

Looking at the Readings

Jesus Ben Sira, the author of the Book of Ecclesiasticus (also called the Book of Sirach) shared his wisdom and insights on the dilemma of human freedom and God's initiatives. However, the reading exposes more questions for us about freedom, our choices, God's law and the wisdom of the Lord. The poem below reflects on this apparent paradox:

Jesus crucified, Wisdom of God

The law is fulfilled in Christ, Salvation of every believer.

Wiser than human beings is the folly of God One sole glory: the Cross of the Lord.

Here is the new commandment: To live in love *Jesus crucified, Wisdom of God*

The readings of this Sunday affirm the gift of human free will and the conviction that God has set before us the moral choice between goodness and evil, blessing and curse, fire and water, life and death. They also challenge hearers to embrace their moral freedom by choosing a life transformed by the spiritual wisdom reflected in God's commandments and revealed ultimately in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. We are called to a deeper, interior righteousness, reflected not just in external action, but in the innermost depths of our hearts.

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Parish Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9am - 1pm

St Mary's Parish Centre

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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 14th & 15th February 2026

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 16th - 20th February 2026

Ash Wednesday: 12.00pm & 6.00pm 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)

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

14th/15th February:	G'day weekend and Project Compassion Launch (Pancake Weekend)
16th February:	5.15pm Finance Meeting *6.00pm Young Adults Gathering
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
24th February:	10.00am Deanery Meeting White Hills
25th February:	5:30pm Ladies Drinks
28th February:	9.30am Ladies Breakfast Tickets available from 1st February



PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY 15th February

This week, we begin our annual journey of Lent and with it our annual commitment to Project Compassion, organised by Caritas Australia. For generations, Project Compassion has helped us express our Lenten commitment to prayer, personal sacrifice and almsgiving. Our focus this year is a call to 'Unite Against Poverty.' It is a powerful call.

Every day, the news brings us distressing stories about how the divisions in the world bring disastrous consequences for the most vulnerable people. Our work for Project Compassion is a significant way to bring healing to God's family. This week, the readings ask us to travel to deeper places in our lives. The Gospel warns us against shallow virtue which 'goes no deeper to that of the scribes and Pharisees.' St Paul speaks about mature wisdom, a view of the world that is at odds with those who have power. 'The masters of this age' seldom understand compassion and the way in which 'the Spirit reaches the depths of everything.' Those depths will take us to the margins and stir in us a longing to Unite Against Poverty.

Please donate Via our Parish QR Code below, all donations will be attributed to our own parish. St. Mary's Parish, Echuca QR Code.



After receiving communion today, you are invited to take a Project Compassion Box & a set of Envelopes. This action reminds us of the challenge which is Eucharist.

As we say "AMEN" to the Body of Christ, we are also saying "AMEN" to **being** the Body of Christ.

We who eat must be the healing, loving, transforming presence of Jesus in our world today.

Weekly Envelopes are a great way of sharing our lives through Lent.

It's a good idea to keep a Box on the dinner table as a reminder, then each week transfer the contents to your envelope to bring to Mass. Bringing the envelope to Mass each week links

OUR LENT, OUR LIVES & OUR LITURGY
so let's UNITE AGAINST POVERTY - together, we can make a real difference and bring hope in our world.

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

Quotes of the Day

All the great things are simple, and can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honour, duty, mercy, hope.

Winston Churchill

Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.

Pope John Paul II

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
268 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

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

14th & 15th February 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Terry McKitterick, 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 Mary Atkins

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

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

21st & 22nd February 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Chris Lee, Rose Quinn, Nick Lee

9.30am: Noela Boyer, Win Lavery, Barb Green

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Sarah Byrne, Kim Wallace

9.30am: Kate Bruty, Bebber Mitchell

Prayers of the Faithful: Rose Quinn

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 20th

Kay Westblade, Yvonne Costello, Bev Stapleton

Setting up the Church: 21st Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 22nd Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Bec Lloyd

Counters: 24th Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: 23rd John and Julie Moyle

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: Eileen Childs, Denis Mullane, Elaine McIntyre, Pat McCurry, Peg Jacobs, Shirley Whitehead, Josh Cooper, Mary Williams, Frank Sanderson, Russell Roberts, Malcolm Whyte, Antonio Surace, John Dignan, Claire Sutton, Sam Natasi, Leo Sheldon, Rosa Cannavo, Frank Cannavo and Allan Pollock.

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 <i>Sirach 15:15-20</i> A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.	Second Reading <i>1 Corinthians 2:6-10</i> A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Responsorial Psalm <i>Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34</i> R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord! They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. R. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. R. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. R. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. R.	Gospel Acclamation <i>Matthew 11:25</i> Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!
Next Week: 1st Sunday of Lent, Year A 21st & 22nd February 2026 1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Responsorial Psalm: 50:3-6, 12-14, 17 2nd Reading: Romans 5:12, 17-19 Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11	Gospel <i>Matthew 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34, 37</i> A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.' The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane 2025