



### 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  
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Ph: (03) 5482 1127

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

19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026

# Parish Newsletter

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

## Looking at the Readings

Today, our Gospel invites us to reflect on the generosity of God. The landowner represents the loving heart of God towards each one of us. There are two things in particular that might catch our attention in this passage. Firstly, God wants everyone to work in his vineyard. Secondly, in the end, each will receive the same reward. Perhaps, like some of the workers in the parable, we may feel that the landowner is being unjust: How is it that the last receive the same pay as the first? We need to appreciate that the way of God is the way of generosity. In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah reminds us the God's ways are not our ways, and God's thoughts are not our thoughts.

*Lord, we pray that you might help us have a heart that is free, and looks at others not with judgement or criticism but with generosity and openness.*

*So the last will be  
first, and the first  
will be last*



## PARISH MASS TIMES

### Weekend Masses: 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass (Couples for Christ - Hosting)  
Sunday: 9:30am Mass (Social Committee - Hosting)

### Weekday Masses: 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Wednesday: 12:00pm Mass

**Reconciliation:**  
**Baptism:**  
**Weddings:**

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

# Parish News

## Community Connect – Sunshine Bendigo

This September, our Community Connect project is supporting Sunshine Bendigo, a volunteer group providing practical support to families experiencing challenging times.

Our Mary's Makers ladies have already donated baby blankets, teddies, dresses and beanies. Now we invite parishioners to help by donating items for children up to 6 years, including new socks and underwear, clothes and pyjamas, toys, books, colouring supplies, footballs, soccer balls and playdough.

🧺 A collection basket will be in the church for the next two weeks. Cash donations are also welcome. Sunshine Bendigo is a registered charity, and donations can be given to the parish office, Julie, or made directly through [www.sunshinebendigo.org.au](http://www.sunshinebendigo.org.au).

Julie Moyle – Community Coordinator

## Revelations Magazine: We'd Love to Hear Your Story!

With limited space in each edition, the Revelations Team carefully selects ministries and groups to feature. This year, we'd especially love to hear from ministries that haven't been featured before or recently, as well as any ministry or group who would love to be included.

✉️ If you'd like your ministry or group to be considered, simply send your Expression of Interest to [cindyaura.austria@gmail.com](mailto:cindyaura.austria@gmail.com) by Friday, 25 September 2026, including your name and ministry/group.

**No article is needed at this stage** – just let us know you're interested! Further details will be shared with the selected ministries. We look forward to hearing your stories and celebrating the wonderful people and ministries of St Mary's.

## YOU'RE INVITED

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.

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

**- 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!



**— YOUNG ADULTS —**  
**TRIVIA NIGHT!**  
FUN • FRIENDS • BRING A PLATE

**YA ST MARY'S**  
— YOUNG ADULTS ECHUCA —

DATE: 21st Of September  
TIME: 6pm  
LOCATION: Church Hall

Icons: GLOBE (GEOGRAPHY), MOVIES & TV, HISTORY, MUSIC, FAITH / RELIGION

## 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

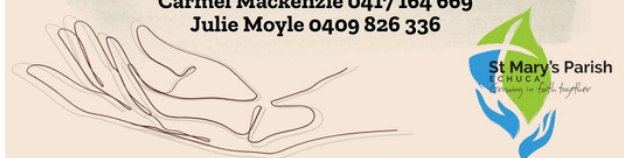
**Guest Speakers: Loretta Lilford and Parish Bereavement Support Team**

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 Calendar

|                                   |                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>21<sup>st</sup> September:</b> | 6.00pm Young Adults Trivia Night                                 |
| <b>23<sup>rd</sup> September:</b> | 5.30pm Parish Hall renewal Space Opening                         |
| <b>29<sup>th</sup> September:</b> | 5.15pm Finance Meeting                                           |
| <b>30<sup>th</sup> September:</b> | 4.30pm Final Farewell Session                                    |
| <b>2nd October:</b>               | 9.00am Mary's Makers *11.30am Adoration *12.00pm 1st Friday Mass |
| <b>5<sup>th</sup> October:</b>    | Fr Novie leaves for a well earned holiday                        |
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> October:</b>    | 6.30pm Reconciliation and Faith Formation                        |
| <b>11<sup>th</sup> October:</b>   | Annual Luncheon of the Family Groups                             |

### 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

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

#### Death Anniversaries

Cameron Purdon, John James, Nell Barry, Vi Cahill.

On behalf of St Mary's Primary, thank you to those who have donated such beautiful cups and saucers in anticipation of our Mother's Day event next year! It is never too early to be organised! Our search continues for more donations and please know that we are extremely grateful.



## Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

#### Recent Deaths Patricia Vogele

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

### ROSTER THIS WEEK 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September

| Mass                    | LECTORS                                     |                 | Eucharistic Ministers           | Church Set-up                    |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6:00pm                  | Kristy Serpell<br>Carol Purdon, Mary Atkins |                 | Sarah Byrne<br>Carmel Mackenzie | Christine Sebire                 |
| 9:30am                  | Poppy Ferguson<br>Children's Liturgy        |                 | Rob Morris<br>Kay Westblade     | Noela Boyer                      |
| Prayers of the Faithful |                                             | Judie O'Farrell | Counters                        | Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy |
| St. Anne's              | Yvonne Costello, Bev Stapleton              |                 | Hospital Visit                  | Karla Chisholm                   |

### ROSTER NEXT WEEK 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September

| Mass                    | LECTORS                                      |            | Eucharistic Ministers       | Church Set-up               |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6:00pm                  | Tania Dixon<br>Rose Quinn, Christine Sebire  |            | Bob Cooper<br>Kim Wallace   | Mary Atkins                 |
| 9:30am                  | Noela Boyer<br>Abilain Liwanag, Kenneth Uzoh |            | Divanne Balos<br>John Moyle | Rachel McAsey               |
| Prayers of the Faithful |                                              | Rose Quinn | Counters                    | Roma Bowman & Margaret Hart |
| St. Anne's              | Cindy & Jonas Narvasa                        |            | Hospital Visit              | Carmel Mackenzie            |

### Monthly (September)

|           |                                        |              |             |
|-----------|----------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Gardening | Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver, David Baker | Baptism Prep | Sarah Byrne |
|-----------|----------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|

## 1st Reading

*Isaiah 55:6-9*

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man  
his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity  
on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my  
thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not  
your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my  
ways are above your ways, my thoughts above  
your thoughts.

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

## Responsorial Psalm *Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18*

### R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. **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.**

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

## Gospel Acclamation *Acts 16:14*

### Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.

### Alleluia!

#### **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: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, A  
26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Ezekiel 18:25-28  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 24:4-9  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Philippians 2:1-11  
**Gospel:** Matthew 21:28-32

## 2nd Reading

*Philippians 1:20-24, 27*

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

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by  
my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is  
Christ, but then death would bring me  
something more; but then again, if living in this  
body means doing work which is having good  
results - I do not know what I should choose. I  
am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone  
and be with Christ, which would be very much  
the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is  
a more urgent need for your sake.  
Avoid anything in your everyday lives that  
would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

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

## Gospel

*Matthew 20:1-16*

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven  
is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire  
workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement  
with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent  
them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third  
hour he saw others standing idle in the market  
place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too  
and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At  
about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth  
hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about  
the eleventh hour he went out and found more  
men standing round, and he said to them, "Why  
have you been standing here idle all day?"  
"Because no one has hired us" they answered. He  
said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the  
evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his  
bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages,  
starting with the last arrivals and ending with the  
first." So those who were hired at about the  
eleventh hour came forward and received one  
denarius each. When the first came, they expected  
to get more, but they too received one denarius  
each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner.  
"The men who came last" they said "have done  
only one hour, and you have treated them the same  
as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in  
all the heat." He answered one of them and said,  
"My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not  
agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I  
choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you.  
Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why  
be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last  
will be first, and the first, last.'

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