

## Reflection

Like the other evangelists, Mark records many occasions in which Jesus heals people stricken with serious illnesses and brings wholeness to people handicapped by bodily defects. In today's Gospel it is Peter's mother-in-law who is the subject of his compassionate ministrations. Mark goes a step further in proclaiming the Good News by highlighting how frequently Jesus also brings freedom to those who are bedevilled and enslaved by maladies that afflict the human spirit. In our lives this servitude can take many forms—destructive addictions, compulsive behaviour, habits of serious sin, envy of others, greed, self-centredness and bigotry, to mention just a few.

Committed to amending our lives in whatever impedes our relationship with God and our neighbour, let us humbly stand before Jesus and ask for healing of mind, body and spirit and release from our personal demons. In this connection, Paul offers us good advice:

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty with which Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage”(Galatians5:1)



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**Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle**

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**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: 3rd & 4th February 2024**

**Saturday:** 6:00pm Mass

**Sunday :** 9:30am Mass  
11.30am Tongala

**Weekday Masses: 5th– 9th February**

**Tuesday:** 12:20pm Brigid Mass St. Joe's (Church)

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

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

12:30pm St. Mary's School Opening Mass

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

10.00am Aged Care Liturgy

11.00am St. Joe's Opening Mass

**Weekend Mass Times: 10th & 11th 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 (February)

6th February—SJC Brigid Mass 12.20pm (Church)

7th February—Liturgy Meeting 5.00pm

8th February—St. Mary's School Opening Mass at 12.30

9th February—Aged Care Liturgy 10.00am

9th February—SJC Opening Mass 11am

12th February— 2.05pm we will be making the pancake batter from scratch and if there are some St. Mary's parents, grandparents, guardians or parishioners who would like to help measure and make mixtures please email Mrs Holly Morris: [hmorris@smechuca.catholic.edu.au](mailto:hmorris@smechuca.catholic.edu.au) Many helpers make light work!

13th February—Burning of the palms St Mary's School 12.30pm

13th February—Finance Meeting 5.00pm

14th February—Ash Wednesday Liturgy at St Mary's 9.15am, 12.00pm and 6.00pm Masses

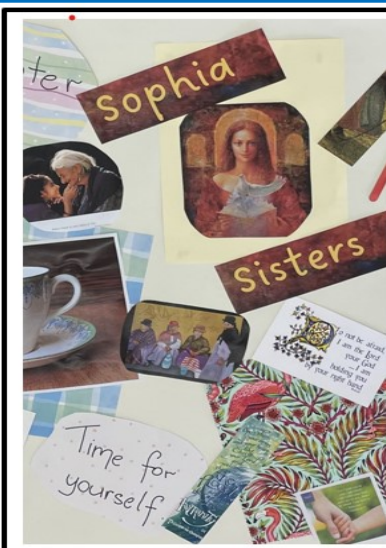
14th February—PPC Meeting 5.30pm

15th February—Sacramental Team Meeting 5:30pm

19th—22nd February—Fr. Novie Away (Overseas Priests Conference—Moama)

### 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.



### Attention All Women!

Would you like to enjoy some time for yourself with caring and supportive women?

*Chat, laugh, ponder,  
wonder, cry, pray.*

We discuss issues of family, faith, community and justice over a cuppa.

**Join us Tuesdays  
1.30pm**

**Parish Meeting Room**

### Join the 150th Anniversary Committee for St. Mary's Parish!

In the exciting anticipation of our upcoming milestone, the 150th Anniversary of St. Mary's Parish in 2025, we are thrilled to announce the formation of a dedicated Anniversary Committee. We cordially invite you to join us in planning and preparing for this significant event that celebrates our rich history and community spirit.

If you are passionate about contributing to the success of this special occasion and would like to be a part of the Anniversary Committee, we welcome your enthusiasm and ideas. Your involvement will play a crucial role in ensuring that our 150th-anniversary celebration is memorable and meaningful for all.

**For those interested, please don't hesitate to contact me at 0450185021 or email me at [nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au](mailto:nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au).** Your commitment and creativity will be highly valued as we work together to make this anniversary a truly exceptional experience for the entire St. Mary's Parish community.

Let's come together to create lasting memories and celebrate the legacy of St. Mary's Parish.

- 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

"Hangabout Playgroup" will start on the 9th of February.



Contact Mel Slattery 0417 822 589 if you require further details.

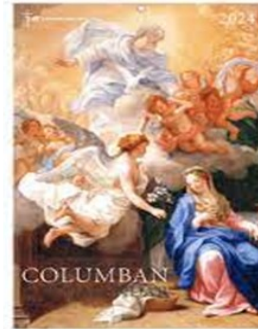
**St Mary's Care for Creation and Social Justice Team** invites all interested parishioners to a planning and strategy meeting, Monday 12th Feb 7.30pm, St Mary's Parish Centre Meeting Room.

Items include: Parish sustainability and Laudato Si, Caritas, Project Compassion campaigns, First Nations recognition and inclusion and Reconciliation, Clean Up Australia Day, Refugee and Migrant issues and celebrations, Homelessness, soup kitchen etc

Anyone who is interested in any one of these issues is encouraged to attend you will not be committing to all but only what floats your boat!

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

**"God's Word 2024" have arrived and are available at the office. \$20.00**



## **ROSTERS: This Week - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

### **Commentators/Lectors:**

**6.00pm:** Mary Atkins  
Chris Lee, Terry McKitterick  
**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: 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Josie Drakatos, Effie Xodo, Mel Slattery

**Setting up the Church: 3<sup>rd</sup>** Mary Atkins  
**Setting up the Church: 4<sup>th</sup>** Rachel McAsey

**Baptism Preparation:** Bek Lloyd

**Counters: 6<sup>th</sup>** Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy,  
Peter Davey

**Hospital Visiting: 5<sup>th</sup>** Kym Bridges

**Gardening:** Michael Delahunty, Damien Byrne,  
Fr Des.

## **ROSTERS: Next Week - 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

### **Commentators/Lectors:**

**6.00pm:** Tania Dixon  
Carol Purdon, Rose Quinn  
**9.30am:** Theresa Jacobs  
Chris Armstrong, Michelle Shingles

### **Ministers of the Eucharist**

**6.00pm:** Leah Williams  
**9.30am:** Bebher Mitchell, Rob Morris

### **St Anne's Church Cleaners: 10<sup>th</sup>**

Elaine Roberts, Tania Dixon

**Setting up the Church: 10<sup>th</sup>** Kate Bruty  
**Setting up the Church: 11<sup>th</sup>** Bernie Oliver

**Baptism Preparation:** Bek Lloyd

**Counters: 13<sup>th</sup>** Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart  
**Hospital Visiting: 12<sup>th</sup>** Noela Boyer

**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 Vogeles, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace.

**Anniversaries:** Marie Dullard, Val Norris, Anne Welch, Christine Backway, Simone Slaughter, Patricia Dorgan, Russell Evans, Margaret McCann, Daisy Sutton, Ron Spedding, Des Nolan, Lance Vagg, Fr Matthew O'Hagan, John Le Guier, Mick Fleming.

**Deaths:**



**First Reading**

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

**A reading from the prophet Job**

Job began to speak:  
 Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed  
 service, his time no better than hired drudgery?  
 Like the slave, sighing for the shade,  
 or the workman with no thought but his wages,  
 months of delusion I have assigned to me,  
 nothing for my own but nights of grief.  
 Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'  
 Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'  
 Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.  
 Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,  
 and vanished, leaving no hope behind.  
 Remember that my life is but a breath,  
 and that my eyes will never again see joy.

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

Ps 146:1-6

**R. Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.**

Praise the Lord for he is good;  
 sing to our God for he is loving;  
 to him our praise is due. **R.**

The Lord builds up Jerusalem  
 and brings back Israel's exiles,  
 he heals the broken-hearted,  
 he binds up all their wounds.  
 he fixes the number of the stars;  
 he calls each one by its name. **R.**

Our Lord is great and almighty;  
 his wisdom can never be measured.  
 The Lord raises the lowly;  
 he humbles the wicked to the dust. **R.**

**Next week: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time****10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February Year B****1st Reading:****Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46****Responsorial Psalm:****Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11****2nd Reading:****Corinthians 10:31—11:1****Gospel:****Mark 1:40-45****Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

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

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty  
 which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did  
 not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might  
 have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a  
 responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you  
 know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be  
 able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the  
 rights which the gospel gives me.  
 So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself  
 the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For  
 the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to  
 all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do  
 this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its  
 blessing.

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

He bore our sickness,  
 and endured our suffering.

**Alleluia!****Gospel**

Mark 1:29-39

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

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and  
 John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now  
 Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and  
 they told him about her straightaway. He went to her,  
 took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever  
 left her and she began to wait on them.  
 That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who  
 were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The  
 whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured  
 many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or  
 another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not  
 allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.  
 In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the  
 house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there.  
 Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and  
 when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for  
 you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the  
 neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there  
 too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through  
 Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out  
 devils.

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