

Looking at the Readings

The first reading from the book of Isaiah comes from a much longer discourse in which the Lord is addressing several issues to the "nations" as they come out of exile, resettling in their homeland and rebuilding the Holy City, Jerusalem. This excerpt addresses the re-establishment of prayer and fasting as a noble religious practice. But through the Prophet, the Lord reminds them that fasting has both spiritual and social dimensions. There must be a "desire" for the external ritual of fasting and a "desire" for compassion for the poor.

The Lord's demand for integrity and charity may seem overwhelming for the just person. This passage has only half the *incipit* (see the column to the left). To whom is the Lord speaking? Who is "you"? It is the people, the whole nation not just individuals. The whole nation is exhorted to true fasting and compassion to the poor. Thus, it is very reminiscent of the Gospel of last week, the Beatitudes.

The conclusion of the first reading also resounds with the conclusion to the Beatitudes "Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven" Matt 5:12a, and to the sentiment expressed in the Gospel today: "You are the light of the world" Matt 5:14 and in the first reading: "Your light will rise in the darkness." (Is 58:10)

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: 7th & 8th February 2026

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 9.30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 9th - 13th February 2026

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass/Liturgy

**Thursday: 2.00pm St Mary's Beginning of School Mass
Brigidine Centre**

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

Sunday School: G'day Sunday

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 February:	5.30pm P.P.C. Meeting
12th February:	2.00pm Beginning of School Mass - Brigidine Centre
13th February:	Aged Care Liturgy * 4.00pm Social Justice Meeting
14th/15th February:	G'day weekend and Project Compassion Launch (Pancake Weekend)
17th February:	5.00pm Liturgy Meeting
18th February:	5.00 Bereavement Meeting
18th February:	12.00pm and 6.00pm Ash Wednesday Masses
20th February:	9.00am Mary's Makers
25th February:	5:30pm Ladies Drinks
28th February:	9.30am Ladies Breakfast Tickets available from 1st February

Could all Groups please send through their 2026 calendar dates for the diary. Thank you

Incipits

Most scripture texts proclaimed in our Liturgy of the Word begin with additional words not part of the selected text in order to give direction and context to the passage. The first reading today from the book of Isaiah starts with verse 7, the Lectionary editors have added "Thus says the Lord" which come from Is 56:1 the beginning of a long discourse. Similarly with the Gospel read today, the editors have added "Jesus said to his disciples" which come from Matt 5:1-2. The Canadian Lectionary adds several more words: "Jesus went up the mountain and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to teach them." Without the additional words (the incipits) we may wonder what is going on when we hear: "He said to them" Who is he? Who are them? And where are they at the time? It is a trap for young players who select a reading straight out of the bible to include in a liturgy.

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Quotes of the Day

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.
St Francis of Assisi

On the Lighter Side

The Light of the World (US, 2025) is an animated movie that follows Jesus' life from ministry beginnings through crucifixion, resurrection, as seen through the eyes of the Apostle John who sometimes is humorous, sometimes rowdy, and sometimes not very practical.

See review in:

www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/light-of-the-world



Throughout the year we will gather to celebrate our faith and learning as a school and as a Parish community.

This year we have included some of the significant dates within other faiths. We are blessed at St Mary's in our diversity of culture and religion, and we believe it is important to acknowledge these important religious feasts and celebrations while at the same time, deepening our understanding and knowledge.

We have also included opportunities for our Parishioners to join with us for weekday Mass each term. We continue to celebrate 'G'day Weekends' and have now included 'G'day Weekdays'!

Please mark these dates in your calendar as an opportunity to strengthen our connections and share our lives.

We look forward to welcoming you into our school.

Thursday 12th February at 2.00pm

- Beginning of the School year Mass

Tuesday 17th February

- Lunar New Year (Buddhism) Morning Prayer
- Burning of the Palms Liturgy at 2.30pm

Wednesday 18th February

- Ash Wednesday Mass at 9.15am
- Ramadan begins (Islam)

Every Monday in February and March

- Lenten morning Prayer at 8.45am Each Year

Thursday 5th March

- Liturgy at 12.30pm Year 6

Wednesday 11th March

- Mass at 12.00pm Year 2, St Mary's Church

Invitation to Join the Social Justice Team

Are you passionate about social justice and making a difference in the lives of others? You are warmly invited to join our parish Social Justice Team.

A meeting will be held in the Parish Meeting Room on Friday, 13 February at 4:00pm, as we prepare for Project Compassion Sunday. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together, share ideas, and support Caritas Australia's work for justice, dignity, and hope for those most in need. All are welcome. We would love to see you there. Fr. Novie

ASH WEDNESDAY

18th February 2026

9:30am Liturgy, St. Mary's School

12:00nn Mass, Church

6:00pm Mass, Church



"From dust you came and from dust you will return."

St Mary's Parish
ECHUCA
Growing in Faith together

Ladies' Breakfast

28TH FEBRUARY 2026
9:30AM – SATURDAY
ST. MARY'S PARISH CENTRE

\$15

Join us in celebrating 140 years of shared history between St Mary's Parish and St Joseph's College, as we honour the women who journeyed in faith and the legacy of the Brigidine Sisters.



ROSTERS THIS WEEK

7th & 8th February 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Rose Quinn, Tania Dixon, Chris Lee

9.30am: Cecilia Merrigan, Claire Hogan, Rachel McAsey

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Allison McKiterick

9.30am: Rob Morris, Adrian Costello

Prayers of the Faithful: Terry McKiterick

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 6th

Elaine Roberts, Tania Dixon, Holly Morris

Setting up the Church: 7th Rose Quinn

Setting up the Church: 8th Kenn Liwanag

Baptism Preparation: Bec Lloyd

Counters: 10th Brendan, Andrew, Peter

Hospital Visiting: 9th Carmel Mackenzie

Gardening: Michael Delahuntly, Fr Des

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

14th & 15th February 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Terry McKiterick, Peter Phillips, Karla Chisholm

9.30am: Julie Moyle, Jenny Morris, Lauren Gould

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Ruth Phillips, Carol Purdon

9.30am: Mel Slattery, Kenn Liwanag

Prayers of the Faithful: Noela Boyer

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 13th

Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 14th Christine Sebire

Setting up the Church: 15th Kate Bruty

Baptism Preparation: Bec Lloyd

Counters: 17th Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: 16th Barb Green

Gardening: Michael Delahuntly, Fr Des

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: John Le Guier, Mick Flemming, Eileen Anderson, Jack Oliver, John Murphy, Lance Vagg, Joan Edwards, Graham Kelly, Rosa Cannavo, Frank Cannavo, Sam Nastasi, Russell Roberts.

Recently Deceased: Ruth O'Hagan (Fr Matthew's mum)

***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 58:7-10***A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.
Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'
If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Ps 111:4-9***R. A light rises in the darkness for the upright.**

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. **R.**

The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **R.**

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. **R.**

Next Week: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

14th & 15th February 2026

1st Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

Responsorial Psalm: 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Gospel: Matthew 5:20-22, 27-28,
33-34

Second Reading*1 Corinthians 2:1-5***A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

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When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*John 8:12*

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel*Matthew 5:13-16***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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