

Reflection

Twice we hear in the gospel today that Jesus taught them with authority. First it was said after he was teaching his disciples in the synagogue and secondly after he healed a man possessed by an unclean spirit. Perhaps two issues prompted those claims. He resembled Moses in many ways and from the first reading today we hear that Moses prophesied that a great prophet would emerge among them. Secondly the fact that his word and actions were in harmony. A better word we may use is that Jesus taught with "Authenticity". The other teachers did not have the compassion that Jesus showed; they were not up to the mark in practising what they were preaching, their word did not ring true in their ears. The crowd and the disciples listened to Jesus' words and were moved by them. More came to believe in him and to follow him. Their hearts were stirred, their faith inspired, their hopes were beginning to be realised. They found his words were wonderful to hear and witness.

As we delve more into Mark's Gospel we see the challenges of being a disciple of Jesus, we cannot just look on from the sidelines. We have to make choices and make commitments. We, today, just as the listeners in the synagogue were at the time, are drawn into the controversies of religion and then invited to accompany Jesus wherever he may go. We meet Jesus in the liturgy, in service to others, in personal prayer and in the Love of God.

Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim

Email: nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au

Mobile: 0450 185 021

Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle

Email: pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au

Mobile: 0409826336

Admin Assistant: Marianne Kelly

Parish Office Hours

Thursday : 9am - 1pm (January)

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: 27th & 28th January 2024

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 29th– 2nd February

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass (Church)

Thursday: 9.00am Mass (Parish Centre)

Friday: 9.00am Mass (Church)

Weekend Mass Times: 3rd & 4th February 2024

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

PARISH CALENDAR (January)

26th January—Australia Day (Public Holiday)
29th January—Combined Staff Mass (St. Mary's and St. Joe's)
29th January—Social Committee 2.00pm Parish Centre
6th February—SJC Brigid Mass 12.00pm (Church)
7th February—Liturgy Meeting 5.00pm
9th February—Aged Care Liturgy 10.00am
9th February—SJC Opening Mass
13th February—Finance Meeting 5.00pm
14th February—Ash Wednesday 12.00pm and 6.00pm Masses
14th February—PPC Meeting 5.30pm

Can and Bottle Collection Point!

We will have a collection point beside the Parish kiosk for aluminium cans (not crushed) and glass bottles.

Please encourage your friends and family to collect too!

All funds raised by the Parish will go to supporting the needs of our community.

Looking forward to your support.



Welcome Home Fr. Novie

English Conversation Circle



Join our informal weekly session to practice conversational English in a relaxed setting helped by volunteer tutors.

For those over 18 who speak English as a second language.

Where

Echuca Library

When

Every Wednesday at 5pm
(during term)

Cost

Free

No bookings just come along.

All Welcome



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.

“Hangabout Playgroup” will start on the 9th of February.

Columban Calendars are available at the Office for \$10.00.

“God’s Word 2024” have arrived and are available at the office. \$20.00

If you have any news items/events please email to the office.



ROSTERS: This Week - 27th & 28th January 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire
Rose Quinn, Dominic Karunanayke

9.30am: Margaret Hart
Jarrod O’Brien, Cecilia Merrigan

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Allison McKiterick
9.30am: Erick Melad, Kay Westblade

St Anne’s Church Cleaners: 27th

Pat Sanderson, Bev Kenna

Setting up the Church: 27th Rose Quinn

Setting up the Church: 28th Julie Moyle

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 30th Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: John and Julie Moyle

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

ROSTERS: Next Week - 3rd & 4th February 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Mary Atkins
Chris Lee, Terry McKiterick

9.30am: Barb Green
Judi O’Farrell, Rachel McAsey

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Dominic Karunanayke
9.30am: Julie Moyle, Loretta Holman

St Anne’s Church Cleaners: 3rd

Josie Drakatos, Effie Xodo, Mel Slattery

Setting up the Church: 3rd Mary Atkins

Setting up the Church: 4th Rachel McAsey

Baptism Preparation: Bek Lloyd

Counters: 6th Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy,
Peter Davey

Hospital Visiting: Kym Bridges

Gardening: Michael Delahunty, Damien Byrne,
Fr Des.

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 Vogeale, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace.

Anniversaries: Mary Parr, Brett Hughes, George McDonald, Trevor Green, Margaret Hessell, Irene Williams, Leila Lacey, John Stapleton, Murray Magdziarz, Agnes Kotsiakos, Pauline Stephens, Pat McCurry, Ned Sutton, Marie Dullard, Val Norris, Anne Welch, Christine Backway, Simone Slaughter, Patricia Dorgan.

Deaths: Roma Bright

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

R. If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

Next week: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**3th & 4th February Year B****1st Reading:****Job 7:1-4, 6-7****Responsorial Psalm:****Ps 146:1-6****2nd Reading:****Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23****Gospel:****Mark 1:29-39****Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

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

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Gospel Acclamation****Alleluia, alleluia!**

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!**Gospel**

Mark 1:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

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