

Looking at the Readings

This year we proclaim the Passion of The Lord according to the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew addresses himself to a gathering of believers. In a doctrinal and quasi-liturgical style, he offers Christ's disciples some keys to understanding the passion. He wants to introduce his readers to the Christian understanding of the disconcerting events that led their Master and Lord to die on the cross. Thus, they will be able, by sharing in the faith of the Church, to situate the cross within the coherent whole of the divine salvific plan (Matt 26:14-27:66). Sometimes, Matthew is content to state "it is written" or else "to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet." No, all that has happened is not due to blind chance. We must enter with faith into the painful passion of Jesus, because it inaugurates the new world where God wants his Son's disciples to live." Matthew's Passion crowns the Gospel he presents to us. It is within the faith of the Church that the evangelist shows Jesus as the stone rejected by the builders becoming the cornerstone of the Church. More than any other writer of his time, Matthew seems to have measured the chasm opening between the Synagogue and the community of the Lord Jesus' disciples. Had not his Master promised that a new people would produce the fruits of the vine planted by God (see 21:43)? But the Church too must nonetheless remain watchful; it, too, could one day forget its Lord by becoming unfaithful to his Gospel. (Days of the Lord v2 p225,6)



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Parish Office Hours

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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 3rd & 4th April 2026

Saturday: 7:30pm Mass Easter Vigil

Sunday : 9:30am Mass Easter Sunday

Weekday Masses: 30th March - 3rd April 2026

Wednesday: 11.00pm Funeral Mass (Peter Pavone)

Thursday: 11am Stations of the Cross (Church)

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday: 11:00am Walk Of Witness (Uniting Church)

3:00pm Passion of the Lord

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

29th March:	11am Mass St Joseph's 140 year celebrations
31st March:	11.00am Mass of the Holy Oils Cathedral
1st April:	There will not be a 12.00pm Mass *11.00am Funeral Mass for Peter Pavone
2nd April:	11.00am Stations of the Cross *7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
3rd April:	Good Friday 3.00pm Passion
4th April:	7.30pm Easter Vigil Mass
5th April:	9.30am Easter Sunday Mass
6th - 10th April:	Fr Novie away



PROJECT PALM SUNDAY – 29 March COMPASSION

As we enter the sacred season of Easter, Project Compassion once again invites us to unite in faith, hope and love, extending our hands and hearts to those who need it most. With the support of parishes like yours, Caritas Australia and its partners help uplift communities facing poverty and hardship, uphold dignity for families navigating crisis and strengthen resilience where life's challenges are greatest.

This Lent, the stories you have encountered from Sisilia, Monoranjon, Manaini and Ahmad remind us of the difference compassion can make. Over the past financial year, our humanitarian and development programs (including through CAN DO – Church Agencies Network) reached more than two million people, supporting around one hundred projects across 30 countries. Together with our partners, your support helps families access nutritious food, clean water, education, healthcare and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. These essentials allow communities to grow in strength & resilience and build brighter futures for generations to come. During Lent, we are invited to live out our faith in practical and compassionate ways. As we continue our Lenten journey, may we be guided by Christ's love and remain open to the needs of others. Together, let us work toward a world where all people can flourish and live with dignity. **Please donate Via our Parish QR Code below, all donations will be attributed to our own parish.**



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



Sunday 29th March 2026
11am Mass at St. Mary's Parish



St Mary's Parish ECHUCA Growing 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

G'day Weekday Mass



On Wednesday we celebrated the debut of our G'day Weekday Mass at St Mary's Primary School. The Moore Community (Years 3 & 4) hosted this celebration leading the readings, Prayers of the Faithful and the final hymn.

It was wonderful to welcome so many Parishioners and parents to the celebration where we gathered together in prayer, unity and friendship. Our visitors enjoyed a light luncheon following the celebration.

We look forward to continued opportunities to gather with you as we continue to build community and connection.

Walk of Witness

On Good Friday at 11:00am, we will hold a Walk of Witness—an ecumenical Stations of the Cross—bringing together the different Christian denominations in Echuca and Moama. The walk will begin at the Uniting Church, continue to the Anglican Church, then to the Catholic Church, and return to the Uniting Church. At the conclusion of the event, we will gather for a cuppa in the Uniting Church Hall.

All are warmly invited to join us.

If you are planning to attend and are interested in reading, we are seeking two readers from the Catholic community. Please approach **Fr. Novie**.

The Mass of Holy Oils (Chrism Mass) will be held this Tuesday at 11:00 AM at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo. You are most welcome to join and represent our parish community.

Lent
PRAY. FAST. SERVE.



ROSTERS THIS WEEK

28th & 29th March 2026 Palm Sunday

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell, Natasha Tauro, Chris Lee

9.30am: Julie Moyle, Max Marchetti, Jenny Morris

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Carmel Mackenzie, Kim Wallace

9.30am: John Moyle, 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 Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 31st Eileen Pineo, Lois William

Hospital Visiting: 30th John & Julie Moyle

Gardening: Bernie Oliver, Tom Oliver, David Baker

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

4th & 5th April 2026 Easter Vigil Easter Sunday

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: T.B.N.

9.30am: T.B.N.

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: T.B.N.

9.30am: T.B.N.

Prayers of the Faithful: T.B.N.

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 3rd

Elaine Roberts, Tania Dixon, Holly Morris

Setting up the Church: 4th T.B.N.

Setting up the Church: 5th Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 7th Brendan, Andrew and Peter

Hospital Visiting: 6th Carmel Mackenzie

Gardening: Ken Hatfield and Alfred Grigg

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

Anniversaries: Roly Hall, Margaret Payne, Bet Oliver, Lance Ryan, Sheree Higgins and Tom Wilkinson

Recently Deceased: Joyce Moylan, Gavin Millar, Joseph Pollino and Peter Pavone

***If you have an addition to our overall prayer list or require someone to be removed from our sick list please email admin.*

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (19:28-40)

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two disciples, saying, 'Go into the village opposite, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat; untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" you shall say this, "The Lord has need of it."' So those who were sent went away and found it as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' And they said, 'The Lord has need of it.' And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt they set Jesus upon it. And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the road. As he was drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a
disciple. The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn
away. I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by
the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' R.

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2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. R.

3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! R.

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' R.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men
are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high and gave him the name
which is above all other names so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that
every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death,
dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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Next Week: Easter Sunday, Year A

5th April 2026

1 st Reading:	Acts 10:34, 37-43
Responsorial Psalm:	117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
2 nd Reading:	Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel:	John 20:1-9