



### Contact us:

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**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](mailto:admin@stmarysechuca.org.au)  
Website: [www.stmarysechuca.org.au](http://www.stmarysechuca.org.au)  
Facebook: St Mary's Parish Echuca

**Community Coordinators:****Julie Moyle**

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**Visitation Ministry Coordinator:****Kath Quinn**

M: 0439 101 282  
E: [kathquinn55@hotmail.com](mailto: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

29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> August 2026

# Parish Newsletter

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

## Looking at the Readings

Jeremiah was the classic prophet of doom warning the citizens of Jerusalem of their impending captivity and their city of its impending destruction. They did not appreciate that, nor did Jeremiah find comfort or reward in telling them. But he was impelled by a fire within. On reflection, his passion was a great motivation and awesome emotion. It makes us listen and take heed of events and advice we may encounter.

Jesus faced the same reactions from the citizens and leaders of Jerusalem. He warns the disciples of this impending rejection and suffering. Peter and the others were with Jesus in the good times and the bad but wanted to avoid the bad times. Life has its contradictions! And the last of these is that suffering leads to glory.

St Paul echoes the words of Jeremiah, that now as Christians we must model Christ in offering our lives as servants and pursue God's will.



The image for this week depicts the prophet Jeremiah facing his critics and denouncers.

By Steve Erspamer ©  
1992 Archdiocese of Chicago.

## PARISH MASS TIMES

**Weekend Masses: 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday: 9:30am Mass

**Weekday Masses: 31<sup>st</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

Wednesday: 12:00pm Mass

Friday: 11:30am Adoration 12:00pm 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Mass

**Reconciliation:**

Approach Fr Novie before Mass

**Baptism:**

Every Second weekend of the Month

**Weddings:**

By Appointment with the Parish Priest

# Parish News

## Parish Hall Renovation Celebration

We're delighted to invite all parishioners to join us as we celebrate the completion of our Parish Hall renovations!

Come along for a relaxed and informal celebration with finger food, good company and a cuppa.

 Tea and coffee will be provided.  
BYO drinks.

It's a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for the work that has been done and to celebrate this renewed space together as a parish community. Everyone is welcome!

**Date: Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2026**

**Time: 5:30pm**

**Venue: St Mary's Parish Hall**



**KIDS & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
Sunday, September 20, 2026

- DURING HOLY MASS - (9:30-10:30)**  
Kids & Youth will be our **Readers as Commentator and Lectors.**
- AFTER HOLY MASS - (10:30-12:00)**  
Join us for:
  - Praise & Fellowship**  
Sing, praise & celebrate together!
  - Bible-Based Fun Activities**  
Games, activities & learning about God's Word!
  - Food & Fellowship**  
Enjoy good food, fun & friendship!

**COME • JOIN • HAVE FUN • GROW IN FAITH**  
St Mary's Parish

## Final Farewell

The St Mary's Bereavement Support Group invites all parishioners to an informal afternoon to help us think about and plan ahead for our funeral wishes and Advance Care Planning.

**Wednesday, 30 September**  
**Cuppa – 4.30pm**  
**Presentation – 5.00pm**  
**Parish Meeting Room**

**Guest Speakers: Loretta Lilford and Parish Bereavement Support Team**

This will be a relaxed opportunity to learn, ask questions and think about planning ahead for ourselves and our loved ones.

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.

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 Sacramental Information Evening

St Mary's Parish  
ECHUCA  
Growing in faith together

**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](mailto:admin@stmarysechuca.org.au).



## SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 29th/ 30th August 2026

This social justice statement, **Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division**, is one contribution to that conversation. But perhaps what Australia needs most at this moment is not simply more debate. The gospel offers us a way. We're offering that today. The measure of our nation will never be how loudly we argue, but how deeply we care for one another, especially those on the margins and those whose voices are seldom heard.

This statement invites us to that vision: a society where disagreement need not destroy respect, where diversity is welcomed as a great gift, and where the dignity of every single person is the foundation of our common life.



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE  
Social Justice Statement • August 2026

**Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division**

SCAN QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD A PDF COPY

The document is now available to download on our website: [bit.ly/acbc-sjs-aug2026](http://bit.ly/acbc-sjs-aug2026)

## Parish Calendar

|                                                      |                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>29<sup>th</sup> &amp; 30<sup>th</sup> August:</b> | Social Justice Sunday                                                       |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> September:</b>                     | 5.30pm Sacramental Team Meeting                                             |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> September:</b>                     | 9.00am Mary's Makers *11.30am Adoration 12.00pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Mass |
| <b>8<sup>th</sup> September:</b>                     | 5.00pm P.P.C. Meeting                                                       |
| <b>9<sup>th</sup> September:</b>                     | 7.00pm Information Evening (Sacramental Program) Church                     |
| <b>15<sup>th</sup> September:</b>                    | 5.00pm Baptism Preparation                                                  |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup> September:</b>                    | 12.00pm Mass followed by soup & Sandwiches *1.15pm Social Committee Meeting |
| <b>18<sup>th</sup> September:</b>                    | 9.00am Mary's Makers                                                        |
| <b>19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 20<sup>th</sup> Sept:</b>   | G'Day Weekend *Sunday School                                                |
| <b>21<sup>st</sup> September:</b>                    | 6pm Young Adults                                                            |

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend of the Month  
**Children's Liturgy:** Every G'Day Weekend

### Prayer Requests

#### For Those Who Are Unwell

Patricia Voegel, Bruno Barbera, Dan Carey, Pat Davey, Howard Clark Jnr, 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

Julio Acibron, Tom Turner, Bill Slattery, Alberta Villarus, Jack Oman, Jack Thomas, Pat Mueller, Edith Daug, Alan Ash, Bill Carr and Pauline McKenna.

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.



**Living Water**  
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water  
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

**Mass celebrated by Bishop René Ramirez RCJ**  
 11.00 am Tuesday, 1 September, 2026  
 Huntly Streamside Reserve (off Leans Rd, Huntly)  
 BBQ will follow. BYO Chair, Water bottle, Hat!

#### Recent Deaths

| Roster THIS Week        |                                                     |             |          | 29th & 30 <sup>th</sup> August              |                    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Mass                    | LECTORS                                             |             |          | Eucharistic Ministers                       | Church Set-up      |
| 6:00pm                  | Christine Sebire<br>Nick Lee,                       |             |          | Kristy Serpell<br>Dominic Karunanayke       | Christine Sebire   |
| 9:30am                  | Julie Moyle<br>Barb Green, Rob Morris               |             |          | John Moyle<br>Kenn Liwanag                  | Bernie Oliver      |
| Prayers of the Faithful |                                                     | Noela Boyer | Counters | Roma Bowman & Margaret Hart                 |                    |
| St. Anne's              | Lauren Gould & Prue Crowe-Galea                     |             |          | Hospital Visit                              | Barb Green         |
| Roster NEXT Week        |                                                     |             |          | 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> September |                    |
| Mass                    | LECTORS                                             |             |          | Eucharistic Ministers                       | Church Set-up      |
| 6:00pm                  | Rose Quinn<br>Christine Sebire, Dominic Karunanayke |             |          | Kristy Serpell<br>Leah Williams             | Tania Dixon        |
| 9:30am                  | Barb Green<br>Poppy Ferguson, Kerry McLoughlan      |             |          | Margaret Hart<br>Kate Bruty                 | Kenn Liwanag       |
| Prayers of the Faithful |                                                     | Mary Atkins | Counters | Pat Whyte & Adrian Costello                 |                    |
| St. Anne's              | Elaine Roberts, Tania Dixon, Holly Morris           |             |          | Hospital Visit                              | John & Julie Moyle |
| Monthly (September)     |                                                     |             |          |                                             |                    |
| Gardening               | Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver, David Baker              |             |          | Baptism Prep                                | Sarah Byrne        |

## 1st Reading

*Jeremiah 20:7-9*

### A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;  
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.  
I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.  
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'  
The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.  
I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.'  
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones.  
The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

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

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 62:2-6, 8-9*

**R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

For you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

### 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**

## Readings for Next Week

**Next Week: 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, A  
5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Ezekiel 33:7-9

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Romans 13:8-10

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:15-20

## 2nd Reading

*Romans 12:1-2*

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

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

### Gospel Acclamation

*Ephesians 1:17, 18*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel

*Matthew 16: 21-27*

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

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