

Reflection

Again and again in salvation history there are unexpected turns and most surprising persons. Cyrus the king of Persia, a pagan, works to re-establish the people of God to their homeland, lost to the Babylonians and also to restore the temple that was destroyed. We read about Cyrus in the first reading from the second book of Chronicles – a collected history of the Hebrew people. Cyrus will raise up the people and their place of worship.

Jesus tells Nicodemus that he, Jesus, will be raised up but again in an unexpected way. He will be raised up on the cross. John's Gospel, a much later reflection on the life and teaching of Christ, has had the years to contemplate the mystery of Christ and recognise the cross not simply as an instrument of torture and death but as a symbol of the tree of victory over death.

St Paul's letter to the Ephesians sounds both like a Christian hymn and a treatise of theology in the love and grace of God. God's mercy rises up again and again in salvation history. When God resorts to punishment for sin it becomes a sign of his mercy to provoke conversion and for Him to be able to grant pardon and peace. Finally St Paul gives that great commendation: "We are God's work of art!"



PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times: 9th & 10th March 2024

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass
Sunday : 9:30am Mass
3.00pm Hamilton & Murdoch Wedding

Weekday Masses: 11th –15th March

Wednesday: No Mass
Council of Priests Meeting (Shepparton)
Thursday: 9.00am Mass (Parish Centre)
Friday: 9.00am Mass (Church)

Weekend Mass Times: 16th & 17th March 2024
G'Day Weekend

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass (Sophia Sisters)
Sunday : 9:30am Mass (Finance/ Counters)

Reconciliation: Approach Fr Novie before Mass
Baptism: Every Second Sunday of the Month
By Appointment with the Parish Priest
Weddings: Every Tuesday 2pm (Parish Centre)
Ladies' Group: Every Saturday 9am (Parish Centre)
Men's Group: Every Saturday 9am (Parish Centre)
Playgroup: Every Friday 9am (Parish Centre)
During school terms

Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim
Email: nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au
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

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 (March)

8th March - **THERE IS NO PLAYGROUP THIS FRIDAY**

10th March - Parish Working Bee and BBQ 10.30am

12th March - Finance Meeting 5.00pm

13th March - Liturgy 5.00pm Sacramental Meeting 5.30pm Synod Consultation 7.00pm Zoom

15th March - Fashion Event 6.30pm

16th - 17th March - G'Day Weekend Sophia Sisters/Finance Committee

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.

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

Vincent Nguyen, Felix Oliveri,
Ginny Laughlin, and Tayah Cabo

as they receive the sacrament of Baptism
this weekend.

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

 **St Mary's Parish**
ECHUCA
Growing in Faith Together



 **Caritas**
AUSTRALIA



Caritas Ks

Tuesday 19th March 2024

8am- 6pm based in the St Mary's Church grounds

**Put your compassion into action, For all
Future Generations**

Raising Awareness, Raising Funds, Building Community

We have an action-packed day planned for the whole community! All parishioners are invited to join in!

The day will involve local people and students from our parish schools walking around the St Mary's block, 600 metres, creating awareness and walking in solidarity with those around the world who walk for water, firewood and safety.

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

- Official gathering and blessing around 11.00 am with Fr Novie and the Mayor.
 - Attend Mass at 12 midday with St Joseph's students
- THROUGHOUT THE DAY...**
- call in and say 'hello' and have a 'cuppa' while you have a chat
 - You may like to walk a lap or so of the block.
 - Listen to the buskers and give them a donation for Caritas
 - tune into the information sessions,
 - sponsor a student from St Mary's or St Joseph's schools and urge them on or count their laps as they go.

BETWEEN 4.30 – 6.00:

- "Students challenge" for the most laps
- a sausage sizzle, dinner sorted!
- a workshop for making Filipino Palm Sunday Crosses,
- a talk by the people from Timor Leste about the work of Caritas in Timor Leste
- 'Question and Answer' session with Jess Black about her time working with refugees in Kakuma camp in Kenya, Ukraine and Afghanistan.
- And much more!!

Come along and help us make this day another great success!

If you are able to help with set up at 7am, or as a safety monitor at the Aldi driveways please let Christine Sebire know on 0411627645 or add your name to the roster at the back of the Church.

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 13th 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, and 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.



Can and Bottle Collection Point!

Thank you to all parishioners who have donated to the can collection point beside the kiosk. We can accept – aluminium cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles, paper cartons and steel bottles/cans. We CANNOT accept wine bottles (small or large). Thank you for your continued support.

ROSTERS: Next Week - 9th & 10th 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: Kim Wallace
9.30am: Divanne Walker, John Moyle

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 9th Josie Drakatos,
Effie Xodo, Mel Slattery

Setting up the Church: 9th Carol Purdon

Setting up the Church: 10th Rachel McAsey

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 12th Roma Bowman & Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: 11th Jackie Delahunty

Gardening: Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver & David Baker

EASTER CEREMONIES

We will be needing many people to assist with Easter Ministries. - Lectors, Eucharist Ministers and Welcomers. If you are able to assist on any day. - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday, please place your name on the list at back of the church. Thank you.

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 Voegel, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace.

Anniversaries: Domenica Luppino, Jill Hooper, Jai Welch, Geoff Walker, Di Davine, Helen Papworth, Norma Clarke, Vera Wragg, Ted Musgrove, Anna Columbro, Jean McCurry, Marita Jordan, Daphne Bennett, John Cooper, Mark Voegel, Bert & Aileen Aldridge, Mick Doyle and Joseph Anderson.

Parish Sacramental Information Evening

Wednesday 20th 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 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



ROSTERS: Next Week - 16th & 17th March 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Tania Dixon
Chamali Stouter, Christine Sebire
9.30am: Chris Armstrong
Rachel McAsey, Jarrod O'Brien

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Ruth Phillips
9.30am: Erik Melad, Marg Walter

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 16th Elaine Roberts,
Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 16th Kate Bruty

Setting up the Church: 17th Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 19th Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: 18th Julie & John Moyle

Gardening: Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver & David Baker

First Reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23**A reading from the second book of Chronicles**

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 136**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. **R.**

For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' **R.**

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! **R.**

O let my tongue cleave my mouth if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **R.**

Next week: 5th Sunday of Lent
16th & 17rd March Year B

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 50:3-4, 12-15

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: John 12:20-30

Second Reading Ephesians 2:4-10**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

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 3:14-21**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.