

Looking at the Readings

Because the focus of this week's gospel passage is usually placed on poor old doubting Thomas, we sometimes overlook the way the passage begins. The disciples are huddled in a room, 'for fear of the Jews'. Just a couple of weeks earlier they had been on top of the world. Jesus was enormously popular with the people, and the disciples, by association, were caught up in that affection. Their man, the one they had chosen to follow, was making waves and stirring the authorities. This, of course, made the disciples feel good to be around Jesus. However, in the space of just a few short days, their world had turned upside down. They were cowering in a closed up room, afraid for their lives in case those who handed Jesus over for death came for them as well. They'd already had an experience of the resurrected Jesus, yet they were still hiding and afraid. Into this fear and uncertainty steps Jesus who says, 'Peace be with you'. It is a reminder of Jesus calming the storm out on the lake – in the midst of turmoil and anxiety he brings peace and calm.

Thomas received bad press for years, labelled as 'Doubting Thomas' because he wasn't prepared to take someone else's word that Jesus had risen. However, despite his demand for evidence, once Jesus is before him, he abandons all his thoughts about placing his fingers in the wounds and proclaims, 'My Lord and my God!' This is an absolutely extraordinary statement of faith. For the very first time, someone recognises Jesus, not as Messiah, prophet or Lord, but as God.

© Greg Sunter



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: cindyaura.austria@gmail.com

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 11th & 12th April 2026

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday: 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 13th—17th April 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

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

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

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

6th - 9th April:	Fr Novie away
10th April:	10.00am Aged Care Liturgy
17th April:	9.00am Mary's Makers
19th April:	9.30am Mass followed by a cuppa to farewell Sr. Cecilia
21st April:	5.00pm Liturgy Meeting
25th - 26th April:	G'Day Weekend (Sunday - Combined Family Groups Hosting)
22nd April to 8th May:	Hall will be closed for Farrer Election. * Please use north entry for the office.
22nd April:	5.00pm Sacramental Team Meeting Upstairs * 5.30pm Ladies Drinks

Holy Week and Easter Volunteer Appreciation Message

A heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers during our Holy Week services. From the lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, singers, cross bearer, those involved in the oil and offertory processions, the communications team, those who prepared the Easter eggs and cupcakes, young adults, and the RCIA team, to everyone involved in set-up, each of you played an important part. I am truly grateful to all of you who helped and generously gave your time to be involved.

To the liturgy committee and the music group, thank you for your wonderful support both on the day and behind the scenes. You have made all these celebrations meaningful and memorable, not only for us as a parish community, but also for the visitors who joined us from different parts of the country and around the world. **Fr. Novie**

May the warm embrace of our Christian community extend a joyful welcome to

Isla Jane Murdoch

as she receives the sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

Divine Mercy Sunday.

This weekend, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. Confessions will be available before each Weekend Mass, beginning one hour prior and concluding 10 minutes before Mass starts.



**Come to the Feast of the Divine Mercy this Easter
St Brendan's Catholic Church Sunday, April 12**

2.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation

3.00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet - in song Benediction

3.30pm Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Jackson

4.30pm Veneration of the Divine Mercy CUPPA at the Pastoral Centre to follow.

ALL WELCOME. Contact: Tom Melis on 0431 706 296.



Sr. Cecilia

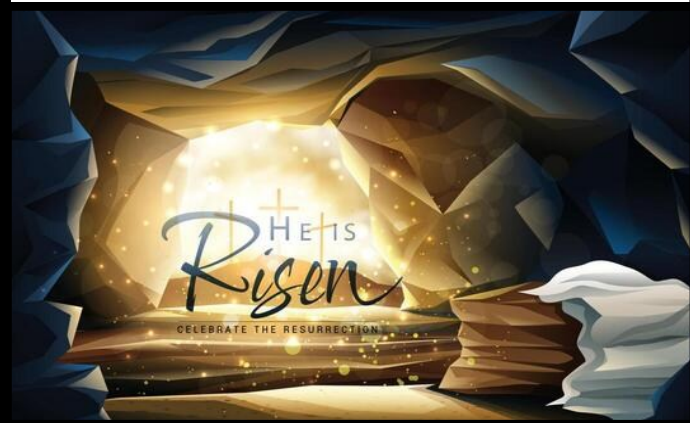
As a parish community, we gather to farewell a significant member of our community, Sr. Cecilia, as she relocates to Melbourne.

You are warmly invited to join us for Mass on April 19 2026 at 9:30am, followed by a cuppa.

Please bring a plate to share as we come together in gratitude, fellowship, and prayer for Sr. Cecilia.

Pope Leo on Easter

The Paschal proclamation is the most beautiful, joyful and overwhelming news that has ever resounded in all of history. It is the quintessential "Gospel", which attests to the victory of love over sin and of life over death, and this is why it is the only thing capable of satisfying the demand for meaning that troubles our minds and our hearts. Human beings are inspired by an inner movement, striving beyond self, place and time. No contingent reality satisfies us. We tend towards the infinite and the eternal.



Easter Towns II

The events of Easter take place in Jerusalem: Christ's triumphal entry into the Holy City, the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt 26:36), his arrest, trial before Pilate and condemnation and the way of the cross to Calvary. The body of Jesus was interred into a tomb. Christ, the Lord, rose to life and encountered Mary of Magdala and visited the Eleven Apostles twice in Jerusalem.

The second town of Our Lord's resurrection is Emmaus. Jesus' encounter with the two disciples on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus is an alternative Gospel for Easter evening Mass. It is the Gospel for Easter Wednesday and the Third Sunday of Easter (Years A & B, Luke 24:13-35) and referred to on Easter Saturday (Mark 19:9-15)

The present site of the town cannot be certainly identified, but we all can identify the inn where we may certainly encounter the risen Christ!

© Diocese of Sandhurst 2026

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

11th & 12th April 2026 Divine Mercy Sunday

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell, Peter Phillips, Terry McKitterick

9.30am: Margaret Hart, Kenneth Uzoh, Rob Morris

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire, Tharaka de Silva

9.30am: Bebher Mitchell, Kenn Liwanag

Prayers of the Faithful: Mary Atkins

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 10th

Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 11th Mary Atkins

Setting up the Church: 12th Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 14th Roma Bowman and Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: 13th Barb Green

Gardening: Ken Hatfield and Alfred Grigg

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

18th & 19th April 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Rose Quinn, Dominic Karunanayke, Tania Dixon

9.30am: Barb Green, Jenny Morris, Lauren Gould

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Kim Wallace, Sarah Byrne

9.30am: Rob Morris, Loretta Holman

Prayers of the Faithful: Terry McKitterick

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 17th

Kay Westblade, Yvonne Costello, Bev Stapleton

Setting up the Church: 18th Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 19th Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 21st Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: 20th John & Julie Moyle

Gardening: Ken Hatfield and Alfred Grigg

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

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

Anniversaries: Eileen Young, Ted Musgrove, Mary Comer.

Recently Deceased: Louise Sellings

***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*Acts 2:42-47***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24*

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **R.**

I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

Second Reading*1 Peter 1:3-9***A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be ...

Cont....Second Reading*1 Peter 1:3-9*

described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*John 20:29*

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel*John 20:19-31***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me,

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

© Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Next Week: 3rd Sunday of Easter, Year A**18th & 19th April 2026**

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-23

Responsorial Psalm: 15:1-2, 5, 7-11

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35