.

G'DAY Weekend

EVERY 3RD WEEKEND OF THE MONTH

Please wear your NAME TAGS and join us for CUPPA after the Mass. Donation Box is available to cover the monthly supply of coffee, tea, sugar, cups etc.

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



Parish Social Justice Team

"They'll know we are Christians by our love!"

It's an old hymn but it still rings so true.

There are so many ways that we can share God's love, especially by how we treat our most vulnerable.

Our Social Justice Group tries to spread this love by putting our faith into action through: drives for Vinnies; Sri Lanka Appeals; Homeless appeals; soup kitchens; multicultural events; Caritas appeals and events; refugee visits and appeals; Reconciliation and First Nations advocacy; peace prayer vigils etc.

We could do a whole lot more if we had a bigger band of people, so if any of these sound like something you would like to be involved in please contact Christine 0411627645. You might like to be involved in just one project or many according to your passions but any involvement would be most welcome!

Christ the King Sunday

26th November 2023

The day will begin with a Mass at 9:30 AM, followed by an Australian barbecue on the parish grounds to celebrate the increasing diversity within our congregation.



Sacramental Team

Our team represents the parishes of St Mary's and St Aloysius's and includes priests, teachers, parents and parishioners. We meet about 6 times a year (often for dinner). We also get together at church for events such as Faith Formation Evenings and celebrating sacramental moments with families. As well as providing support to families throughout the year, we also take time to explore our own faith and understandings during meetings and faith formation evenings. If you'd like to be a part of our team or begin or continue your own or your child's sacramental journey please talk to our team at any time.

Month of the Holy Souls

November Mass envelopes can be found in the church entrances throughout the entire month of November. You can place them in the collection bags during the collection or give them directly to Fr. Novie if you have specific Mass times in mind for them. Otherwise, Fr. Novie will gather them and include them in our Masses during the last weekend of November. These prayers are dedicated to our dearly departed family members, friends, and community members during this sacred month of the Holy Souls.



ECHUCA-MOAMA : From Diagnosis to O.A.M. - A Personal Autism Journey

Presented by: Daniel Giles OAM - Autism Self-Advocate and Public Speaker & Daryl Giles - Providing a Parent's Perspective. Thursday 23rd November, Moama RSL. If you want more information please contact the office or see posters in the Church.

PARISH CALENDAR (November—December)

17th-19th November - Men's Ministry Retreat (Morning Glory Resort)

18th-19th November - G'Day Weekend (Social Justice)

19th November - Family Mass and Picnic (Sacramental Team)

20th November - Care for Creation Meeting 7.30pm Meeting Room

21st November - Finance Meeting 4.30pm

22nd November - **Fr Novie's Birthday**

- Ladies' Drinks Parish Meeting Room 5.30pm

23rd November- St Joseph's Stewardship Mass & Dinner (School)

26th November - Feast of Christ the King followed by Parish BBQ.

3rd December - Tongala Mass 11.00am

6th December - Advent Anointing Mass 12.00pm, Bereavement Meeting 5.00pm,
PPC Christmas Party 6.00pm

7th December - St Mary's Primary End of Year Christmas Liturgy 9.30am Brigidine Centre



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 - 18th & 19th November

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Tania Dixon
Ruth Phillips, Rose Quinn

9.30am: Chris Armstrong
Judi O'Farrell Kerry McLoughlan

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Kate Bruty
9.30am: Cecilia Merrigan, John Moyle

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 16th
Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 18th Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 19th Rachel McAsey

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 21st Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: Carmel Mackenzie

Gardening: Doug Black, Ray Lewis

ROSTERS: Next Week - 25th & 26th November

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Terry McKitterick
Dominic Karunanayke, Carol Purdon

9.30am: Theresa Jacobs
Jarrod O'Brien, Lisa Napier

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Allison McKitterick
9.30am: Lauren Gould, Erick Melad

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 23rd
Kay Westblade, Eileen Pineo, Bev Stapleton

Setting up the Church: 25th Carol Purdon

Setting up the Church: 26th Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 28th Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: Barb Green

Gardening: Doug Black, Ray Lewis

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

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

Anniversaries: Patricia Devereaux, Nellie Keech, Peter Kotsiakos, Alfred Moriarty, Lauris Hall, Elizabeth Broom, Ken Colvin, Percy Garden, Jack and Rita Smith, Tom Farley, Claire Ryan, Allan Baker, Glenys Caiolfa, Mary Wallace, Phillip Barca.

Death: Aileen Ostwald (Jan Tarr's sister)

First Reading Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

A perfect wife - who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **R.**

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **R.**

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. **R.**

**Next week: Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe
Solemnity**

25th & 26th November Year A

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Responsorial Psalm: 22:1-3, 5-6

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

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

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons,' since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is,' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said, "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

