

Looking at the Readings

The Gospel reading, long as it is, contains some wonderful lines for us to ponder:

- 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory,' v4. Often, we see death as an end, but in Jesus' eyes it is a new beginning and the glory of God for it showed forth God's care, mercy and power.
- 'I am the resurrection and the life.' v25. The fourth Gospel has seven "I am" terms that Jesus expresses. "I am the light of the world" (9:5) on the fourth Sunday of Lent and today. Each of these "I am" proclamations assist our understanding of Jesus' ministry and link Jesus to the Old Testament revelation of God. Jesus asked Martha does she believe this. It is a question that all Christian must answer.
- 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,' This is a remarkable profession of faith by Martha and also made by Peter (Matt 16:16). It is this faith that the church is founded on and continues to profess.
- 'Jesus wept,' is the shortest verse in the New Testament. Pope Leo I wrote that it expresses his humanity, raising Lazarus shows his divinity.
- 'Unbind him, let him go free.' On the surface Jesus gave a practical and physical direction. Deeper more spiritual meaning links the binding clothes that were left in Christ's tomb, that came the sign of the resurrection and linked with Christian baptism. The baptised are freed from sin (earthly ties) to walk in the light of the resurrection and in freedom of God's children. We need to discard things that bind us.



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: 21st & 22nd March 2026

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 23rd - 27th March 2026

Wednesday: 12.00pm Lenten Anointing 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)

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.

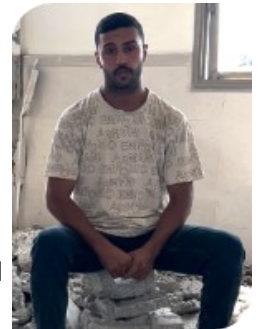
PARISH CALENDAR

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:	11am St Joseph's 140th Year celebrations Mass
31st March:	11.00am Mass of the Holy Oils Cathedral
2nd April:	11.00am Stations of the Cross *7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Holy Thursday
3rd April:	11am Ecumenical Walk of Witness (Uniting Church) 3.00pm Passion Good Friday
4th April:	7.30pm Easter Vigil Mass 5th April: 9.30am Easter Sunday Mass



PROJECT FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT – 22nd COMPASSION March AHMAD from GAZA

When war intensified in Gaza in late 2023, Ahmad, a Caritas Jerusalem employee in their Media and Communications team, was forced to flee his home in northern Gaza. Like thousands of families, his family carried almost nothing as they sought safety in Khan Younis. Two months later, disaster struck again when the house where they were sheltering was bombed at night. Ahmad was buried under rubble, his eardrum ruptured. His brother survived with devastating injuries, including the loss of a leg. For two months Ahmad stayed with his brother in an overwhelmed hospital with few doctors and scarce supplies. His family was displaced several more times, sometimes living in tents, sometimes in borrowed homes, often leaving behind the few belongings they had managed to gather. Despite personal suffering, Ahmad continued his role with Caritas Jerusalem, helping to support families in need. "Thank God we work at Caritas, allowing us to serve people in the most challenging conditions despite the lack of medicine," he explains. "I hope this ordeal ends so we can go back to rebuild Gaza, our children's future, our country, and our organisation." Ahmad's story is a reminder that Caritas' mission of accompaniment is lived not only through its programs, but through the courage and resilience of its frontline staff. Together, we can *Unite Against Poverty this Lent* by donating to Project Compassion, helping people in Gaza and other vulnerable regions to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope. **Please donate Via our Parish QR Code below, all donations will be attributed to our own parish.**



Volunteers Needed for Holy Week Services

If you are able to help during our Holy Week services, please feel free to write your name on the sign-up sheets available at the entrance of the church. We welcome all types of help, not only Readers and Eucharistic Ministers. If you are willing to assist with the Oil Procession, set-up, ushers, Offertory gifts, or other roles, we would greatly appreciate your support. **Please write your name on the days you are available to help and include your phone number so that the Liturgy Committee can contact you to confirm.** Thank you for supporting our Holy Week celebrations.

This week we celebrated our diversity. At St Mary's Primary school, we are extremely proud and embrace the rich cultures and differences within our community. Every day we celebrate this, although during Harmony Week this week, we placed this in the spotlight. Learners participated in a variety of learning tasks ranging from acknowledgement of what, why and who we celebrate, cultural dishes and their origins, flags we associate with, quizzes about culture and diversity, all the time nurturing a deeper understanding of why diversity is valued and important to us. **At St Mary's, 'Everyone belongs'.**



St Mary's Parish ECHUCA Coming in faith together Holy week AND EASTER SERVICES SCHEDULE 2026

Palm Sunday

28th March - 6pm Mass
29th March - 9:30 am Mass
29th March - 11:00 am Mass
St. Joseph's College 140th Anniversary

Holy Thursday

2nd April - 11 am Stations of the Cross
2nd April - 7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

3rd April - 3 pm Passion of the Lord

Easter Vigil

4th April - 7:30 pm Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday

5th April - 9:30 am Mass

Lenten Services 2026

*All are warmly welcome.
Come and journey with us this
Lenten season.*

Lent
PRAY. FAST. SERVE.

*Lenten Anointing Mass
25th March @ 12 noon*

*At St Mary's Parish
Church*

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



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

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

21st & 22nd March 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Mary Atkins, Carol Purdon, Kristy Serpell
9.30am: Margaret Hart, Kenneth Uzoh,
Poppy Ferguson

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

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

28th & 29th March 2026 Palm Sunday

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire, Ruth Phillips, Rose Quinn
9.30am: Barb Green, Max Marchetti, Michelle Shingles

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Bob Cooper, Carmel Mackenzie

9.30am: Kate Bruty, Mel Slattery

Prayers of the Faithful: Rose Quinn

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 27th

Josie Drakatos, Effie Xodo, Mel Slattery

Setting up the Church: 28th Carol Purdon

Setting up the Church: 29th Kate Bruty

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 31st Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: 30th Karla Chisholm

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, Dominga Cabantac, John & Elaine Farley, Margaret McMahon, Veronica Brown, Margaret Summers

Anniversaries: Jennifer Kiely, Dot Collins, Sean Carr and Asuncion Frias.

Recently Deceased: Judy Cooling (Dwyer)

***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*Ezekiel 37:12-14***A reading from the prophet Ezekiel**

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalm 130.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7b-8***R. With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications! **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered. **R.**

I wait for the Lord,
my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning. **R.**

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities. **R.**

Second Reading*Romans 8:8-11***A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*John 11:25, 26***Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**Gospel***John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45***A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life, If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him 'Lord by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me.

But I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Week: Palm Sunday, Year A**28th & 29th March 2026****1st Reading:** Isaiah 50:4-7**Responsorial Psalm:** 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24**2nd Reading:** Philippians 2:6-11**Gospel:** Palm Sunday