

Reflection

We hear a lot today about Treaties. A treaty is made between two nations or two parties that mutually design it and have respect and commitment to abide by its terms. A covenant is also a mutual agreement normally made by one and an individual or a group. The covenant expressed in the Sacred Scriptures is made by God to his people. The first readings on the Sundays of Lent continue with accounts of God's Covenant. This Sunday there is a significant shift. Jeremiah speaks of God establishing a **new covenant** with his people. This is the only time "new covenant" is mentioned in the Old Testament. And this covenant looks forward to the one established by Christ's death and resurrection. "New Covenant" is found in Luke's Gospel, St Paul's letters, and the letter to the Hebrews which quotes the entire first reading from Jeremiah (Hebr 8:8-12). New Covenant is expressed at every Mass in the Eucharistic Prayers.



The passage from the Letter to the Hebrews today, however, is not just about covenant but about suffering, death and salvation. Just in two sentences we have a great insight into the mind and heart of Jesus. He prayed, he cried, he was fearful but resolute, humble and obedient. Prayer leads to acceptance, acceptance gives him strength. May our prayers for healing, solutions to hardships, for peace bring us acceptance and salvation.

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

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: 16th & 17th March 2024

G'Day Weekend

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass (Sophia Sisters)

Sunday : 9:30am Mass (Finance/ Counters)

Weekday Masses: 18th —22nd March

Tuesday: 11am Blessing—Caritas K's

12:15pm Patrick's House Mass (Church)

Wednesday: 12pm: Anointing Mass (Church)

Thursday: 9.00am Mass (Parish Centre)

12:30pm St. Mary's Yr. 5 Mass (School)

Friday: 9.00am Mass (Church)

12:10pm St. Joseph's College

Foundation Day Liturgy (School)

Weekend Mass Times: 23rd & 24th March 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 (March)

15th March— Parish Fundraiser Fashion Event 6.30pm
16th - 17th March— G'Day Weekend Sophia Sisters/Finance Committee/ Counters
19th March— Caritas K's 8am to 6pm, Patrick House Mass 12:15pm, Senior Leadership Team Meeting 2pm
20th March—Lenten Anointing Mass 12noon in the Church
21st March— Year 5 Class Mass St. Mary's School 12:30pm
22nd March—St. Joseph's College Foundation Liturgy 12:10pm
26th March— Chrism Mass Bendigo Cathedral 11am

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.

The Sophia Sisters - Ladies' Prayer Group

We meet each Tuesday at 1.30 in the Parish Meeting room for an hour or so. In the Bible, Sophia is associated with Wisdom and the Holy Spirit, the feminine person of the Trinity. We often feel that Spirit amongst us, as a loving, caring, strong and wise spirit that holds us together, gives us hope and peace.

It's a special hour each week spent listening, loving and laughing amongst a caring group of women, where life's ups and downs can be prayed about and our spirituality nourished and explored from diverse perspectives. - **Malia**

Be it conversation, care or prayer to share, maybe just a chat, an hour to yourself! - **Alison**

An opportunity to share, to listen, to be heard, to be supported and to give support, to pray... Sophia Sisters means so many things. - **Mary**

A gathering of like minded women for discussion and prayers about the joys, suffering and all the things going on in our lives. - **Barb**

A slowing down time when we listen to each other, our own longings and our God. - **Cecilia**

I come to prayer group to get further inspired by the Word of God. It's lovely to be with like minded ladies and feel supported.

- **Carol**

Some reasons I love our prayer group: to deepen our faith, friendship, and praying together. - **Kate**

I love that though we gather to pray, we cover all sorts of subjects and questions of faith secure in each others' trust. - **Christine**

We would love for more women to join us and grow the group!

If you would like to be part of such a group outside of work hours please make contact as anything is possible in the Spirit. Christine 0411627645

Finance Committee/ Counters

The Finance Team meet monthly to discuss the finances of the Parish. The Team is appointed and directed by the Parish Priest. The team looks regularly at the income and expenditure of the Parish and reviews our finances on a regular basis for cost saving measures. The Parish is responsible for the stewardship of all three buildings, their maintenance and leasing opportunities, and this responsibly falls to the Finance Team. A sub-committee of the Finance Team undertakes the renewal of our Planned Giving (Stewardship) every 3-4 years.



**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 11.00am
- Attend mass at 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 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.

Fr Des has taken up the challenge to walk 6kms in solidarity with those who walk for water across the world.

With your help we can raise \$4000 for a water tank for a school in Samoa.

He will start walking at 11am come along and give him your support.

You can sponsor him by donating on the day or using this QRcode



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.

Invitation to Chrism Mass

Join us for a special celebration at the Bendigo Cathedral on the 26th of March at 11am! Let's come together for the Chrism Mass and kickstart festivities marking the 150th Anniversary of our diocese. Your presence will add to the warmth of this momentous occasion. If interested please contact Fr. Novie.

Fr Novie Lim has been appointed by Bishop Shane to act as Administrator of the Cohuna, Kerang and Pyramid Hill parishes, while Fr. Dean will take his sabbatical leave in the Philippines from 1 April to 10 August.

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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2024

Palm Sunday

6:00 pm - 23rd March, Saturday
9:30 am - 24th March, Sunday

Holy Thursday 28th March 2024

11:00 am - Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 29th March 2024

3:00 pm - The Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday 30th March 2024

7:30 pm - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 31st March 2024

9:30 am - Easter Mass



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@smechuca.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 THIS WEEK

16th & 17th March 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

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

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Ruth Phillips
9.30am: Erick 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

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

23rd & 24th March 2024 Palm Sunday

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell
Chris Lee, Carol Purdon
9.30am: Barb Green
Rod Chisholm, Kerry McLoughlan

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell
9.30am: Rob Morris, Cecilia Merrigan

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 23rd Cecilia Merrigan,
Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 23rd Mary Atkins

Setting up the Church: 24th Rod Chisholm

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 26th Eileen Pineo & Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: 25th Kym Bridges

Gardening: Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver & David Baker

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 Vogele, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace, Colleen Bosse, Bruce Haines

Anniversaries: Jean McCurry, Marita Jordan, Daphne Bennett, John Cooper, Mark Vogele, Bert & Aileen Aldridge, Mick Doyle, Joseph Anderson, Jennifer Kiely, Dot Collins and Asuncion Frias.

Recently Deceased: Eileen Symons

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4, 12-15

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you. **R.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Next week: Palm Sunday
23rd & 24th March Year B

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24****2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11****Gospel: Mark 14:1 15:47****Gospel Acclamation****Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**Gospel**

John 12:20-30 (Year B)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.
Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.'
Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.
And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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