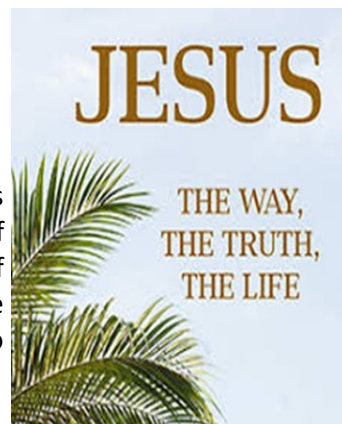


Looking at the Readings

There is a dynamism in the first letter of St Peter in today's reading. We have come to recognise that St Peter is addressing the newly baptised after Easter. Here his catechesis progresses into the liturgy and then into Christian life, from teaching into practical way of life. To grasp better his teaching St Peter uses symbol and metaphor, that is, stone and living stones. Christ is the living stone, and we are urged to become living stones of the church. Stones can also become obstacles that trip us up. Stones can also be used to build houses to live in safety and in which we may grow.

We are well familiar with the first half of the Gospel, it is regularly chosen for funerals. Today we hear the other six verses which follow and that proclaim the unity between the Father and the Son.

At funerals we interpret this Gospel in the promise of eternal life in the mansions of heaven after death and the importance of following the "Way, Truth and Life" of the Saviour during our lifetime. This passage comes from the farewell discourse of Jesus before his death. Yet it is written by the Evangelist who had experienced the resurrection of Christ. We come to hear it proclaimed in the Easter Season so we too can interpret Christ's words in relation to his life, death and resurrection.



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: cindyaura.austria@gmail.com

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 2nd & 3rd May 2026

Confirmation and 1st Eucharist Weekend

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 4th May - 8th May 2026

Wednesday: 12.00pm 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

1st May:	9.00am Mary's Makers *11.30am Adoration 12.00pm First Friday Mass
2nd & 3rd May:	Confirmation First Eucharist Weekend
6th May:	9.00am Youth Ministry Partnership Consultation (TBC)
7th May:	9.15am Mass at the Brigidine Centre
12th May:	12.00pm Delany House Mass Lunch in the garden *5.30pm P.P.C. Meeting
15th May:	9.00am Mary's Makers
16 & 17th May:	G'Day Weekend
19th May:	2.00pm Social Club Meeting



Catholic Education Week

This important week in our Diocese celebrates and acknowledges the gift of Catholic education.

At St Mary's this is a week to celebrate our shared Catholic identity, distinctive mission, and the valuable contribution Catholic education makes to families, parishes, and the wider community of Echuca. During Catholic Education week, it is a significant time to be proud.
To be proud of our Catholic education.
To be proud of our learning.
To be proud of all that each of us are becoming.

The Diocesan theme for the week is 'Seek Peace and Pursue It'.

This theme is both a challenge and a guide for each of us.

It reminds us that peace is not only about no conflict or fighting, but the presence of justice, mercy and love. It calls all school communities, including St Mary's Primary School, to be places where peace-making is lived and modelled - in our classrooms and playgrounds, in our learning, and in life with our family, our parish and the wider community.

Seeking peace is important to the mission of Catholic education.

A highlight for this week will be our whole school Mass on Thursday morning at 9.15am in the Brigidine Centre. We hope you can join us.

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



May the warm embrace of our Christian community welcome into our midst, showering them with love and spiritual growth as these candidates receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist this weekend.

Ryder Bourke, Jack Bunce, Samuel Farrant, Abel Middleton, Safia Montgomery, Joey Rankin, Brady Richardson and Levi Spence. (Saturday 6.00pm Mass)

Natalie Mutuku, Harry O'Brien,
Thiana Paredes, Hudson Russ and
Niño Monion. (Sunday 9.30am Mass)

Cyrus Stafrace (17th May 9.30am Mass)





ECHUCA MOAMA COMMUNITY
COAT & BLANKET DRIVE

Do you NEED a coat, blanket, doona, beanie or scarf?

Clean Winter warmth has been donated by your community so we invite you come to St Mary's Parish Hall and collect some free winter items to help you through the coming months.
Collection Days: Monday May 25, Friday May 29, June 5 & June 12 - 10am-2pm

If you have clean coats, blankets, scarves or beanies to donate, please drop them off to St. Mary's Parish Hall, Riverine Herald & Echuca Neighbourhood House.

 Echuca Moama Community Projects Team
Proudly coordinated by the Echuca Moama Community Projects Team
All queries to Julie on 0475 707 412 or julie@emprojects.org

 St Mary's Parish Echuca
Supported by **The Riv** RIVERINE HERALD

Community Soup & Support Days

Friday 29th May, Friday 5th June, Friday 12th June
11.30am - 1.30pm



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



Our wheel chair needs a loving home to go to, if you think you could show it love and need it, please call into the office to collect.

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

2nd & 3rd May 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell, Chris Lee, Terry McKiterick

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

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

9th & 10th May 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire, Allan Chettiar, Rose Quinn,

9.30am: Barb Green, Rachel McAsey, Kenneth Uzoh

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Natasha Tauro, Chris Lee

9.30am: Bernie Oliver, Margaret Hart

Prayers of the Faithful: Rose Quinn

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 8th

Cindy & Jonas Narvasa

Setting up the Church: 9th Carol Purdon

Setting up the Church: 10th Kate Bruty

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 12th Roma Bowman & Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: 11th Carmel Mackenzie

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: Mary Farley, Percy Colvin, Mick Kenna, John Prigg and Inocencio Villaruz.

Recently Deceased:

***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 6:1-7***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalms 33(34):2-7*

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R)**

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R)**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R)**

Gospel Acclamation*John 14:6*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Next Week: 6th Sunday of Easter, Year A

9th & 10th May 2026

1st Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Responsorial Psalm: 65:1-7, 16, 20

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Second Reading*1 Peter 2:4-9***A reading from the 1st letter of St Peter**

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel*John 14:1-12***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; If there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most

solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.