

Looking at the Readings

One of the remarkable things about the Risen Jesus is that his friends and followers almost always fail to recognise him at first. On the road to Emmaus, two disciples are walking and feeling sorry for themselves when Jesus joins them. It is, perhaps, an experience that is not unfamiliar in our own lives: so absorbed by what is happening to us that we fail to recognise the presence of Christ walking the journey with us – in spirit or in the guise of someone around us. Jesus allows the disciples to share their woes and their grief and then he slowly but surely relates all of what had happened to the scriptures and demonstrates to the disciples that the events of the previous few days were all part of God's plan. The disciples felt that their hopes and beliefs had been misplaced in Jesus. But the Risen Jesus makes them realise that their hopes were not misplaced; they were right to trust and hope in Jesus and that belief will still bear fruit.

It is not until Jesus re-enacts the Last Supper breaking of bread that the disciples suddenly recognise him, but at that moment of recognition, Jesus vanishes from their midst. It must have been tantalising and frustrating for the two disciples – when they finally realised who they had been talking with and they could celebrate his presence Jesus disappeared. But the truth of what they had realised didn't abandon them. They reminded one another of the passion they had felt: 'Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road?' They say how stupid must we have been not to recognise Jesus? Only he could make us feel like that! © Greg Sunter



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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: 18th & 19th April 2026

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday: 9:30am Mass Sr. Cecilia Farewell

Weekday Masses: 20th—24th April 2026

Wednesday: 11.00am Funeral Mass Meaghan Byrne

Reconciliation: Approach Fr Novie before Mass

Baptism: Every Second weekend of the Month

Children's Liturgy: Every G'Day Weekend

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

17th April:	9.00am Mary's Makers
19th April:	9.30am Mass followed by a cuppa to farewell Sr. Cecilia
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.
21st April:	5.00pm Liturgy Meeting
22nd April:	5.00pm Sacramental Team Meeting Upstairs * 5.30pm Ladies Drinks
29th April:	5.00pm Bereavement Meeting
1st May:	9.00am Mary's Makers * 11.30am Adoration 12.00pm First Friday Mass

Walking with Others: CARING FOR THE SICK AND THOSE IN GRIEF

You are warmly invited to a meaningful session on caring for the sick and supporting those who are grieving or experiencing loss.

✦ **Purpose of the Gathering:**
To help us better understand how to care for and support people who are sick, grieving, or facing loss with compassion.

Presented by:

Louise Ross *and* **Kath Quinn**
Pastoral Carer, Wharparilla Lodge Experienced Pastoral Supporter

 **Date:** Thursday, 14th May 2026
 **Time:** 4:30 PM
 **Venue:** Parish Meeting Room

 **Who should attend?**

Aged Care Home Visitors, Hospital Visitors, Parish Home Visitors and Any Interested Parishioners

Naming of Our New Piety Store / Kiosk

The Young Adults Group has begun planning the restoration of our parish Kiosk / Piety Store. We are excited to continue developing this project, which will serve the spiritual and practical needs of our parish community.

The space will be a pop-up store open on selected weekends, offering religious items for Baptisms, Confirmations, and other Sacraments, as well as devotional goods. At times, it will also offer light refreshments such as cupcakes, cookies, and drinks, creating a welcoming place for fellowship. We invite parishioners to help choose a meaningful name for the store/café. As our parish is under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Marian-inspired names are especially encouraged. Submission deadline: **2nd May**. Please send your suggestions to admin@stmarysechuca.org.au

The Young Adults Group will select the winning name, and a voucher will be awarded as a prize. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to your creative suggestions!



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.



ANZAC and FEAST DAY MASS

In honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel

9.30AM MASS
SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2026
ST. MARY'S PARISH, ECHUCA



FOLLOWING THE LAST POST AND THE DISMISSAL, PLEASE JOIN OUR FAMILY GROUPS FOR A CUPPA TO CELEBRATE AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED.



Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal (26 April)

Support the education and formation of our diocesan seminarians by donating to Corpus Christi College and Catholic Theological College Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal.

Your tax-deductible donation will support the educational costs of Corpus Christi College seminarians and help build tomorrow's Church.

<https://pay.divinity.edu.au/payments/donation/good-shepherd-sunday-appeal/>

Bishop René Ramirez RCJ appointed Ninth Bishop of Sandhurst

On 11 April Pope Leo XIV appointed Bishop René Ramirez RCJ as the ninth Bishop of Sandhurst. He will be installed at Sacred Heart Cathedral on **30 July at 11.00 am**. Until that time, Fr Brian Boyle will continue to serve as Diocesan Administrator. More information about Bishop René can be found on the Diocesan website.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

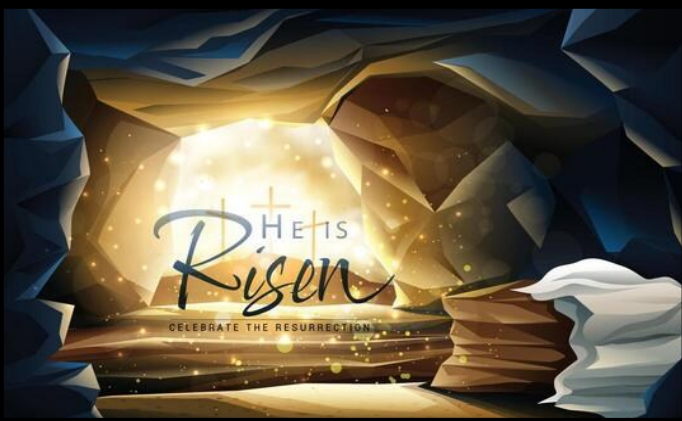
PROJECT
COMPASSION

Thank you for your generosity in supporting our Project Compassion and Big Water Walk.

This year we raised:

- ♦ \$1908.00 from cash donations
- ♦ \$183.00 from online donations
- ♦ \$786.00 from Young Adults' online donations

Total raised **\$2877.00**



ROSTERS THIS 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 Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 21st Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: 20th John & Julie Moyle

Gardening: Ken Hatfield and Alfred Grigg

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

25th & 26th April 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Chris Lee, Ruth Phillips, Nick Lee

9.30am: Noela Boyer, Carmel Mackenzie, Carol Purdon

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Prue Crowe-Galea, Carol Purdon

9.30am: Kim Wallace, Bob Cooper

Prayers of the Faithful: Noela Boyer

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 24th

Jan Tarr, Gabe Phelan, Jenny Morris

Setting up the Church: 25th Rose Quinn

Setting up the Church: 26th Rachel McAsey

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 28th Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: 27th Noela Boyer

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, Jim Byrne, Elizabeth Kyne (Weekly), Maurice O'Connor, Antonia Molluso, Carmel Murphy, Dominga Cabantac, John & Elaine Farley, Margaret McMahon, Veronica Brown, Margaret Summers

Anniversaries: Kath Roberts, Michelle Ash, Duncan Smith, Elaine O'Mullane, Ambrose Christian, Jim Dullard and Peter Jasper.

Recently Deceased: Meaghan Byrne (Broom), Elaine Nixon and Victor Rajah (Angela Victor's Dad)

***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 2:14, 22-33***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.' 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witness to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm*Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11***R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;

it is you yourself who are my prize.' **R.**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight:

since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.

For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

You will show me the path of life,
and the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

Second Reading*1 Peter 1:17-21***A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake.

Cont....Second Reading*1 Peter 1:17-21*

Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason - so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation*Luke 24:32***Alleluia, alleluia!**

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:

make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!**Gospel***Luke 24:13-35***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes it is true, The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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