

Looking at the Readings

Last week the Church celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, The Gospel account this year came from Matthew. In other years from Mark (year B) and Luke (year C). The Gospel according to St John does not have an actual account of Jesus' Baptism. Today's Gospel comes close, giving us John the Baptist's recollection of the event, or rather the effect of the Baptism in which Christ's identity is confirmed by the coming down of the Holy Spirit. John is able to declare that Christ is the Chosen one of God. (John 1:34)

Isaiah prophesied the coming of the Servant of God, and more than a servant, the Light of the nations (Is 49:5-6). In scripture servant and son are often interchangeable. Servant is also twinned with other words that help understand the identity of Christ: Servant-Leader, Servant-Shepherd, Holy Servant. Isaiah speaks of God calling the people, my servant, Israel. Not only the Messiah to come but the people also to be servants and light of the nations.

St Paul also refers to the mission that God has given him: "I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle" (1Cor 1:1). It is God who chooses Christ, Israel, Paul and all believes. We are called here and now to be servants of the mission of the Good News.



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Parish Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9am - 1pm

St Mary's Parish Centre

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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 17th & 18th January 2026

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 19th - 23rd January 2026

Wednesday: No Mass

(Priests and Seminarians Luncheon)

Reconciliation: Approach Fr Novie before Mass

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

Ladies Drinks: 4th Wednesday 5:30pm (Parish Centre)

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

23rd January:	9.00am Mary's Makers is back
26th January:	9:30am Australia Day Mass
28th January:	3:15pm Schools Combined Staff Mass
14th/15th February:	G'day weekend
18th February:	12noon and 6pm Ash Wednesday Masses
24th February:	5:30pm Ladies Drinks
28th February:	"Save the Date" Ladies Breakfast

Could all Groups please send through their 2026 calendar dates for the diary. Thank you

Liturgical Jottings

Second Reading

St Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth is read in segments from today to the sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time right up to the beginning of Lent. Normally the second reading is not connected to the other two readings. The gospel complements or completes the first reading. This year, however, the second reading fits very neatly with the first reading and the Gospel. Today the readings bridge the Christmas, Epiphany, the Lord's Baptism with the beginning of the Ordinary Season by announcing the identities and missions of Christ and St Paul. In the fourth Sunday's readings Zephaniah speaks of humility; Jesus' sermon on the Mount is addressed to the humble and weak. St Paul reminds the Corinthians that Jesus chose the weak and humble. On the Fifth Sunday the Light of Christ and Truth and on the Sixth God's Law and Wisdom complete this series.

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Quote for the Week

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. 1 Corinthians 1:3

On the Lighter Side

Two Corinthians bump into each other on a street during a terrible rainstorm.

First Corinthian: I've never seen it rain like this. I think I'm going to need an ark.

Second Corinthian: You're in luck. I KNOW A GUY.

Two Corinthians are waiting in the unemployment line. One is reading the Bible.

First Corinthian: Ah! Looking for inspiration?

Second Corinthian: What? No. I heard there was a Job in here."

Prayer for the Week

God of the covenant, you anointed your beloved Son with the power of the Holy Spirit to be light for the nations and release for captives.

Grant that we who are born again of water and the Spirit may proclaim with our lips the good news of his peace and show forth in our lives the victory of his justice.



**HAPPY
AUSTRALIA DAY**

**9:30am Mass
26th January 2026**



St Mary's Parish
ECHUCA
Growing in faith together



PSALM 39:8,9

**HERE I AM, LORD
I COME TO DO YOUR WILL**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

RCIA: Are you interested in becoming Catholic, or do you know someone who may be exploring the Catholic faith? We warmly invite you to join us for a **Meet and greet** gathering in the **Parish Meeting Room** this coming **Wednesday 21st at 5:30pm**.



This is a relaxed and friendly opportunity to ask questions, meet others on a similar journey, and learn more about the Catholic faith and parish life. There is no pressure or obligation — just a chance to listen, share, and discover what it means to be part of the Catholic community. Whether you are simply curious, seeking deeper understanding, or discerning the next step in faith, you are most welcome. Please feel free to bring a friend or encourage anyone who might be interested. We look forward to welcoming you and walking with you on this journey of faith.

VISITATION MINISTRY TEAM

Our Visitation Ministry Team is dedicated to reaching out to the elderly members of our community, offering companionship, pastoral care, and Holy Communion in aged care facilities, private homes, and hospitals. We warmly invite you to consider becoming part of this meaningful ministry. If you feel called to give your time by visiting, listening, praying, or simply being present with others, we would love to hear from you.



For any queries or questions, please contact our Coordinator:

Kath Quinn
0439 101 282
✉ kathquinn55@hotmail.com

Do You Know Someone Who Would Like a Visit?

If you know someone who would appreciate a home visit or has recently moved into residential care—either permanently or for respite—please complete this form and return it to the parish office or place it in the collection bag for the Visitation Ministry Team.

Your Name: _____
Your Contact Number: _____
Name of Person to be Visited: _____

All information will be treated with strict confidentiality.

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

17th & 18th January 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Mary Atkins, Tania Dixon, Christine Sebire
9.30am: Julie Moyle, Kerry McLoughlan, Lauren Gould

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Dominic Kanunanayake, Volunteer
9.30am: Kate Bruty, Cecilia Merrigan

Prayers of the Faithful: Noela Boyer

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 17th

Loretta Holman, Mary Byrne

Setting up the Church: 17th Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 18th Julie Moyle

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 20th Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: 18th John & Julie Moyle

Gardening: Rob Morris & Bob Cooper

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

24th & 25th January 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell, Peter Phillips, Chris Lee
9.30am: Rachel McAsey, Max Marchetti, Cecilia Merrigan

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Carmel Mackenzie
9.30am: Kay Westblade, Catherine Linder

Prayers of the Faithful: Kath Quinn

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 24th

Lauren Gould, Prue Galea

Setting up the Church: 24th Mary Atkins

Setting up the Church: 25th Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 27th Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: 26th Noela Boyer

Gardening: Rob Morris & Bob Cooper

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: Patricia Vogeale, Bruno Barbera, Monica Beckwith, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, Chloris Dignan, Caroline Farley, Fred Molluso, Murray Perrett, Meredith Ryan (Maddick), Maureen McKenner, Lenny Reid, Alistair Corman, Elizabeth Kyne (Weekly), Meaghan Broom (Byrne), Maurice O'Connor, Antonia Molluso, Carmel Murphy, Judy Cooling (Dwyer), Dominga Cabantac, John & Elaine Farley, Margaret McMahon, Veronica Brown

Anniversaries: Dianne Egan, Mary McWhinney, Fabian Lucic, Pino Surake, Patricia Bannan, Brett Hughes, Trevor Green, Margaret Hessel Domenico Molluso and Irene Williams.

Recently Deceased: Voie Madison (Avonia), Des Mulcahy (brother of Clem)

***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 <i>Isaiah 49:3, 5-6</i> A reading from the prophet Isaiah The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.' The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.	Second Reading <i>1 Corinthians 1:1-3</i> A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Responsorial Psalm <i>Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10</i> R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. R. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. R. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. R. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. R.	Gospel Acclamation <i>John 1:14, 12</i> Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!
Next Week: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 24th & 25th January 2026 1st Reading: Isaiah 8:23—9:3 Responsorial Psalm: 26:1, 4, 13-14 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17	Gospel <i>John 1:29-34</i> A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.' The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.