

Looking at the Readings

From the Ash Wednesday Mass we hear in the readings about fasting, prayer and almsgiving. From the second week of Lent, we enter the core teachings of Lent on sin and forgiveness; prayer and charity; baptism and penance; life, suffering death and resurrection. Yet from the earliest time of celebrating Lent we read the account of the transfiguration of the Lord. The event recorded in the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark and Luke describe how Jesus was "Transfigured". He appeared in heavenly glory on a very earthly landscape to three Apostles: Peter, James and John. Deeper than the event is the mystery. The mystery of Christ's humanity and divinity, his death and resurrection, the disappointments and hopes of his followers. These three apostles were going to experience the horror of his execution but hold in the secret of their hearts this vision of his future glorification. In our living out the Lenten disciplines, liturgy and practices we do so with the vision of Easter.

Jesus gave them the order: "Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." We cannot experience Easter until we have experience Good Friday, The fourth account of the Transfiguration is given in the second letter of St Peter. He is able to share his experience with his people: "He received honour and glory from God the Father, when a voice came to him from the transcendent glory, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain. 2Pet 1:17-18

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: hjurolan@gmail.com

Events—Cindy Narvasa

E: cindyaurea.austria@gmail.com

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 28th February & 1st March 2026

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 2nd - 6th March 2026

Tuesday: 12.15pm Brigid House Mass (Church)

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass

Friday: 11.30am Adoration 12.00pm 1st Friday 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)

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

3rd March:	12.15pm Brigid House Mass (Church)
5th March:	12.30pm Year 6 Liturgy Brigidine Centre
6th March:	9.00am Mary's Maker * 11.30am Adoration 12.00pm 1st Friday Mass
10th March:	7.30pm Community Reconciliation
11th March:	12.00pm Mass with Year 2 * 5.00pm Liturgy Meeting
13th March:	Aged Care Anointing Mass
14th & 15th March:	G'Day Weekend
17th March:	12.15pm St Patrick's Day Mass



SECOND SUNDAY of LENT – 1st March

SISILIA from TANZANIA

Sisilia, aged 13, lives with her mother and siblings in a remote village in northern Tanzania. Life has been difficult since her father passed away when she was a baby.

"My mother does small farming and sometimes sells vegetables to get money. She supports the family on her own. We don't have a regular income because my father passed away many years ago. Life is hard, but we try our best," Sisilia said.

She had to walk up to 30 minutes, three times a day, to fetch water from a dirty canal. The water was unsafe, causing frequent illness, and the long walks left Sisilia exhausted, fearful of wild animals and struggling to focus on her studies.

"I get very tired. Carrying heavy water containers every day after walking long distances is not easy. I was also getting piercing back pains. Sometimes I get home late and tired, and it's hard to focus on my homework or revise for exams." she said.

Lack of clean water is a major issue in Tanzania, where nearly 40% of people don't have access to basic drinking water services and 75% don't have access to basic sanitation services. (World Bank 2022).

With support from the A+ Successor Project, her school and village now have clean water taps. This means it takes Sisilia just two minutes to collect water from her house, reducing the risks she faced and giving her more time for learning. Access to safe water has also improved health, hygiene and nutrition for her school community. Teachers and students can drink clean water, maintain hygiene, and grow food in the school garden.

Sisilia has also joined a SWASH Club, where she learned about hygiene, sanitation, nutrition and child rights. She now confidently shares this knowledge with peers, parents and community members, even performing songs and demonstrations to promote good practices. This leadership has empowered her to advocate for children's education and wellbeing in her community.

Despite many hardships, Sisilia remains determined to succeed. Her favourite subjects are Science, English and Maths, and she dreams of becoming a pilot.

With the support of Caritas Australia, local communities are finding ways to respond to challenges with resilience and courage. Your generosity makes it possible to stand with them on this journey.

Please donate Via our Parish QR Code below, all donations will be attributed to our own parish.



On the Lighter Side

The snake and scorpion pictured here are desert creatures. Our Lord was with the wild beasts in the wilderness (Mark 1:13). These two creatures represent evil (Luke 11:11-12) and sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:56) and have been "strong and ancient symbols of Lent."



Quote for the Week

"Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him." *Pope Francis*

Prayer for the Day

God of wisdom, through the law and the prophets and through the person of your Son, Jesus Christ, you show us a way to live.

Lenten Services 2026

*All are warmly welcome.
Come and journey with us this
Lenten season.*

Community Reconciliation
10th March @ 7:30pm

Lenten Anointing Mass
25th March @ 12 noon

**At St Mary's Parish
Church**



World Day of Prayer 2026
Focus on **Nigeria**



Service date	FRIDAY 6TH MARCH, 2026
Location	CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN, ECHUCA.
Address	500 HIGH STREET, ECHUCA
Time	9.30 AM - FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA).
Contact	PAULINE VICARY 0423 93 9966

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

28th February & 1st March 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire, Kristy Serpell, Carol Purdon
9.30am: Rachel McAsey, Judi O'Farrell,
Michelle Shingles

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Bob Cooper, Rose Quinn
9.30am: Matt Butler, John Moyle

Prayers of the Faithful: Mary Atkins

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 27th

Lee Pethybridge, Cindy & Jonas Narvasa

Setting up the Church: 28th Christine Sebire

Setting up the Church: 1st Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 3rd Eileen Pineo & Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: 2nd Noela Boyer

Gardening: Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver, David Baker

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

7th & 8th March 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Tania Dixon, Peter Phillips,
Dominic Karunanayke
9.30am: Barb Green, Abilian Liwanag, Lauren Gould

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Ruth Phillips, Carol Purdon
9.30am: Bernie Oliver, Adrian Costello
Prayers of the Faithful: Terry McKitterick

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 6th

Jan Tarr, Gabe Phelan, Jenny Morris

Setting up the Church: 7th Rose Quinn

Setting up the Church: 8th Julie Moyle

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 10th Brendan, Andrew & Peter

Hospital Visiting: 9th Karla Chisholm

Gardening: Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver, David Baker

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: Patricia Voge, 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: Jack O'Mullane, Jim Pickett, Marlene Beck, Pat Hansen, Maurice Kenna, Fr Brendan Quirke, Jonathon Barber, Josh Kenna, Christine Hughes, Betty McCluskey and Jim Smith.

Recently Deceased:

***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*Genesis 12:1-4***A reading from the book of Genesis**

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth

shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading*2 Timothy 1:8-10***A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy**

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy - not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*Matthew 17:5***Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**Responsorial Psalm***Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22*

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

Gospel*Matthew 17:1-9***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Week: 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A**7th & 8th March 2026**

1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

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

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42