

Looking at the Readings

Beginning his ministry, Jesus took over from where John the Baptist left off by preaching: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." We hear these words **repent** and **Kingdom of God** many times in Matthew's Gospel. There is a sense of urgency: **close at hand**, the four Apostles left their nets and boats and **immediately** followed him'

Also, Jesus emphasises the movement from darkness to light, evil to goodness that is part of the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah: "The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light ..." and quoted by Matthew in the gospel today.

Jesus words and actions are **generously generalised** by Matthew: it is not just a few who are healed or a few who hear the word but **all** who were sick, the crowds, **all** kinds of diseases, **all** of Galilee and finally at his Ascension: "go out to **all** the nations". What was the mission of Jesus then became the mission of the Apostles and eventually becomes the mission of the whole church. This is expressed succinctly in the following prayer. (over on page2)



Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim

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Admin Officers: Joy Padilla/Marianne Kelly

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9am - 1pm

St Mary's Parish Centre

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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 24th & 25th January 2026

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 26th - 30th January 2026

Monday: 9.30am Mass Australia Day

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

26th January:	9:30am Australia Day Mass
28th January:	3:15pm Schools Combined Staff Mass
31st January:	9.00am Men Alive
2nd February:	2.30pm Social Committee
6th February:	9.00am Mary's Makers
14th/15th February:	G'day weekend
17th February:	5.00pm Liturgy Meeting
18th February:	5.00 Bereavement Meeting
18th February:	12.00pm and 6.00pm Ash Wednesday Masses
24th February:	5:30pm Ladies Drinks
28th February:	9.30am Ladies Breakfast Tickets available from 1st February

Liturgical Jottings

Matthew's Gospel

During the Season of Ordinary Time cycle A Gospel of St Matthew is proclaimed on every Sunday. From this Sunday we hear of the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee and on the last Sunday of the Year the end of his ministry in Jerusalem. The passages are from Chapters 4 to 24.

Earlier chapters tell of the Nativity of the Lord that are read during Advent-Christmas-Epiphany Season and the latter chapters on his death and resurrection that are read during the Passion-Easter Season.

Only five chapters are missing from this semi-continuous reading of the first Gospel. We hear these missing episodes mainly in cycle C from the Gospel according to Luke.

Matthew's Gospel is written for a Christian Jewish community with many Old Testament quotes from prophets and allusions about Adam, Abraham Moses, David and the Law. Jesus is depicted as the new Moses presenting the new Law.

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Prayer for the Week

God of salvation, the splendour of your glory dispels the darkness of earth, for in Christ we behold the nearness of your kingdom.

Now make us quick to follow where he beckons, eager to embrace the tasks of the gospel.



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



Quote from Pope Leo XIV

"Our world, wounded by war, violence and injustice, needs to hear the Gospel message of God's love and to experience the reconciling power of Christ's grace," CNS 22 May 2025

On the Lighter Side

Why is dark spelt with a K and not a C?

Because you cannot see in the dark!

After God created 24 hours of alternating darkness and light, one of the angels asked him, "what are you going to do now?"

God said, "I think I'm going to call it a day."



**Starts on the
31st January at
9.00am. All men in
the Parish are
welcome.**

Caritas Australia's Project Compassion is coming!



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

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

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, Narasha Tauro

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

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

31st January & 1st February 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Tania Dixon, Kristy Serpell, Narasha Tauro

9.30am: Margaret Hart, Barb Green, Rob Morris

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Nick Lee, Nerina Meth

9.30am: Trish Marchetti, Julie Moyle

Prayers of the Faithful: Mary Atkins

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 31st

Josie Drakatos, Effie Xodo, Mel Slattery

Setting up the Church: 31st Carol Purdon

Setting up the Church: 1st Rachel McAsey

Baptism Preparation: Bec Lloyd

Counters: 3rd Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: 2nd Karla Chisholm

Gardening: Michael Delahunty, Damien Byrne, Fr Des

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: John Stapleton, Murray Magdziarz, Agnes Kotsiakos, Pauline Stephens, Marie Dullard, Val Norris, Anne Welch, Cresencio and Lucia Emit and Nancy Del Rosario.

Recently Deceased: John Bernard Uy

***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 8:23 - 9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollo', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14***R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **R.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*Matthew 4:23***Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!**Gospel***Matthew 4:12-17***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.
From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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Next Week: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**31st January & 1st February 2026**

1st Reading: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13

Responsorial Psalm: 145:7-10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12