

4th and 5th July 2026

Parish Newsletter

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



Contact us:

Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim

Email: nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au
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Admin Officers:

Joy Padilla and Marianne Kelly

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:
9am – 1pm

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Ph: (03) 5482 1127

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Website: www.stmarysechuca.org.au
Facebook: St Mary's Parish Echuca

Community Coordinators:

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E: moylej@bigpond.com
M: 0409 826 336

Cindy Narvasa

E: pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au
M: 0467 900 382

Visitation Ministry Coordinator:

Kath Quinn

M: 0439 101 282
E: kathquinn55@hotmail.com

Church Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed
Tuesday – Sunday:
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Standard Time)
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Daylight Saving Time)

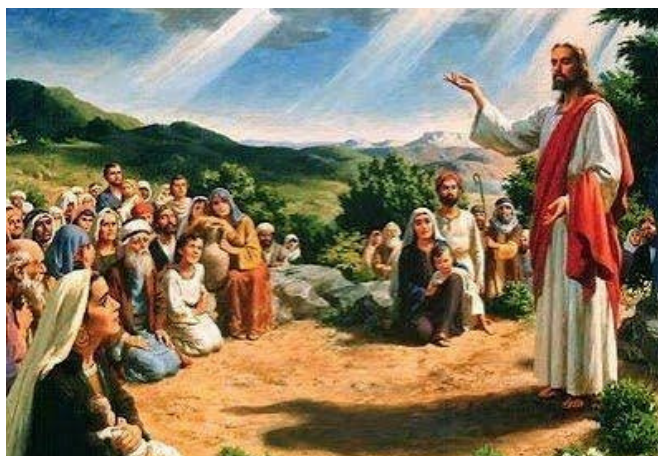
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Yorta Yorta Nation. 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.

Looking at the Readings

The Liturgy of the Word begins with the words of the Prophet Zechariah speaking of the final battle against evil. A time of rejoicing and gladness, symbolised by the playing of tambourines and the king not on a warhorse but riding on a donkey. He sees a future time of peace, a lasting peace to the ends of the earth. It is an interesting prelude to the gospel of today. Zechariah's oracle would fit very nicely into Palm Sunday.

The first half of Matthew chapter 11 which is omitted in the sequence of Sunday readings recounts his rejection by the crowds and their indifference to his message. Yet this passage today turns around those difficult times and presents us with the prayer of Christ to the Father and his words of encouragement to his faithful disciples. They were, and we are, the subjects of a just and victorious king, a humble and peace-loving master who is meek and carries our burdens. In him we find rest for our souls!



PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 4th & 5th July 2026

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass
Sunday: 9:30am Mass
11:30am Mass (Tongala)

Weekday Masses: 6th July – 10th July 2026

Monday: 6.00pm Rosary (Joan Crowe)
Tuesday: 11:00am Funeral Mass (Joan Crowe)
Wednesday: No Mass
Friday: 10.00am Aged-Care Liturgy

Reconciliation: Approach Fr Novie before Mass
Baptism: Every Second weekend of the Month
Weddings: By Appointment with the Parish Priest
Sophia Sisters: Every Tuesday 1:30pm (Parish Centre)
Men's Group: Every Saturday 9am (Parish Centre)
Ladies Drinks: 4th Wednesday 5:30pm (Parish Centre)
G'Day Weekend: Every 3rd Weekend of the Month
Children's Liturgy: Every G'Day Weekend

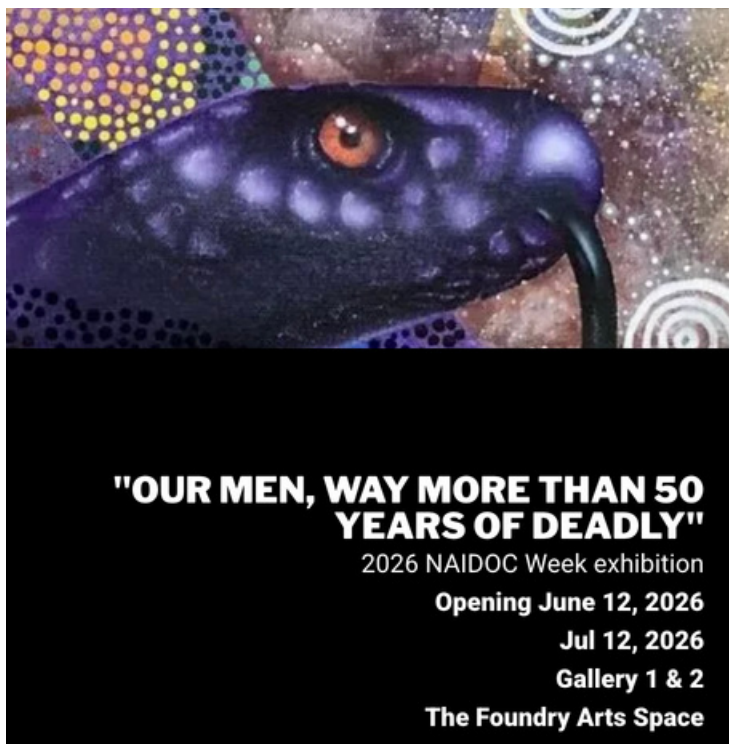
Parish News

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday & NAIDOC Week

Every year, on the first Sunday in July, Catholics come together across Australia to acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of Australia's First Peoples. Today, we acknowledge that God has been walking with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples, making His Presence known through a continuous living culture over many thousands of years. This year is particularly special as it's the 40th anniversary of Pope John Paul 11's visit to Alice Springs, so cherished by our First Nations people as they recall Pope John Paul 11's words, "The Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others".

This day also marks the start of NAIDOC Week, a time for celebrating Indigenous culture across the Australian community. For a range of information about First Nations people and the Catholic Church go to www.natsicc.org.au

Claire Hogan, Indigenous Missions Coordinator,
chogan@sje.vic.edu.au



One of St Mary's Choir's first songs was Shakira's 'Try Everything.'

Its message is simple yet powerful: growth comes from trying, learning, and trying again. Mistakes are part of the journey, and resilience comes from having the courage to keep going.

Whatever our age or experience, whether we celebrate success or face disappointment, may we always know the support of those who love and care for us, and the constant presence of our God.

Faith in ourselves.
Faith in one another.
Faith in our God.



The Good Works Crew

We're very excited to advise that we have a new parish group called 'The Good Works Crew.' This group has been established with the primary function of being a fundraising team within our community. We will undertake a number of events each year and look forward to your participation and support of these events. Any new ideas you have for fundraising will be welcomed by our team members. Please reach out! Our inaugural event will be the St Mary's Mini Market to be held on the 16th August, within the Parish grounds. It will commence at 10.30am (after 9.30am Mass) and will conclude around 1pm or until sold out! We will have cakes, books, preserves, plants, morning tea, crafts and a kids corner, plus much more! It's guaranteed to be a day of fun and entertainment. So please put it in your diary and keep an eye out for further details.

All funds raised will be put towards an Accessible Toilet, closer to the Church.

Thank you and we look forward to your support.

Angela Victor - 0481 330 029
Jenny Morris - 0418 625 731
Cindy Narvasa - 0467 900 382
Julie Moyle - 0409 826 336

Planned Giving Envelopes 2026-2027

New Planned Giving Envelopes are now available at the back of the church. We kindly ask all parishioners who participate in the Planned Giving Program to collect their new envelopes at their earliest convenience. If you are not currently part of the Planned Giving Program and would like to pledge your support for the 2026-2027 financial year through the envelope system, direct debit, or credit card giving, please speak with Fr Novie or one of the members of the Finance Ministry: Graham Jefferson, Michael Delahunty, Margaret Hart, Max Marchetti, and Chris Exton. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our parish.

Bishop René Ramirez RCJ will be installed as the 9th Bishop of the Diocese of Sandhurst on Thursday, 30 July 2026, at 11.00am at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.



Safeguarding

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 our Safeguarding Officer:
Mel Slattery
M: 0417 822 589
E: melslattery.home@gmail.com

Parish Calendar

5th July:	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
5th - 12th July:	NAIDOC Week
7th July:	1.30pm Sophia Sisters
8th - 10th July:	Fr Novie away at a Conference ACCC- Melbourne
10th July:	10.00am Aged Care Liturgy
14th July:	1.30pm Sophia Sisters
15th July:	Soup and Sandwiches after Mass
17th July:	9.00am Mary's Makers
18th - 19th July:	G'day Weekend (Men's Ministry Sat Night, Music Ministry Sun Morning)
30th July:	11.00am Bishop Rene's Installation (Bendigo Cathedral)

Prayer Requests

For Those Who Are Unwell

Patricia Vogelee, Bruno Barbera, Dan Carey,
Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, Caroline Farley,
Fred Molluso, Meredith Ryan (Maddick), Jim Byrne,
Antonia Molluso, David Baker, Carmel Murphy,
Dominga Cabantac, John & Elaine Farley, Barb Smith,
Margaret McMahon, Geoff Brown, Paul Wallace,
Elizabeth Kyne (Weekly), Margaret Hoelter

Death Anniversaries

Emily Florence Ludlow, Vera Quinn, Jessie Davison,
Anne Henderson, Ron Tonkin.

Recent Deaths

Joan Crowe

Roster THIS Week				4 th & 5 th July	
Mass	LECTORS			Eucharistic Ministers	Church Set-up
6:00pm	Mary Atkins Rose Quinn, Carol Purdon			Carmel Mackenzie Tania Dixon	Mary Atkins
9:30am	Rachel McAsey Judi O'Farrell, Win Lavery			John Moyle Bebher Mitchell	Julie Moyle
Prayers of the Faithful		Kath Quinn	Counters	Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart	
St. Anne's	Loretta Holman, Mary Byrne			Hospital Visit	Noela Boyer
Roster NEXT Week				11 th & 12 th July	
Mass	LECTORS			Eucharistic Ministers	Church Set-up
6:00pm	Rose Quinn Peter Phillips, Dominic Karunanayke			Christine Sebire Tharaka De Silva	Rose Quinn
9:30am	Barb Green Abilain Liwanag, Michelle Shingles			Matt Butler Kay Westblade	Bernie Oliver
Prayers of the Faithful		Rose Quinn	Counters	Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello	
St. Anne's	Lauren Gould, Prue Crowe-Galea			Hospital Visit	Karla Chisholm
Monthly (July)					
Gardening	Rob Morris & Bob Cooper			Baptism Prep	Mary Byrne

A reading from the prophet Zechariah

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.'

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

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14*

**R. I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.**

I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. **R.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. **R.**

The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of
the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

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

Readings for Next Week

**Next Week: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, A
11th & 12th July 2026**

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 64:10-14
2nd Reading: Romans 8:18-23
Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9