

Looking at the Readings

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice." Phil 4:4 from the Entrance Antiphon expresses the nature of this Sunday, Gaudete Sunday and with the Scripture readings give a softness to the Season of Advent and causes for joy and giving praise to God. The Prophet Isaiah foretells of deserts and wastelands blooming and all creation being renewed and peoples healed, freed and rejoicing. St James encourages patience and right relationships with one another. Jesus gives great witness and praise to John the Baptist and assures the people that his message fulfils the former prophecies.

There is a sense of urgency expressed in the Response to the Psalm: "Lord, come and save us." And his coming is imminent as expressed in the second half of the entrance antiphon: "Indeed, the Lord is near!" Phil 4:5. The Collect for the morning Mass on 24 December is most emphatic: "Come quickly, we pray, Lord Jesus, and do not delay, that those who trust in your compassion may find solace and relief in your coming."



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Parish Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9am - 1pm

St Mary's Parish Centre

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Communications and Events Coordinators:

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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 13th & 14th December

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 9:30am Mass Christmas Party AGM

Weekday Masses: 15th - 19th December

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)

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

14th December: A.G.M. Christmas Party
16th December: 5.00pm Liturgy Meeting
24th December: 6.00pm Family Mass at St Mary's School * 10.00pm Mass in the Church
25th December: 9.30am Mass
1st January: 9.30am Mass
2nd January: 11.30am Adoration 12.00pm 1st Friday Mass

24th, 25th December and 1st January the Office will be closed.

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

CASH FOR A CAUSE 2025

Fourth Draw on the 30th, the winners were - Claire Millar and Julie Moyle. Congratulations. **Big draw this weekend.**

December Parish Pastoral Council Meeting.

The parish report indicated that we have had a busy few months, but all events have been well attended and supported. The multi-cultural mass was well organised by the liturgy team and received many positive comments from the community. Plans are well underway for the Christmas masses with organising teams preparing the liturgies, hymns and personnel. They sound like a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the Christmas season with your families. The family mass at 6pm, will be held at St Mary's Primary School and the 10pm mass in the church. The strategic plan for the next 3 years has continued to develop. Some drafting has occurred with recommendations and inclusions discussed and updated. We are looking forward to our Parish Christmas Party and AGM this Sunday, in the parish centre after the 9.30 mass. Please come along and enjoy some hospitality. Rob Morris

Calling All Volunteers! 📞

Our AGM and Parish Christmas Party is this weekend! 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!



Thank you Fr Des for your support for the Parish, parishioners and office staff over the last 3 months. We are so blessed to have you in our community.



Welcome home Fr Novie.

St Mary's Year 6 Class Graduation Liturgy



On Friday St Mary's Primary school celebrated their Year 6 cohort with a Graduation Liturgy in the Brigidine Centre which was followed by a shared lunch.

The celebration provided an opportunity to celebrate their achievements, acknowledge the exciting transition to high school and to encourage their future potential with positivity and hope.

As the graduating Class of 2025, we hope that each of these learners continues to embody St. Mary's Gospel values within the community and wherever they may go, achieving their best and celebrating all that God has given them.



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

13th & 14th December 2025

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Terry McKiterick, Christine Sebire, Dominic Karunanayke

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 Carmel McKenzie

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

20th & 21st December 2025

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Mary Atkins, Kala Chisholm, Kristy Serpell

9.30am: Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green, Abilain Liwanag

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Chris Lee, Carol Purdon

9.30am: Bernie Oliver, Kenn Liwanag

Prayers of the Faithful: Kath Quinn

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 22nd

Elaine Roberts, Tania Dixon, Holly Morris

Setting up the Church: 20th Mary Atkins

Setting up the Church: 21st Rachel McAsey

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 23rd Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: 22nd Barb Green

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

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 Vogeale, Meaghan Broom (Byrne), Maurice O'Connor, Antonia Molluso, June Williams, Carmel Murphy, Judy Clark, Judy Cooling (Dwyer), Dominga Cabantac, John & Elaine Farley, Pat & Margaret McMahon

Anniversaries: Hilda Woolnough, Patricia Kay, Rosa Tarr, Nick Oliveri, Nancy Goldrick, Anne Kirchhoffer, John Oliveri and Agostino Colturi

Recently Deceased: Nancy Taylor

***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 35:1-6, 10</i> A reading from the prophet Isaiah Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.	Second Reading <i>James 5:7-10</i> A reading from the letter of St James Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Responsorial Psalm <i>Ps 145:6-10</i> R. Lord, come and save us. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. R. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. R.	Gospel Acclamation <i>Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)</i> Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!
Next Week: 4th Sunday of Advent, Year 20th & 21st December 2025 1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14 Responsorial Psalm: 23:1-6 2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7 Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24	Gospel <i>Matthew 11:2-11</i> A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.' The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane 2025