

Looking at the Readings

Today we come in touch with the God of Salvation and the Life of Christ. We, too, have the time of testing, time to deepen our faith through this Lenten season. We, too, experience the God who saves and the promises of Christ Jesus as expressed by St Paul in the second reading: "Since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory." (Romans 5:1-2,5-8)



Jesus meets the woman at the well in the passage from the Gospel according to John. Why did Jesus stay there when the disciples went into the town? Why was the woman at the well at midday, not early in the morning with the other women? How awkwardly did the conversation commence! Yet it became a great opportunity and a moment of conversion and faith. The woman came a missionary to the townsfolk, and they believed her and remarked: "we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world." (John 4:52)



Holy week AND EASTER SERVICES SCHEDULE 2026

Palm Sunday

28th March - 6pm Mass



29th March - 9:30 am Mass

29th March - 11:00 am Mass

St. Joseph's College 140th Anniversary

Holy Thursday



2nd April - 11 am Stations of the Cross

2nd April - 7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper



Good Friday

3rd April - 3 pm Passion of the Lord



Easter Vigil

4th April - 7:30 pm Vigil Mass



Easter Sunday

5th April - 9:30 am Mass

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: cindyaaura.austria@gmail.com

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 7th & 8th March 2026

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 9th - 13th March 2026

Tuesday: 7.30 Community Reconciliation

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass

Friday: Aged Care Anointing

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

10th March:	5.30pm P.P.C. Meeting *7.30pm Community Reconciliation
11th March:	12.00pm Mass with Year 2 *5.00pm Liturgy Meeting
12th March:	6pm Young Adults Gathering (Echuca Tennis Courts)
13th March:	Aged Care Anointing Masses
14th & 15th March:	G'Day Weekend (Sacramental team Sat-Night/ Parish Council and Finance Sun –Morn)
17th March:	12.15pm St Patrick's Day Mass (Patrick's House Mass—Church)
18th March:	G'Day Weekday Mass (Wednesday 12noon –St. Mary School Brigidine Centre)
19th March:	10.00am Big Water Walk
20th March:	9.00am Mary's Makers



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT – 8th March MONORANJON from BANGLADESH

Monoranjon, 47, lives in a coastal village in southwest Bangladesh, one of the regions most affected by climate change. He and his family face extreme heat, cyclones, water scarcity, and rising salinity that is destroying crops and livelihoods. As a farmer and father of two, Monoranjon struggled to provide for his family and keep his daughter and son in school. "In this dry season no seedlings come out from seeds. Due to heat of the sun and lack of water, plants are dying," Monoranjon said. Thanks to support from Caritas Australia and its partner Caritas Bangladesh, Monoranjon joined the Community Managed Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience Program. He learned climate-resilient farming techniques, including organic vegetable cultivation, livestock vaccination, crab fattening, and salt-tolerant crop production. His income has improved, allowing him to send his children to school and access better nutrition. Monoranjon now teaches others in his village, inspiring change and resilience across the community. 'Doing this I maintain my livelihood, but we have to work very hard. Seeing me, many people started. This is how they grow vegetables,' Monoranjon said. Monoranjon also works with his community to plant mangrove seedlings on the mudflat coastlines across the delta they live on, to prevent further erosion and flooding of their lands. Despite these improvements, the region remains at grave risk. With the looming threat of increased strength and frequency of cyclones, rapid sea level rise, dangerously high temperatures and drought, more people like Monoranjon desperately need an increase in support, so they can continue to provide a future of education for their children, and a way out of poverty. *Along with your generous support, this project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).*



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



ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

INVITES YOU TO

G'DAY WEEKDAY MASS

parish to school

WEDNESDAY

18 MARCH 2026 @12NOON

St. Mary's Primary School warmly invites all families and parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church to join us for a G'Day Weekday Mass to be held at the **Brigidine Centre**.

This special Mass will be sponsored and led by our Moore Community 3/4 and we would love for our parish community to be part of this celebration.

Following Mass, everyone is warmly invited to stay for a **cuppa and light lunch**, kindly sponsored by the school.

We look forward to celebrating together as one faith community.

Ladies' Breakfast

A most sincere thank you to all ladies who supported the breakfast last Saturday morning. It was a great get together. Also, a very big thank you to the 'girls' of Social Committee who setup the hall, and prepared and served the delicious food.

Rob Morris and his mate Dick are also thanked for cooking 60 delicious egg-and-bacon. Rob also supplied the eggs (or should I say his hens did). We thank the guys for a great job in washing the dishes.

As always, the raffle was well supported - \$800 was raised

Celebrating 140 years of St Joseph College was the breakfast theme. It was pleasing to have a number of past students in attendance.

Our guest speaker Pat Whyte spoke of her time at the college, beginning as a Prep and finishing in Year 10. Pat's daughter Megan is a past student of the college and her granddaughter Georgina is following in their footsteps.

Judy O'Farrell also gave an insight into her days at the college as a teacher - she particularly focused on the major changes that occurred during her time including a major increase in the of students from around 200 to 700. The college now has an enrolment of 1100 students.

A warm welcome was extended to the College Principal Anne Marie Cairns and teachers.

We also used the occasion to thank our wonderful friend - Sister Cecilia Merrigan - for her tireless work over many years for the Parish including as a valuable member of the Social committee - who is soon to leave us. **THANK YOU Cecilia.**

Lenten Services 2026

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

Community Reconciliation
10th March @ 7:30pm

Big Water Walk

On Thursday 19th March, alongside St Mary's parishioners, St Mary's Year 4 learners and staff will walk in the shoes of those most vulnerable who trek many kilometres to access clean water for their family and household. Walking in solidarity with others is an act of active compassion that goes beyond sympathy, driving action, building, and fostering a sense of shared humanity and mutual responsibility. Our involvement is a conscious choice to stand with others, particularly the vulnerable and marginalised, to challenge injustices and promote a more equitable world. We hope you can join with us in this united mission as we meet at St Mary's Church at 10.00am.



THE BIG WATER WALK

Currently, **292 million people** walk more than **30 minutes** to collect water. Show your compassion for those living in poverty this Lent and help provide clean, safe water to communities in need.

19th March 2026
St. Mary's Parish, Echuca
Church Grounds

Walk with us!

10:00am – Cuppa & Gathering
10:45am – Liturgy
11:30am – Walk from St. Mary's Catholic Church to St. Mary's Primary School
12:30pm – Acknowledgement at St. Mary's Primary School
Followed by Sausage Sizzle (Gold Coin Donation)

Please use the QR code to make an electronic donation.

Caritas AUSTRALIA
St Mary's Parish ECHUCA
St. Mary's School

ROSTERS THIS 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

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

14th & 15th March 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Terry McKitterick, Nick Lee, Christine Sebire

9.30am: Noela Boyer, Anne Marie Cairns,
Kerry McLoughlan

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Prue Crowe-Galea, Chris Lee

9.30am: Catherine Linder, Margaret Hart

Prayers of the Faithful: Noela Boyer

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 13th

Loretta Holman, Mary Byrne

Setting up the Church: 14th Christine Sebire

Setting up the Church: 15th Rachel McAsey

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 17th Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: 16th Julie & John Moyle

Gardening: Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver, David Baker

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: Domenica Luppino, Jill Hooper, Geoff Walker, Eileen Symons, Di Davine, Helen Papworth, Norma Clarke, Vera Wragg, Jean McCurry and Marita Jordan.

Recently Deceased: Patrick Brendan Fenelon

***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*Exodus 17:3-7***A reading from the book of Exodus**

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

**R. If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*John 4:42, 15*

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Second Reading*Romans 5:1-2, 5-8*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

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

Gospel*John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again;

but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming

when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Week: 4th Sunday of Lent, Year A

14th & 15th March 2026

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

Responsorial Psalm: 22

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17,
34-38