



**St Mary's Parish**  
E C H U C A  
*Growing in faith together*

# Newsletter

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
10th & 11th of February 2024

## Reflection

The Book of Leviticus goes into great detail about identifying, treating, and isolating persons with leprosy and other like complaints. Chapter 13 has 59 verses and in Chapter 14 on purification of lepers it has 57 verses. We read a small section today (five verses). Nonetheless lepers suffer physically and socially. The disease in ancient times was also considered a punishment for sins (with religious minded peoples) or retribution for evils committed (with the general populace). We may ask the question today: "Have we shifted our understandings of suffering, adversities and atrocities with wars, pandemics and natural disasters?" When these things happen there are suggestions of divine retribution, lingering accusations and blame upon certain people or social groups.

Early in his ministry Jesus is confronted with people with diseases and the questions: "Whose fault? What sins have brought this on? Is it the sufferers or their parents that caused this?" He responds typically with: It is nobody's fault but the glory of God can be seen in the healing. And in his compassion for the accused, the victim, or the isolated person, Jesus healed them. The healer then gets accused of blasphemy or breaking the Sabbath or receives ridicule or becomes the isolated person. Jesus, our Saviour takes on our sins so that we are saved from them!

**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**

**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: 10th & 11th February 2024**

**Saturday: 6:00pm Mass**

**Sunday : 9:30am Mass**

**Weekday Masses: 12th– 16th February**

**Tuesday: 11.00am Funeral Prayers (Eileen Anderson)**

**Wednesday: Ash Wednesday**

**9:15am St. Mary's School Liturgy**

**12.00pm Mass (Church)**

**6.00pm Mass (Church)**

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

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

**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)

**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 School 9.15am, 12.00pm and 6.00pm Masses in the Church

**14th February**—PPC Meeting 5.30pm

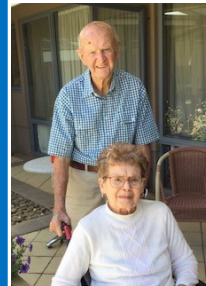
**15th February**—Sacramental Team Meeting 5:30pm

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

**27th February**—Lenten Community Reconciliation 7.30pm

**28th February**—Ladies' Night 5.30pm and Sacramental Program Information Evening 7.00pm

We are thrilled to share the news that this year, we have individuals participating in the RCIA program as a candidate and a catechumen. Let's extend our prayers and support to **Danielle Johnston and Wilma Vesty** as they embark on this journey, becoming integral members of the Catholic community.



### Congratulations

John and Chloris Dignan on your 70th Wedding Anniversary this weekend.

### Parish Office Update

As you are aware, Colette Porter resigned her position as Parish Secretary and finished working just prior to Christmas. During January the Parish office was open on a Thursday from 9-1pm, with Marianne Kelly working in the office.

In February, the office hours will be as follows –  
Tuesday 9-1pm – Margaret Hart (volunteer)  
Wednesday 9-1pm – Julie Moyle (volunteer)  
Thursday 9-1pm – Marianne Kelly

Along with the Senior Leadership Team and Finance Team I am currently undertaking a full review of our capacity to pay for additional staffing hours.

We currently have significant financial constraints in our Parish. Higher interest rates on our debt and the increase in costs of all services are proving difficult to manage. The fact is that parish contributions are not keeping up with costs. As you also may know, we had some storm damage on Christmas Eve to one of our buildings and we are currently managing that insurance claim.

I anticipate this review will be completed late February/early March and will keep you fully informed as I proceed. Thanks for your patience everyone, hopefully we will have a resolution for you all soon. Thanks.

Fr. Novie

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

**Sage Elizabeth Hay**

**And Isla Mae and Nellie Lou Whitten**

as they receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

### 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.

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-



### 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**

# 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.

## Echuca Regional Health

The emergency department need knitted bears or toys for children who attend the unit. If you are able to knit and would like to contribute please let Georgi Baker know.

Patterns can be supplied on request.  
email: Volunteers@erh.org.au Ph: 5485 5434

## 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! Any inquiries to Christine 0411627645 or Ruth 0438520097

## 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.

**Columban Calendars are available at the Office for \$10.00. "God's Word 2024" have arrived and are available at the office. \$20.00**

**MISSING WINE GLASSES:** If you have borrowed the wine glasses from the Parish Hall Bar, could you please return them as soon as possible, as others need to have the use of them too. Contact Margaret 0419 506 254

## ROSTERS: This 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:** Beber 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>** Rod Chisholm

**Baptism Preparation:** Bec 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.

## ROSTERS: Next Week - 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Commentators/Lectors:

**6.00pm:** Terry McKitterick  
Kajini Karunanayke, Ruth Phillips  
**9.30am:** Cecilia Merrigan  
Jenny Morris, Barb Green

### Ministers of the Eucharist

**6.00pm:** Kate Bruty  
**9.30am:** Margaret Hart, Catherine Lindner

### St Anne's Church Cleaners: 17<sup>th</sup>

Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

**Setting up the Church: 17<sup>th</sup>** Rose Quinn

**Setting up the Church: 18<sup>th</sup>** Bernie Oliver

**Baptism Preparation:** Bec Lloyd

**Counters: 20<sup>th</sup>** Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

**Hospital Visiting: 19<sup>th</sup>** Julie Moyle

**Gardening:** Michael Delahunty, Damien Byrne,  
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 Vogege, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace.

**Anniversaries:** Jack Oliver, John Murphy, Lance Vagg, Joan Edwards, Graham Kelly, Eileen Childs, Denis Mullane, Elaine McIntyre, Pat McCurry, Peg Jacobs, Shirley Whitehead, Joshua Cooper, Frank Sanderson, Malcolm Whyte, Antonio Surace, Claire Sutton, Sam Nastasi, Leo Sheldon, Allan Pollock, Betty Hession, Jacob Symmons, Bill Blance, Simone Slaughter.

**Deaths:** Eileen Anderson, Veronica Williams.

**First Reading**

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

**A reading from the book of Leviticus**

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

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

Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted.  
O happy the man to whom the Lord  
imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile. **R.**

But now I have acknowledged my sins;  
my guilt I did not hide.  
I said: 'I will confess  
my offence to the Lord.'  
And you, Lord, have forgiven  
the guilt of my sin. **R.**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!  
O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart. **R.**

**Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent  
17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> February Year B**

**1st Reading:****Genesis 9:8-15****Responsorial Psalm:****Ps 24:4-9****2nd Reading:****1 Peter 3:18-22****Gospel:****Mark 1:12-15****Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1

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

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

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

A great prophet has appeared among us;  
God has visited his people.

**Alleluia!****Gospel**

Mark 1:40-45

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

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

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

Mark 1: 40-45