

## Reflection

The first readings on every Sunday in Lent commemorate one of the significant moments in salvation history. In Cycle B, the First Sunday: The Great Flood, the second Sunday: Abraham's test of faith, and today: The Ten Commandments given to Moses. As God freed his chosen people from slavery, the giving of the law is freeing them from the evils and their devious entrapments by offering them a code of life. St Augustine used them as a framework for his moral teaching which is carried through in the present Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Political alliances can be short lived, diplomatic negotiated peace can be so fragile, even friendships have their limits, yet St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians bypasses human expectations in miracles or human wisdom and goes straight to God. In God there are no vagaries or fancies. God's wisdom and strength exceed anything human. Hence the Jesus' Cross makes sense, yet we struggle to make sense of our crosses.



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**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

### PARISH MASS TIMES

**Weekend Mass Times: 2nd & 3rd March 2024**

**Saturday: 6:00pm Mass**

**Sunday : 9:30am Mass**

**11.30am Mass in Tongala**

**Weekday Masses: 4th —8th March**

**Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass (Church)**

**Thursday: 9.00am Mass (Parish Centre)**

**6.00pm School Hub Mass**

**Friday: 9.00am Mass (Church)**

**Weekend Mass Times: 9th & 10th March 2024**

**Saturday: 6:00pm Mass**

**Sunday : 9:30am Mass**

**3.00pm Hamilton & Murdoch Wedding**

**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

## PARISH CALENDAR (February/March)

**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  
**13th March** - Finance Meeting 5.00pm  
**15th March** - Fashion Event 6.30pm  
**16th - 17th March** - G'Day weekend Sophia Sisters/Finance Committee

Curious?  
Interested?  
Like to know more?

ST ANNE'S COLLEGE IS HIRING

*Join Us*

inviting all interested teachers (and prospective teachers including those eligible for VIT Permission to Teach and graduates) to a welcoming

**WINE & CHEESE**  
meet and greet hour

at the college, 72 Wendouree Drive, Kialla

This exclusive event for outstanding educators will be held on

**Thursday, March 7**

6.00 - 7.00pm



*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](mailto:admin@stmarysechuca.org.au)



**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!*



**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.

Stejo, a nurse from the UK with a husband and a family of four children (aged 5 to 9), will join the Echuca Hospital staff and the Catholic community of Echuca. They seek ongoing accommodation from 1st April 2024, which they have yet to be able to find. If you have a property to let or can accept paying guests for a short term, please call Stejo on 0411364655 (UK) or Kunchacko (his cousin in Benalla) on 0421804108.

## 2024 Synod Consultation:

As the Church prepares for the Second Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2024, our deanery has been invited to contribute by deepening aspects of the Synthesis Report that are fundamental to the Synod's theme. These contributions are guided by the question: *How can we be a synodal Church in mission?*

Please join us on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm via Zoom to participate in this process and help shape the communications provided to the Second Session of Synod in October. The synthesis report is available at the link below, we will focus on Chapters 8-12, 16 and 18 during this session. If you intend to participate, please let Fr Novie know so he can send you a link for the Zoom.

Synthesis Report: This is the report to read prior to the meeting.

Please scan the QR Code or contact Fr Novie for the link.

[2023.10.28-ENG-Synthesis-Report\\_IMP.pdf \(synod.va\)](#)



## Parish Sacramental Information Evening

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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@smecuca.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tdixon@smecuca.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](mailto:admin@stmarysechuca.org.au)



St Mary's Parish  
ECHUCA  
*Growing in faith together*

## ROSTERS: This Week - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Pat Sanderson, Bev Kenna

**Setting up the Church: 2<sup>nd</sup>** Tania Dixon

**Setting up the Church: 3<sup>rd</sup>** Julie Moyle

**Baptism Preparation:** Mary Byrne

**Counters: 5<sup>th</sup>** Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy  
& Peter Davey

**Hospital Visiting: 4<sup>th</sup>** Barb Green

**Gardening:** Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver & David

## ROSTERS: Next Week - 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Commentators/Lectors:

**6.00pm:** Rose Quinn  
Sr Margaret, Dominic Karunanayke

**9.30am:** Noela Boyer  
Lauren Gould, Win Lavery

### Ministers of the Eucharist

**6.00pm:** Kate Bruty  
**9.30am:** Divanne Walker, John Moyle

**St Anne's Church Cleaners: 9<sup>th</sup>** Josie Drakatos,  
Effie Xodo, Mel Slattery

**Setting up the Church: 9<sup>th</sup>** Carol Purdon

**Setting up the Church: 10<sup>th</sup>** Rachel McAsey

**Baptism Preparation:** Mary Byrne

**Counters: 12<sup>th</sup>** Roma Bowman & Margaret Hart

**Hospital Visiting: 11<sup>th</sup>** Jackie Delahunty

**Gardening:** Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver & David Baker  
Fr Des.

## 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 Voegelé, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace.

### Anniversaries:

Josh Kenna, Christine Hughes, Jill Hooper, Betty McCluskey, Jim Smith, Domenica Luppino, Jill Hooper, Jai Welch, Geoff Walker, Di Davine, Helen Papworth, Norma Clarke, Vera Wragg, Ted Musgrove, Anna Columbro.

### Deaths:

**First Reading**

Exodus 20:1-17 (Year B)

**A reading from the book of Exodus**

The Lord spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

**The word of the Lord.****Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 18:8-11 (Year B)

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**

The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes. **R.**

The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just. **R.**

They are more to be desired than gold,  
than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb. **R.**

**Next week: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent****9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> March Year B****1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23****Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 136****2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10****Gospel: John 3:14-21****Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 1:22-25 (Year B)

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

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

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

John 2:13-25 (Year B)

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

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