



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.

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:

St Mary's Echuca: BSB Number: 083-543
Account Number: 45-782-9206

22nd & 23rd August 2026

Parish Newsletter

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Looking at the Readings

Perhaps we can say the key to the readings is the key. Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, is given the key of the palace of the king. Key is a symbol of authority. The holder will be in charge of opening and closing the palace. Jesus, in today's Gospel gives Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Again the holder of the key has the authority to bind and loose on earth the spiritual aspect of life and faith. However, these symbols of authority are bestowed upon Eliakim and Peter because of their committed faith and emerging leadership.

Another symbol of Peter's faith is his new name, also bestowed by Christ who said: "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church." Peter means rock. The act of naming by Christ indicated Christ's possession or intimacy with Peter and renaming also recognised as conferring a particular mission onto Peter. Here the use of symbol has its fullest impact. Keys and rock are symbols of power and more significantly the granting of power.

Yet before granting of power and authority came the profession of faith, in words and actions. Peter spoke up in response to Jesus' question "Who do you say I am?" We find out that faith is a gift, requires response, leads to mission and brings happiness. All expressed in this Gospel passage!



The image for this week depicts Eliakim with the robe and key of the House of David bestowed upon by God. (Is 22:21-22).

By Steve Erspamer ©
1992 Archdiocese of Chicago.

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 22nd & 23rd August 2026

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

Weekday Masses: 24th – 28th August 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

Parish News

Parish Sacramental Information Evening



**Wednesday
9th September 2026
7:00pm at
St Mary's Church, EchUCA**

If you're considering enrolling your child/ren in the 2026/7 Sacramental Program, we invite you to attend our Information Evening.

We will provide information about receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation (Nov 2026), Confirmation, and First Communion (both May 2027),
This is for parents ONLY.

Please contact the parish office at St. Mary's Parish for more information on 5482 1127 (Tuesday to Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm), or email: admin@stmarysechUCA.org.au.



Final Farewell

The Bereavement Support Group have organised an informal gathering where parishioners [and their families if they wish] will be presented with thoughts and ideas for planning ahead for their funeral. We will have a guest speaker on the topic of Advanced Care Planning too. It will be held in the Parish Centre on Wednesday the 30th of September, beginning with a cuppa at 4.30pm, followed by the presentation at 5.00pm.

Please note that the event will be live-streamed for those who have family members interested in attending, but live elsewhere. This gathering is open to all parishioners, both the young and those a little older.

If you'd like more information on this event, please discuss with one of the Bereavement Support Group members. We look forward to seeing you there.

Carmel Mackenzie 0417 164 669
Julie Moyle 0409 826 336

Parish Strategic Plan Launch

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Parish Strategic Plan Launch last Wednesday evening. We need your help to make this Strategic Plan not just a document, but something we can all look back on and say, "We did this together for the betterment of our parish."

You will receive follow-up emails with Ministry Action Planning Sheets to complete and return by the end of September, and you are encouraged to discuss these with your ministry members to identify practical next steps. Going forward, there will be annual ministry and parish check-ins (serving as the AGM around August or September) along with regular updates through Parish Pastoral Council meetings.

My sincere thanks to our PPC, especially Rob Morris, and to the Senior Leadership Team for their hard work and support. Thank you also to St Mary's Primary School for the use and set-up of the Brigidine Centre, Colleen Hampson for facilitating and to our Social Committee for the refreshments. Thank you all for your generosity, support, and commitment to our parish. Let us continue this journey together as we Grow in Faith Together.

Fr. Novie

Young Adults FAITH. FRIENDS. FUN. SCAVENGER & HUNT Dinner

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF
FAITH, FUN & FRIENDSHIP!

**MONDAY
24TH
of August**

6:00 PM

MEET IN THE
Church
OUR LADY CHAPEL



1 ROSARY

Come together in prayer and reflection.



2 SCAVENGER HUNT

Team up, explore, and have fun!



3 PIZZA

Let's end the night with great food and even better company!

As we prepare for our future **Mother's Day (2027)** celebrations, we are seeking donations of teacups and saucers to be used as part of the festivities. Whether sourced from your own collection or found at a local op shop, all donations are warmly welcomed and greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for helping us create a special celebration for our mothers and special people.



Parish Calendar

24th August:	6.00pm Young Adults
25th & 26th August:	Marianne and Joy at the Secretary's Conference in Bendigo
26th August:	4.45pm Kildare Mass at St Joe's *5.30pm Ladies Drinks
29th & 30th August:	Social Justice Sunday
2nd September:	5.30pm Sacramental Team Meeting
4th September:	9.00am Mary's Makers *11.30am Adoration 12.00pm 1 st Friday Mass
8th September:	5.00pm P.P.C. Meeting
9th September:	5.00pm Liturgy Meeting
15th September:	5.00pm Baptism Preparation
16th September:	12.00pm Mass followed by soup & Sandwiches *1.15pm Social Committee Meeting

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

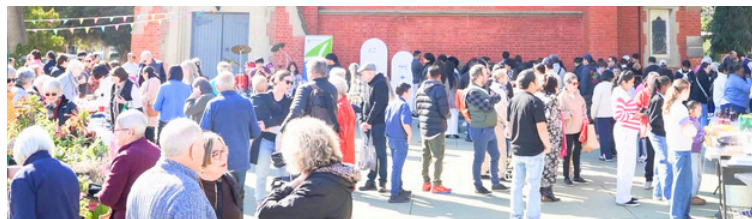
Death Anniversaries

Maria Berzuela, Lawrie Pitts, Des Crowe, Josephine Rennie, John Bennett, Mary Mullane, Joan Doyle, Molly Shanahan, Ken Umbers, Jim Lawford and Mary Victor.

Recent Deaths

Parish First Mini Market

What a beautiful day! Thank you to everyone who helped make our first St Mary's Mini-Market such a wonderful success. A special thank you to our stall captains, volunteers, donors, bakers, families, and all our wonderful children and young performers who shared their time and talents. It was beautiful to see our parish, school, and wider community come together in such a joyful spirit. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have raised **\$3,834.15** towards our fundraising goal! 🙏
 Thank you all for making our first Mini-Market such a memorable and special day. This is what community is all about! ❤️



Roster THIS Week				22nd & 23rd August	
Mass	LECTORS			Eucharistic Ministers	Church Set-up
6:00pm	Kristy Serpell Chris Lee, Rose Quinn			Bob Cooper Sarah Byrne	Tania Dixon
9:30am	Margaret Hart Claire Hogan, Judie O'Farrell			Matt Butler Julie Moyle	Kate Bruty
Prayers of the Faithful		Judie O'Farrell	Counters	Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy	
St. Anne's	Loretta Holman, Mary Byrne			Hospital Visit	Carmel Mackenzie
Roster NEXT Week				29th & 30 th August	
Mass	LECTORS			Eucharistic Ministers	Church Set-up
6:00pm	Christine Sebire Nick Lee,			Kristy Serpell Dominic Karunanayke	Christine Sebire
9:30am	Julie Moyle Barb Green, Rob Morris			John Moyle Kenn Liwanag	Kenn Liwanag
Prayers of the Faithful		Noela Boyer	Counters	Roma Bowman & Margaret Hart	
St. Anne's	Lauren Gould & Prue Crowe-Galea			Hospital Visit	Barb Green
Monthly (August)					
Gardening	Michael Delahunty & Fr Des			Baptism Prep	Mary Byrne

1st Reading

Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8

**R. Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you,
I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **R.**



Readings for Next Week

**Next Week: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, A
29th & 30th August 2026**

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 62:2-6, 8-9
2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-2
Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

2nd Reading

Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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

© Copyright Liturgy Brisbane 2025

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