

Reflection

Isaiah passage today gives a few “epiphany moments”: Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come; Lift up your eyes and look around; your heart throbbing and full. The words of the prophet are not just words of Salvation for God’s chosen people but for all peoples, nations and rulers. Extending the insights from this Old Testament text to our present day we are able to confess: “Christ brings salvation not just to us, to those who come to our church, but to the whole world – to all those grumpy, depressed, selfish, worried, suffering, disadvantaged people we meet in the street, most directly to Christians of every kind, but also to those who have not yet found Jesus.

The Epiphany is the time when Jesus ‘went public’, symbolised by the coming of the Wise Men from the East.” (*Henry Wansbrough, Universalis commentary*).

A second prophet is quoted in today’s Gospel by Matthew. The Prophet Micah, born in Bethlehem, spoke well of his birthplace and added: “for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.” Though Micah’s actual words were not shepherd my people but “rule over Israel” (Micah 5:2). Matthew has “updated” the prophet’s words and interpreted them to describe Jesus’ mission for all peoples.



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Admin Assistant: Marianne Kelly

Parish Office Hours

Thursday : 9am - 1pm (January)

St Mary's Parish Centre

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Website: www.stmarysechuca.org.au

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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times: **6th & 7th January 2024**

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: **8th - 12th January**

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass/Communion Service

Weekend Mass Times: **13th & 14th January 2024**

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Reconciliation: Not in January

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)

January.

The office will only be open on a Thursday from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

24th January—Ladies' Night 5:30pm

26th January—Australia Day (Public Holiday)

29th January—Combined Staff Mass (St. Mary's and St. Joe's)

You're all invited to our '**Wednesday's Ladies' Drinks**'. On the 4th Wednesday of each month we will gather in the meeting room for a relaxing get together and catch up. We will provide some nibbles, you will need to bring along your own drinks. (We aim to share the hosting role each month.) All are welcome - please come along with a friend or two! Looking forward to seeing you there.

Kay Westblade 0447 501 069 and Jan Tarr 0429 237 780

Join us for
Drinks
AND
NIBBLES



Special Occasion.

60th Wedding Anniversary.

Max and Theresa Jacobs.

Married on the 4th January, 1964

At St Mary's Echuca.

**Have a wonderful day and many blessings from
all at St Mary's**



Dear Parishioners,

Temporary Parish Office Arrangements for January 2024

I'll be away on my annual holiday, returning to the Philippines from December 26th to January 26th. With no permanent Parish Secretary available, we've collaborated with the Senior Leadership Team to create a temporary plan for smooth operations.

In January, the Parish Office will be open exclusively on Thursdays from 9 am to 1 pm, managed by Marianne Kelly, our administrative assistant. On days when Marianne is unavailable, Julie Moyle will be the point of contact for urgent matters like Anointing of the Sick (reaching out to Fr. Des or Fr. Damien), parish emergencies, pastoral concerns, and essential needs. Julie will coordinate with various ministry groups. Building issues will go to the Maintenance Team (Rob Morris, Bob Cooper, and Bunny Oliver), and financial matters will go to Margaret Hart. Mary Atkins and our team will continue managing funerals and liturgical matters.

We regret any inconvenience caused and appreciate your patience. We're maximising the support of our staff and volunteers during this time. Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We hope to resume normal parish office operations soon.

Fr. Novie



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.

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

Alliyah Santos
daughter of
Froilan and Liway

as she receives the sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

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



"God's Word 2024" have not arrived as yet.

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

ROSTERS: This Week - 6th & 7th January 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Tania Dixon
Kristy Serpell, Ruth Phillips

9.30am: Theresa Jacobs
Rod Chisholm, Noela Boyer

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Carol Purdon
9.30am: Phil Stiles, John Moyle

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 6th

Elaine Roberts, Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 6th Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 7th Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 9th Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy,
Peter Davey

Hospital Visiting: Carmel Mackenzie

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

ROSTERS: Next Week - 13th & 14th January 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Chris Lee
Marie McDonald, Sr Margaret

9.30am: Noela Boyer
Lyn Addin, Felix Pontejos

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Bob Cooper
9.30am: Divanne Walker, John Vagg

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 13th

Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 13th Kate Bruty

Setting up the Church: 14th Rod Chisholm

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 16th Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: Barb Green

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

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 Voge, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace.

Anniversaries: Dorothy Reilly, Michael Anderson, Monica Murnane, Ken Marwood, Ronald McCrickard, Isahia Coghill, Antonio Lucic, Bill Quinn, Mary Sidorow, Vincent Connellan, Carmela Stivala, Molly Condon, Evie Parsons, Olive Clark, Terry O'Brien, Molly Fish.

Deaths:

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.

The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

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

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **R.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

Next week: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**13th & 14th January Year B****1st Reading:****Samuel 3:3-10, 19****Responsorial Psalm:****Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10****2nd Reading:****Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20****Gospel:****John 1:35-42****Second Reading**

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

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

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!**Gospel**

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem.

He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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