

8th & 9th August 2026

Parish Newsletter

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



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.

Looking at the Readings

We have not seen God. Not even Abraham, Moses, Elijah or the Apostles have seen God. Yet the Apostles had come close because in seeing Christ the Lord they have "seen" an image of God. We do see a lot of images of God in Artworks, Poems, Stories, Songs and human experiences. Most of these images have been inspired by sacred scripture and meditation on the Word of God. We hear how Elijah, who wanted to see God, was told to leave the cave and stand at its entrance on the mountain and God would pass by. Elijah saw God not in the terrific forces of nature but in the silence of a gentle breeze. Those terrific forces of nature: storms, earthquakes, wildfires, floods and droughts are sometimes described by insurance companies and the like as Acts of God. But God was not in the storm, the earthquake or the fire. The Apostles in the boat were terrified by the fierce storm on the lake but also terrified by Jesus walking on the lake and calming the storm. We need to recognise Jesus, Father and Spirit in the ordinary and quiet moments of our lives. It is in the ordinary that God performs extraordinary actions. It is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well we fulfil God's call to service.

(Spiritual "Little Way" of Thérèse of Lisieux.)

Vocation Awareness Week For educators, catechists, and mentors of our youth, that they may be inspired by the Holy Spirit as they nurture young people in knowledge, faith, and Christian values. Let us pray to the Lord.



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

Dusty (Saturday night)

Tommy, Nilsa & Delilah

(Sunday morning)

as they receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 8th & 9th August 2026

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

Weekday Masses: 10th – 15th August 2026

Wednesday: 12:00pm Mass
Thursday: 12:30pm Foundation Class Mass (Brigidine Centre)
Friday: 10:00am Aged-Care Liturgies
Saturday: 9:30am Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary (Mass – Day of Obligation)

Reconciliation:
Baptism:
Weddings:

Approach Fr Novie before Mass
Every Second weekend of the Month
By Appointment with the Parish Priest

Parish News

St Mary's Parish Echuca Mini Market Event

hosted by The Good Works Crew Fundraising team

Join us

for a great fun, laughter and music and a family friendly community event.

All money raised will go towards new disability toilet at St Mary's.

THERE WILL BE	
	Bake Sale
	Book Sale
	Plant Stall
	Relish & Preserves
	Sausage sizzle
	Morning tea plates with bottomless tea & coffee
	Mary's Makers
	Children's Corner



SUNDAY
16 AUGUST
AFTER 9:30AM MASS



AT ST MARY'S
PARISH CHURCH
GROUNDS



FUNDRAISING
EVENT



All enquiries kindly contact:

Jenny Morris 0418625731
Julie Moyle 0409826336

SANDHURST FORMATION INSTITUTE 26



21&22 AUGUST
Riverlinks Eastbank, Shepparton

GROWING AS COMMUNITIES OF MISSION



Opening Reflection
Bishop René Ramirez RCJ
Understanding the Mission Lens in all we do

2 DAYS exploring

Gospel Mission and Pastoral Outreach
Strategic Direction 1 of the Sandhurst
Strategic Mission and Pastoral Goals.

- A range of Seminars to choose
- Interparish Dialogue
- Dedicated Youth Stream
- Intergenerational Dialogue
- Music with Gen Bryant

You are strongly encouraged to attend both days,
but are welcome to attend either Friday or Saturday.

REGISTRATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL

You must register for each day you are attending using the relevant links.

REGISTER FOR GENERAL STREAM



REGISTER FOR FRIDAY
<https://www.trybooking.com/D5F0R>

REGISTER FOR YOUTH STREAM (16-35)



REGISTER FOR FRIDAY
<https://www.trybooking.com/DMEGB>

Designed for school students,
relevant for youth and young adults.



REGISTER FOR SATURDAY
<https://www.trybooking.com/DMAKS>



REGISTER FOR SATURDAY
<https://www.trybooking.com/DMPFJ>

Designed for young adults and
youth, relevant for school students.



Keynote on Friday

What's the Mission and
What Does That Mean Today?

What's the Mission and What Does That Mean Today? The mission that Jesus gave the Church to 'go and make disciples' (Matt 28:19-20) has not changed, but the social and cultural world in which our church communities are immersed and to which they are sent is now vastly different to the world of only a few generations ago. This has huge implications for how the Church carries out Jesus' commission in ways that bear the 'fruit' that he envisaged, commanded and empowered us for today?

Keynote on Saturday Growing as Communities of Mission

To grow as Communities of Mission within the commission of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we would be wise to take notice of what's producing 'fruit' in parishes that have intentionally set out on a mission focused path. This encompasses leadership and parish culture, parishioners growing as disciples rather than consumers, calling forth gifts not filling 'job gaps', knowing the essential Good News and being able to authentically communicate it.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.sandhurstcatholic.org.au

QUESTIONS?

info@sandhurstcatholic.org.au

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 ECHUCA PARISH 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

I warmly invite parishioners to attend the Sandhurst Formation Institute 2026 on 21-22 August, a wonderful opportunity for faith formation, learning, and spiritual renewal. Please review the program and register for either or both days (a separate registration is required for each day), and I encourage you to take advantage of the inspiring range of seminars on offer.

Parish Calendar

11th August:	2.30pm Social Committee *4.30pm Soup Kitchen *5.30pm P.P.C. meeting (Meeting Room)
12th August:	5.00pm Bereavement Meeting
13th August:	11.15am Soup Kitchen *12.30pm Foundation Class Mass (Brigidine Centre)
15th August:	9:30am Mass Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary
15th & 16th August:	G'Day Weekend (Sat) Young Adults (Sun) Grade 3 and 4 followed by Mini Market
18th August:	4.30pm Soup Kitchen *5.00pm Liturgy Meeting *5.00pm Baptism Prep Meeting
19th August:	12.00pm G'day Mass at St Mary's School *5.30pm Strategic Plan Launch (Brigidine Centre)
20th August:	11.00am Soup Kitchen (Meeting Room)
21st August:	9.00am Mary's Makers

Regular Schedule

Sophia Sisters: Every Tuesday 1:30pm (Parish Centre)
Men's Ministry: 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

Prayer Requests

For Those Who Are Unwell

Patricia Voegel, Bruno Barbera, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, Caroline Farley, Fred Molluso, Jim Byrne, Meredith Ryan (Maddick), 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, Domenico Scanbellone

Death Anniversaries

Arthur Fraser, Lucie Cassin, Barry Shackelton, Nellie McAsey, Toni Spencer, Norm Wright, John Lord, Kath Byrne, Violeta Ferris, John Bernard Uy, Cresencio & Lucia Emit, Julie & Ramona Emit, Frank & Shirley Simek, Jim Stapleton, Rebecca & Bryan Warde.

Recent Deaths

Janet Touhey

On Wednesday all staff gathered along with our neighbouring schools to engage in a Staff Spirituality Day. The theme for the day was 'Life to the full' (John 10:10).

St Mary's hosted our neighbouring Diocesan schools including St Mary's Cohuna, St Joseph's Kerang and St Joseph's Rochester.

The core purpose of the day was to pause, reflect on the core values of our purpose and vocation, and nurture our personal mental and spiritual well-being.

Two online workshops were also hosted externally by Lisa McInnes-Smith, author of Human Performance, Teams and Leadership, and Stan Grant, journalist and International Correspondent.

By the close of the day, staff had strengthened their collective commitment to being ready to serve, lead, and act with courage in the face of the unknown and to continue to 'live life to the full'.



Roster THIS Week				8 th & 9 th August	
Mass	LECTORS			Eucharistic Ministers	Church Set-up
6:00pm	Chris Lee Tania Dixon, Nick Lee			Carmel Mackenzie Prue Crowe-Galea	Mary Atkins
9:30am	Gracie Drakatos Julie Moyle, Poppy Ferguson			Kay Westblade John Moyle	Rachel McAsey
Prayers of the Faithful		Mary Atkins	Counters	Pat Whyte & Adrian Costello	
St. Anne's	Cindy & Jonas Narvasa			Hospital Visit	Noela Boyer
Roster NEXT Week				15 th & 16 th August	
Mass	LECTORS			Eucharistic Ministers	Church Set-up
6:00pm	Rose Quinn Carol Purdon, Dominic Karunanayke			Leah Williams Tharaka De Silva	Rose Quinn
9:30am	Margaret Hart Gracie Drakatos, Kenneth Uzoh			Bernie Oliver Bebher Mitchell	Noela Boyer
Prayers of the Faithful		Rose Quinn	Counters	Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams	
St. Anne's	Jan Tarr, Gabe Phelan, Jenny Morris			Hospital Visit	Karla Chisholm
Monthly (August)					
Gardening	Michael Delahunty & Fr Des			Baptism Prep	Mary Byrne

1st Reading

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14

**R. Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.

Alleluia!

2nd Reading

Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ - it is the truth - my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

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

Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

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

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Readings for Next Week

**Next Week: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, A
15th & 16th August 2026**

1st Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66:2-3, 5-6, 8
2nd Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

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