

Looking at the Readings

From the readings we discover two objectives of conversion. John the Baptist (Gospel) cried out “*Prepare a way for the Lord,*” through a repentance that called for a change of heart and way of life. We cannot dwell on naming and shaming of sins but a turning away from them and turning to God. A true conversion, a real 180 degree U Turn!

St Paul describes the next objective in conversion: that the Christian is able to give praise and glory to God. The “convert” sees creation anew, relates with others anew, sees the wonder, beauty, faith and love around and within and then prompted to give praise and thanks.

Therefore, our Advent response is to hear and act upon the call of John the Baptist, the teaching of St Paul and prepare for the coming of Christ anew.



© Diocese of Sandhurst 2025

Fr. Des Welladsen

Resident/ Supply Priest from 10th Sept to 11th Dec

Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim

Email: nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au

Mobile: 0450 185 021

Admin Officers: Joy Padilla/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 Coordinator: Julie Moyle

E: pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au

M: 0409 826 336

Child Safety Officer: Mel Slattery

M: 0417 822 589

E: melslattery.home@gmail.com

Visitation Ministry Coordinator: Kath Quinn

M: 0439 101 282

E: kathquinn55@hotmail.com

Communications and Events Coordinators:

Communications—Hannah Jurolan and Paul Tape

E: hcjurolan@gmail.com

Events—Cindy Narvasa

E: cindyaure.austria@gmail.com

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekday Masses: 8th - 12th December

Wednesday: 12.00pm Anointing Mass

**Friday: Anointing Mass at Aged Care
11.00am Anointing Mass Wharparilla**

6th & 7th December - Weekend Masses

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Reconciliation: Ring Fr Des for an appointment 0429143093

Baptism: Every Second weekend of the Month

Weddings: By Appointment with the Parish Priest

Sophia Sisters: Every Monday 1:30pm (Parish Centre)

Men's Group: Every Saturday 9am (Parish Centre)

Playgroup: Every Friday 9am (Parish Centre)

Children's Liturgy: G'day Sunday

Sunday School: G'day Sunday

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Yorta Yorta Nation. This land is sacred, this land is gift, this land is thousands of years old. We acknowledge the immense beauty of this land and the dreams of the Yorta-Yorta People. 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

Child Safety: 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 the parish office and look for the Child Safety Officer Mel Slattery.

PARISH CALENDAR

September, October, November: Fr Novie is on Sabbatical

10th December: 12.00pm Anointing Mass

12th December: Anointing Mass at Aged Care *11.00am Wharparilla

14th December: A.G.M. Christmas Party

16th December: 5.00pm Liturgy Meeting

Don't Forget the Christmas Hamper Raffle

Donations still accepted.

Drawn at the Parish Christmas party on 14th December.

Raffle tickets will be available for sale at both Masses from 29th -30th November - \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

For any queries, please contact Julie Moyle on 0409 826 336 or Margaret Hart on 0419 506 254.

Thanks so much for your support.

MINISTERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

We will be needing Ministers for our Masses, 10.00pm Christmas Eve, and 9.30am Christmas Day.

Lectors, Commentators, Eucharistic Ministers, Offertory Procession. If you will be attending at either of these, could you contact Rose Quinn 0408 531812, or Noela Boyer. 0407 946708.

We will have a clipboard in the church to place your name on. Thank you

St Mary's Primary School Echuca

Advent and Mission - St Mary's 'Giving Tree'

This term each Year level has been learning about how we can reach out and serve others. Many classrooms have been exploring the concept of service within our communities and identifying how they can use their gifts within their community to support others.

As we journey through the season of Advent, this has been a wonderful opportunity for us as a community to reach out to those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

In the Administration building at St Mary's Primary School, a 'Giving Tree', a Christmas tree, has been erected. This tree does not have any decorations, but only gift tags hanging from it. Each gift tag has the gender and age of a young person for whom you make like to purchase a gift for. The value of this gift is left up to you.

Visit our school to select a gift tag from 'The Giving Tree' to support one child who may not be as fortunate as those in our own families, Parish or community.

Please wrap your gift, attach the gift tag chosen from 'The Giving Tree' and place this under the Christmas tree in the Office before December 10th.

Anonymity is the key to this gesture.

'The art of giving is perfected through anonymity.'
~ Douglas Horton.

For those who would prefer to donate non-perishable grocery items rather than purchasing a gift, a large crate has been positioned beside 'The Giving Tree' for donations.

All donations are appreciated and welcome. Thank you in advance for your generosity and your gift of giving.

CASH FOR A CAUSE 2025

Third Draw on the 30th, the winners were - Jan Davey & Geoffrey Dixon. Congratulations.

Calling All Volunteers! 🧑‍🌾

Our AGM and Parish Christmas Party is coming soon! Let's celebrate together as one parish family — and we need your help to make it special!

No special talent required — just your time, smile, and willingness to help. 🙌

Whether it's setting up, helping with games, food, or decorations, every hand counts!

📞 Contact our Events Team at 0467 900 382 to join in!



YOU ARE INVITED

AGM & Christmas Party

Let us come together to celebrate the blessings of the year and the joy of Christmas as one parish community.

GAMES. RAFFLE. JUMPING CASTLE.
SANTA VISIT and more.

Please bring a plate to share and enjoy a joyful time of fellowship, fun, and festive spirit.
We look forward to celebrating this special season with you and your family.
Coffee and tea provided. BYO drinks.

SUNDAY
14 DECEMBER 2025
10:30 AM
ST. MARY'S PARISH HALL



CARITAS AUSTRALIA

CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Be a

light in the darkness for

families facing adversity this Christmas



Caritas is inviting Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families living through the trauma of war, displacement, poverty and natural disaster. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. The people of the Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are devastated by typhoons and floods. With your support, we can bring hope to these families. Caritas is on the ground working hard to support people on the ground.

As a practical way for us to be Lights of Hope, the theme for St Mary's Christmas Eve Family Mass 2025 is the Light of Hope in the Darkness.

Our Christmas Mass collections will support these Caritas appeals but to bring hope immediately, you can donate today via QR code or at www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/ or www.caritas.org.au/asia-storms or call 1800 024 413

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

6th & 7th December 2025

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Tania Dixon, Natasha Tauro, Ruth Phillips

9.30am: Julie Moyle, Jarrod O'Brien, Anne Marie Cairns

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Tertius Meth, Allan Chettiar

9.30am: Trish Marchetti, Matt Butler

Prayers of the Faithful: Mary Atkins

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 6th

Lauren Gould, Prue Galea

Setting up the Church: 6th Christine Sebire

Setting up the Church: 7th Kate Bruty

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 9th Brendan, Andrew, Peter

Hospital Visiting: 8th Karla Chisholm

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

13th & 14th December 2025

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Terry McKiterick, Christine Sebire,

Dominic Karunanayake

9.30am: Margaret Hart, Jenny Morris, Michelle Shingles

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell, Nerina Meth

9.30am: Mel Slattery, Kate Bruty

Prayers of the Faithful: Terry McKiterick

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 13th

Josie Drakatos, Effie Xodo, Mel Slattery

Setting up the Church: 13th Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 14th Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 16th Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: 15th John & Julie Moyle

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: David Baker, Bruno Barbera, Monica Beckwith, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, Chloris Dignan, Caroline Farley, Fred Molluso, Murray Perrett, Meredith Ryan (Maddick), Bruce Haines, Maureen McKenner, Lenny Reid, Alistair Corman, Frank Slattery, Elizabeth Kyne (Weekly), Patricia Vocele, Meaghan Broom (Byrne), Maurice O'Connor, Antonia Molluso, June Williams, Carmel Murphy, Judy Clark, Judy Cooling (Dwyer), Dominga Cabantac

Anniversaries: Frank Clarke, Mary and Donald Scurrah, Rhonda Tardrew, Fortunato Oliveri and Hilda Woolnough

Recently Deceased: Mons Frank Marriott

***If you have an addition to our overall prayer list or require someone to be removed from our sick list please email admin.*

First Reading*Isaiah 11:1-10***A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17***R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails: He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **R.**

**Next week: 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A
13th & 14th December 2025**

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Responsorial Psalm: 145:6-10

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Second Reading*Romans 15:4-9***A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*Luke 3:4, 6***Alleluia, alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!**Gospel***Matthew 3:1-12***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.