

25th & 26th July 2026

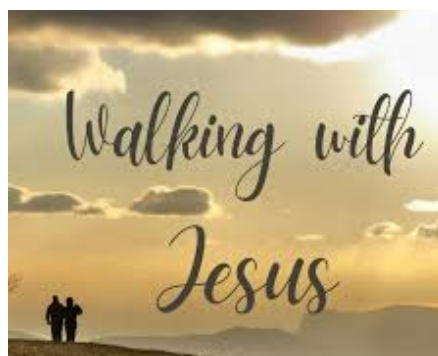
Parish Newsletter

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Looking at the Readings

The first reading opens with God asking Solomon what would he like God to give him. Solomon is the newly appointed king, he may wish for many things. This type of request of God offering his help to his chosen servants occurs regularly in Scripture and in other forms in classical literature and even fairy tales: "Your wish is my command" Genie in Aladdin's Lamp and also in Doctor Who. In a wise response Solomon asked for wisdom: "Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, ..." (Verse 9). Like prevenient grace, that is grace given to receive grace (see Prayer over the Gifts, Mass of Immaculate Conception of BVM). It seems that Solomon had prevenient wisdom. Such a gift should be our aspiration!

The Gospel today completes Matthew's Parables Discourse (chapter 13) with four very short parables: treasure in the field, the fine pearl, the dragnet and the storeroom. Each parable requires wisdom: Someone who finds the treasure in the field needs to know what to do. Similarly the merchant seeking the fine pearl and the fishermen discerning what fish to take to market and what to throw back into the sea. And finally the householder who goes looking into the larder. Like Solomon, these agents must discern the good from the bad. The kingdom of heaven is a treasure we must seek with all our heart. The world consists of good and bad, people of every kind. While final judgement is with God we live alongside people of all kinds here and now but look and work towards the future with freedom and hope.



PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 25th & 26th July 2026

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass
Sunday: 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 27th July – 31st July 2026

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass

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 3 rd Weekend of the Month
Children's Liturgy:	Every G'Day Weekend



Contact us:

Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim

Email: nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au
Mobile: 0450 185 021

Admin Officers:

Joy Padilla and Marianne Kelly

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, 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

Community Coordinators:

Julie Moyle

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.

Parish News

St Mary's Parish Echuca Mini Market *Event*

hosted by The Good Works Crew
Fundraising team



All enquiries kindly contact:
Jenny Morris 0418625731
Julie Moyle 0409826336



CFC YOUTH FOR CHRIST

FOOD, FUN & FAITH

Ready for a Saturday that actually impacts your life? Come hang out with an incredible community of young people. **No entry fee, pure good vibes, and a space to grow closer to Christ!**



WHEN

Saturday, 8 August 2026

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

WHERE

St Mary's Parish Hall, Echuca

224 Anstruther Street, Echuca
All Youth Aged 12–21 Welcome



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

Azrielle Segovia

as she receives the sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

G'day Weekday Mass

A warm invitation is extended to all Parishioners and families to join us at St Mary's Primary School as we host the Brennan Community (Years 5 & 6) G'day Weekday Mass on Wednesday 19th August at 12.00pm in the Brigidine Centre. Each term we have welcomed many of you into our school community to share our faith, our song and to provide a light lunch following Mass. We hope that you will place this date on your calendar and join with us as we build both community and connection.



As we prepare for our very first Mini-Market, we need your help! If you're able, we'd greatly appreciate donations for our stalls or a helping hand on the day with sales. Each stall has a captain, so please contact the relevant captain if you'd like to donate goods or volunteer to assist.

Books – Nina Sales – 0402 079 035

(Children's books, novels and cookbooks accepted. No magazines, please. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office.)

Cakes – Chamali Stouter – 0499 116 788

(Please drop off cakes, slices, etc. between 4:30pm and 5:30pm on Saturday, 15 August, at the Parish Centre. Kindly include a list of ingredients.)

Plants – Kim Wallace – 0409 284 266

Preserves/Jams – Josie Drakatos – 0408 546 492

Mary's Makers – Jan Tarr – 0429 237 780

Morning Tea – Jenny Morris – 0418 625 731

Kids' Corner – Abilain Liwanag – 0403 657 158

This Parish fundraiser will help raise funds for an accessible toilet. Thank you for supporting our parish community in any way you can. EFTPOS will be available on the day, though cash is appreciated where possible to help our stalls run more smoothly.

If you have any questions, please chat to one of us:

Angela Jefferson – 0481 330 029

Jenny Morris – 0418 625 731

Cindy Narvasa – 0467 900 382

Julie Moyle – 0409 826 336

The Good Works Crew

Thank you for your generosity and support!

ONE PARISH - ONE MISSION - MANY GIFTS

St Mary's **PARISH**
ECHUCA **STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH**
2026 - 2031

Wednesday, 19th August

5:30pm - Cuppa available after

Brigidine Centre - St. Mary's Primary School

WHAT TO EXPECT?



Discover the vision and key priorities of the Parish Strategic Plan.



Ask questions and gain clarity about our shared mission.



Reflect on how each ministry can contribute to parish growth and renewal.



Identify practical ministry priorities and actions for the next five years.

Everyone in our parish community, especially our ministry leaders and volunteers, is warmly invited and encouraged to attend.

RSVP to our

Community Coordinator,
Julie, on 0409 826 336 or
by email at moylej@bigpond.com

TOGETHER IN MISSION

Parish Calendar

27th July:	6.00pm Young Adults (see poster for details)
28th July:	1.30pm Sophia Sisters * 5:15pm Finance Meeting
30th July:	11.00am Bishop Rene's Installation (Bendigo Cathedral)
31st July:	9.00am Mary's Makers
4th August:	1.30pm Sophia Sisters
6th August:	11.00am Soup Kitchen
7th August:	9.00 Mary's Makers * 11.30am Adoration 12.00pm 1 st Friday Mass
8th August:	10.00am - 3.00pm CFC Youth for Christ fun day
11th August:	1.30pm Sophia Sisters * 2.30pm Social Committee * 4.30pm Soup Kitchen * 5.30pm P.P.C. meeting (up stairs)

Prayer Requests

For Those Who Are Unwell

Patricia Voge, 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, Ruth Phillips

Death Anniversaries

Jack Henwood, Dorothea Preston, Roy Bowyer, Rosie Catonese, John Atkins, Keith Bennett, Gay Hancock, Joyce Quinn, Adrian Lawford, Patricia D'Angri.

Recent Deaths



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

Roster THIS Week				25 th & 26 th July	
Mass	LECTORS			Eucharistic Ministers	Church Set-up
6:00pm	Tania Dixon Rose Quinn, Kristy Serpell			Prue Crowe-Galea Carol Purdon	Tania Dixon
9:30am	Rachel McAsey Jenny Morris, Claire Hogan			Catherine Linder Rob Morris	Kenn Liwanag
Prayers of the Faithful		Judie O'Farrell	Counters	Brendan Shingles & Andrew Kennedy	
St. Anne's	Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan			Hospital Visit	Barb Green
Roster NEXT Week				1 st & 2 nd August	
Mass	LECTORS			Eucharistic Ministers	Church Set-up
6:00pm	Mary Atkins Dominic Karunanayke, Peter Phillips			Kim Wallace Christine Sebire	Christine Sebire
9:30am	Noela Boyer Max Marchetti, Lauren Gould			Adrian Costello Kate Bruty	Julie Moyle
Prayers of the Faithful		Kath Quinn	Counters	Roma Bowman & Margaret Hart	
St. Anne's	Yvonne Costello, Bev Stapleton			Hospital Visit	John & Julie Moyle
Monthly (July)					
Gardening	Rob Morris & Bob Cooper			Baptism Prep	Mary Byrne

1st Reading**1 Kings 3:5, 7-12****A reading from the first book of the Kings**

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130**R. Lord, I love your commands.**

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **R.**

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **R.**

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **R.**

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **R.**

2nd Reading**Romans 8:28-30****A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

**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 13:44-52****A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

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

Readings for Next Week

**Next Week: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, A
1st & 2nd August 2026**

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 144:8-9, 15-18
2nd Reading: Romans 8:35, 37-39
Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21