

Looking at the Readings

Guided and protected by the Risen Jesus, we celebrate on the fourth Sunday of Easter — also called “Good Shepherd Sunday” — the 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Let us explore together the truly beautiful path of life along which the Shepherd guides us.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus describes himself as the “good shepherd” (Jn 10:11). This expression refers to a shepherd who is perfect, authentic and exemplary, inasmuch as he is ready to give his life for his sheep, thus revealing God’s love. He is the Shepherd who draws us to himself, whose gaze reveals that life is truly beautiful when one follows him. Neither the eyes of the body nor aesthetic sensibilities alone are sufficient to recognize this beauty; rather, contemplation and interiority are required. Only the one who pauses, listens, prays and welcomes the Shepherd’s gaze can say with confidence: “I trust him; life with him can truly be beautiful. I want to walk this path of beauty.”

What is most extraordinary is that, in becoming his disciple, one truly becomes “beautiful”; his beauty transforms us. As the theologian Pavel Florenskij wrote, asceticism does not produce a merely “good” person, but a “beautiful” one. Indeed, more than goodness, the distinctive trait of the saint is the luminous spiritual beauty that radiates from his or her life in Christ. In this way, the Christian vocation reveals itself in all its depth as a participation in the life of Jesus, by sharing in his mission and reflecting his beauty. (Pope Leo XIV Message 25 March 2026)



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: 25th & 26th April 2026

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass G'Day Weekend

Sunday : 9:30am Mass Parish Feast Day and Anzac Day Mass

Weekday Masses: 27th April - 1st May 2026

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass

Friday: 11.30am Adoration 12.00pm First Friday Mass

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

25th - 26th April:	G'Day Weekend—Parish Feast Day and Anzac Day Mass (Sunday - Combined Family Groups Hosting)
22nd April to 8th May:	Hall will be closed for Farrer Election. * Please use north entry for the office.
28th April:	5.00pm Social Justice Meeting
29th April:	5.00pm Bereavement Meeting *5.00pm & 5.45pm practice for Confirmation.
1st May:	9.00am Mary's Makers *11.30am Adoration 12.00pm First Friday Mass
2nd & 3rd May:	Confirmation First Eucharist Weekend
12th May:	12.00pm Delany House Mass Lunch in the garden *5.30pm P.P.C. Meeting

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.

Dear Fr Novie and Parishioners,
Thank you is an entirely inadequate response to Sunday's Eucharist, the very generous gifts and morning tea afterwards.

I feel very humbled and grateful for all those who contributed to the many aspects of the day.

It has been a privilege to belong to St Mary's Parish family.

"It is in the shelter of one another, that the people live" is not just an Irish proverb for us- it describes our reality. What a blessing! Cecilia.



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

Pastoral Carer, Wharparilla Lodge

and

Kath Quinn

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

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.

Parts of the 2nd collection will be given to the Good Shepherd Appeal.



This Sunday is the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, whom our school is named after.

This significant date will be celebrated as a school community on Monday when we will gather in prayer with a whole school liturgy at 12.30pm.

Our Lady of Good Counsel reminds us to seek divine wisdom, trust in Mary's motherly guidance, and always follow her son, Jesus, in times of uncertainty and decision-making.

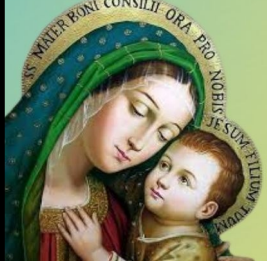
As Mother's Day approaches, Mary offers a beautiful example of how to meet life's complexities with faith and trust - an example reflected in our school motto: In **Faith, Trust and Love**.



St Mary's Parish
ECHUCA
Growing in faith together

**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.



St Mary's Parish
ECHUCA
Growing in faith together

**2026
SANTACRUZÁN**

A FILIPINO RELIGIOUS-
CULTURAL TRADITION

SAVE THE DATE
31 May 2026 at 11:00 am
St. Mary's Parish Church

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED

ANZAC Day Mass

The combined Family Groups will be organising the ANZAC Day Mass this Sunday 26th April at the 9.30 am Mass. As it is the G'Day weekend, the Family Groups will also be providing morning tea.



ROSTERS THIS WEEK

25th & 26th April 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Chris Lee, Alan Chettiar, 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

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

2nd & 3rd May 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell, Terry McKiterick, Rose Quinn

9.30am: Mel Smolenaars, Poppy Ferguson, Win Lavery

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Dominic Karunanayke, Carmel Mackenzie

9.30am: Julie Moyle, Kay Westblade

Prayers of the Faithful: Kath Quinn

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 1st

Lauren Gould, Prue Crowe-Galea

Setting up the Church: 2nd Christine Sebire

Setting up the Church: 3rd Kenn Liwanag

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 5th Brendan, Andrew, Peter

Hospital Visiting: 4th Karla Chisholm

Gardening: Doug Black, Ray Lewis

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: Patricia Vogeale, Bruno Barbera, Monica Beckwith, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, Caroline Farley, Fred Molluso, Meredith Ryan (Maddick), Maureen McKenner, Alistair Corman, Jim Byrne, Elizabeth Kyne (Weekly), Maurice O'Connor, Antonia Molluso, David Baker, Carmel Murphy, Dominga Cabantac, John & Elaine Farley, Margaret McMahon, Veronica Brown, Margaret Summers

Anniversaries: Rowena Tabao, Alicia Hannan, Shane Fitzsimmons, Kate Aldridge, Paul Merrigan, Barbara Monahan, Mary Fenn, Palma Scarfo and Bill Shanahan.

Recently Deceased: Meaghan Byrne (Broom) and Jim Swinnerton

***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, 36-41***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.'

He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Responsorial Psalm***Ps 22:1-6*

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R.**

Next Week: 5th Sunday of Easter, Year A**2nd & 3rd May 2026****1st Reading:** Acts 6:1-7**Responsorial Psalm:** 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19**2nd Reading:** 1 Peter 2:4-9**Gospel:** John 14:1-12**Second Reading***1 Peter 2:20-25***A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Gospel Acclamation***John 10:14***Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!**Gospel***John 10:1-10***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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