

A Woman's Christmas.....

We cook and we polish, we rub and we scrub, We bustle and sigh all day but when we're most weary and ready to drop and feel that this Christmas activity must stop let our thoughts drift to the long, long ago, and think of a woman with a journey to go - a woman weary, her time drawing nigh, with none of the luxuries our money can buy.

No car to convey her - a donkey astride - a patient man plodding along by her side. Her shelter? "Well - anything - Yes, a stable will do" It would never do for me, or for you. But, that stable held glory second to none, when Mary held Jesus, her newborn son. The angels, the shepherds, the wise men drew near but she didn't gasp "Oh the work isn't done" she only thought of her newborn son. And she shared him with us, the best gift of all. While we fuss about things like a spot on the wall, Mary would say, with a sad little smile - "Couldn't you pause, and rejoice for a while?"



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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Email: admin@stmarysechuca.org.au

Website: www.stmarysechuca.org.au

Facebook: St Mary's Parish Echuca

Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle

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M: 0409 826 336

Child Safety Officer: Mel Slattery

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Visitation Ministry Coordinator: Kath Quinn

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Communications and Events Coordinators:

Communications—Hannah Jurolan and Paul Tape

E: hcjurolan@gmail.com

Events—Cindy Narvasa

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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 20th & 21st December

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 9.30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 22nd - 26th December

Wednesday: 6.00pm Mass Family Christmas Mass

10.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Thursday: 9.30am Christmas Day 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

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

24th December: 6.00pm Family Mass at St Mary's School * 10.00pm Mass in the Church
Preceded by Carols

25th December: 9.30am Mass

1st January: 9.30am Mass

2nd January: 11.30am Adoration 12.00pm 1st Friday Mass

Christmas Party!!!

A big thank you to all who contributed to the goodies for the hampers, which made \$531.00. Congratulations to the 8 winners, they looked fantastic.

Cash for the Cause made \$8300.00, so the carpet will be done soon.

By all reports it was a fantastic day, enjoyed by all.

CASH FOR A CAUSE 2025

Big Draw on the 14th, the winner was -
Barry Hart. Congratulations.



As we approach the Christmas season, St Mary's Primary school community would like to extend their wishes for a blessed, safe and happy Christmas to you and your

loved ones.

This time of year invites us to reflect on the gift of family, the blessings we share, and the hope that the birth of Jesus brings to our lives.

Christmas is a special opportunity to gather with those we cherish, to celebrate faith, and to embrace the spirit of giving and kindness. May your homes be filled with laughter, warmth, and the love of Christ.

We are deeply grateful to the Parish and parishioners for your ongoing support, partnership, and trust throughout the school year. Your engagement in our school community helps foster an environment where faith, learning, and compassion thrive.

Thank you.

We look forward to continuing to nurture and grow our connections throughout the new school year.

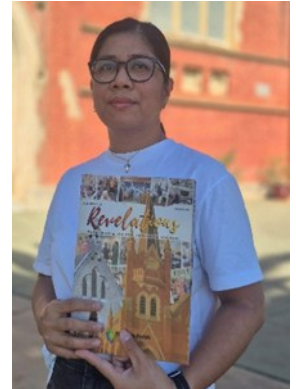
May God bless you.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have been impacted with the event of the shootings in Sydney last Sunday night.

A Note from the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Parish Family,

I hope this message finds you well and filled with the peace of Christ. As I reflect on the past year in our parish, I am reminded of the countless moments of kindness, generosity, and faith that bring our community to life - from a warm welcome at Mass to volunteers quietly serving behind the scenes. It is such a joy to share this year's issue of Revelations, where we celebrate the stories of parish groups, events, and individuals who make our parish so vibrant and full of life. This magazine is not meant to report on every ministry, but to highlight the moments and people that inspire us all.



With so many wonderful ministries, we cannot feature every group each year. Please know that the absence of a ministry in this edition in no way diminishes its value. Every volunteer, every act of service—seen and unseen—is deeply appreciated and cherished.

If any disappointment arises, we sincerely apologise. To ensure everyone has a chance to be featured in the future, ministry leaders will be invited earlier to express their interest.

As volunteers for the magazine, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve in this way. We continue learning and improving so that Revelations may better reflect and celebrate the life of our parish community.

Printed copies of Revelations are available at the church entrance and parish office, and a digital version can also be viewed on our website.

May this magazine inspire us and remind us of our shared journey in faith, hope, and love, guiding us as a parish family growing in faith together.

With gratitude and prayers,
Cindy Narvasa



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

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

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

27th & 28th December 2025

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Rose Quinn, Carol Purdon, Allan Chettiar

9.30am: Rachel McAsey, Win Lavery, Max Marchetti

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire, Carmel Mackenzie

9.30am: Beber Mitchell, Adrian Costello

Prayers of the Faithful: Rose Quinn

St Anne’s Church Cleaners: 29th

Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 27th Carol Purdon

Setting up the Church: 28th Kenn Liwanag

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 30th Eileen Pineo & Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: 29th John and Julie Moyle

Gardening: Jim & Prue Galea, Rose Quinn

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: 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, Pat & Margaret McMahon

Anniversaries: Agostino Colturi, Sr Mary O’Brien CSB, Antonio Lucic and William and Clara Roberts.

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*Isaiah 7:10-14***A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Emmanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm***Ps 23:1-6***R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

Next Week: Holy Family, Year A**27th & 28th December 2025****1st Reading:** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14**Responsorial Psalm:** 127:1-5**2nd Reading:** Colossians 3:12-21**Gospel:** Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**Second Reading***Romans 1:1-7***A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*Matthew 1:2-3***Alleluia, alleluia!**

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!**Gospel***Matthew 1:18-24***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.