

Looking at the Readings

The Gospels of the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent and especially the proclamation of Christ's Passion and Death on Palm Sunday are long readings. The Passion is formatted into four voices: narrator, Christ, the dialogue of a single person and the dialogue of several persons or the crowd. I have seen this technique used for these other Gospels to assist the listener to better receive and be more engaged with it.

Noting the length of the passages, each Sunday a shorter form is given in the lectionary. However, these shorter texts lessen our experience of the power of the story and some important features for example the opening words of Jesus:

"As long as the day lasts, I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world."

It expresses Jesus' mission and identity and his words: **"I am the light of the world"** is one of the Gospel's great **"I Am"** exclamations.

As one of the seven signs in the Gospel of John, the author wrote this passage with great care with a short account of the miracle but long accounts of the reactions of the authorities and the people, and of the discourses on the meaning and consequences of the sign. Likewise, we should listen with great care and take the opportunity to read and reread the passage. Unlike the readings during the Season of Ordinary Time and Feast days the first readings during Lent and Easter do not relate to the Gospel. The Lenten first readings present glimpses of the great moments in the history of salvation from creation (Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 first Sunday) to Abraham, Moses, Samuel and David (today) to the prophet Ezekiel (fifth Sunday) who prepares the people minds towards rising from the dead.



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: hcjurolan@gmail.com

Events—Cindy Narvasa

E: cindyaure.austria@gmail.com

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 14th & 15th March 2026

G'day Weekend

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass (Sacramental Team Hosting)

Sunday: 9:30am Mass (Pastoral/ Finance Hosting)

Weekday Masses: 16th - 20th March 2026

Tuesday: 12.15pm House Mass (St Patrick's Day)

Wednesday: 12.00pm G'day Weekday Mass

@ St. Mary's School, Brigidine Centre

Thursday: 10am Big Water Walk (Cuppa)

10:45am Opening Liturgy followed by Walk

12:30pm Sausage Sizzle @ School

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)

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

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
23rd March:	2.00pm Social Club Meeting
24th March:	5.15pm Finance Meeting
25th March:	12noon Lenten Anointing Mass *5.30pm Ladies Drinks
29th March:	11.00am Mass St Joseph's 140 year celebrations



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT – 15th March

MANAINI from FIJI

Life in rural Fiji has always been a struggle for 44-year-old Manaini, a mother of six and grandmother of two. The family lived from what they grew, but meals were plain and often lacked nutrition. Store food was too expensive. At night, the village was in darkness, leaving children and the elderly unsafe. Holding back tears, Manaini shared: "The things I worry about the most is my kids' education. The requirements that need to be met are hard for me to achieve with my daily income." Almost one quarter of Fiji's population live in poverty, and rates are higher in rural villages. Any extra income can mean the difference between children completing school, being able to buy medicine, or simply managing daily costs. This is what poverty looks like in rural Fiji – every dollar counts. The nation also faces one of the worst health crises in the Pacific. Diabetes and heart disease are widespread. On average, every eight hours, three people lose a limb to diabetes. Viloki, who works with Caritas Australia's partner FRIEND (Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development), explained: "Fiji has one of the highest rates in the Pacific in terms of non-communicable diseases. That's like 80% of the people here have one or the other form of non-communicable diseases, including diabetes... Every eight hours, there are three amputations."

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



St Mary's Parish
ECHUCA
Growing in faith together

G'day WEEKEND

**EVERY 3RD WEEKEND OF THE MONTH
JOIN US FOR A CUPPA AFTER MASS!
ALL PARISHIONERS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH ARE
WARMLY INVITED TO STAY BACK, SHARE A DRINK,
AND ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER.**



St Mary's Parish
ECHUCA
Growing in faith together

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.

Join us to celebrate 140 years
of St Joseph's College and the
Brigidine Sisters in Echuca



Kildare
EDUCATION
MINISTRIES
with Anglican tradition



St. Joseph's College Echuca
STRENGTH & KINDNESS



Friday 27 March 2026

Foundation Day Liturgy: 12pm
(St Joseph's College - 21 Dickson St, Echuca)

Saturday 28 March 2026

Campus Tours: 10am, 11.30am & 1pm
(St Joseph's College - 21 Dickson St, Echuca)

Unveiling of Brigidine Courtyard: 12pm
(St Joseph's College - 21 Dickson St, Echuca)

Brigidine Remembrance Ritual led by Sr Cecilia Merrigan:
2.30pm at Echuca Cemetery (Homan St, Echuca)

Gala Dinner: 6pm - 11pm
St Joseph's College - 21 Dickson St, Echuca

Sunday 29 March 2026

Mass at St Mary's Parish: 11am
258 Hare St, Echuca

*Multiple events to enjoy across
three days of celebration!*

RSVP: to Maree McNamara by Friday 27 February 2026

Email: principal@sjc.vic.edu.au

Phone: 03 5469 0204

Attention Sacristan or Church Set-up Team:

Please be reminded that after Sunday Mass, the Tap and Go machines must be placed on charge. Do not turn off the power point switch. Keeping the machines charged will help avoid drained batteries for the Saturday night Mass. Thank you for your cooperation.

Pastoral Council Meeting Update – 10 March 2026

The Parish Pastoral Council held a productive discussion reviewing and refining the Parish Strategic Plan. Several sections of the document were edited, and the updated version will be shared with council members. Once the plan is finalised, a General Assembly (date to be advised) will be held to present the Strategic Plan. Ministry leaders will be especially invited to attend so they can assist in implementing the plan within their respective groups, while the wider parish community will also be informed about its direction and priorities. Fr Novie will attend a diocesan session on parish strategic planning on 26 March to gain further insights that may assist our parish in this ongoing process. At the recent Deanery Forum in Bendigo, representatives noted that our parish is progressing well compared with others and is blessed with increasing participation in parish life and various ministries.

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.

Logos: Caritas Australia, St Mary's Parish Echuca, St. Mary's School

ROSTERS THIS 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**ROSTERS NEXT WEEK****21st & 22nd March 2026****Commentators/Lectors:****6.00pm:** Mary Atkins, Carol Purdon, Kristy Serpell**9.30am:** Margaret Hart, Kenneth Uzoh,
Poppy Fergusson**Ministers of the Eucharist:****6.00pm:** Kim Wallace, Tania Dixon**9.30am:** Cecilia Merrigan, Trish Marchetti**Prayers of the Faithful:** Kath Quinn**St Anne's Church Cleaners:** 20th

Lauren Gould, Prue Galea

Setting up the Church: 21st Tania Dixon**Setting up the Church:** 22nd Kenn Liwanag**Baptism Preparation:** Mary Byrne**Counters:** 24th Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello**Hospital Visiting:** 23rd Noela Boyer**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, Margaret Summers

Anniversaries: Ted Musgrove, Anna Columbro, Daphne Bennett, John Cooper, Mark Vogeale, Bert and Aileen Aldridge, Mick Doyle, Brian Warde, Kenneth Warde and Joseph Anderson.

Recently Deceased: Veronica Hoskins, Margaret Dutton

***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*1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13***A reading from the first book of Samuel**

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

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

Responsorial Psalm*Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6***R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. **R.**

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. **R.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **R.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. **R.**

Second Reading*Ephesians 5:8-14***A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord;
be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth.
Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast.
The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of;
but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light.

Continued....

That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*John 8:12***Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

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

Gospel*John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet', replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him'. Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Week: 5th Sunday of Lent, Year A**21st & 22nd March 2026****1st Reading:** Ezekiel 37:12-14**Responsorial Psalm:** 129**2nd Reading:** Romans 8:8-11**Gospel:** John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45