

Looking at the Readings

Unlike most feast days the event of Pentecost is not found in the Gospel but in the first reading. The Acts of the Apostles starts with the Ascension of the Lord and the starting of the mission of the apostles and their communities. The reading begins with: "On the day of Pentecost ..." The day was a pre-existing feast day in the life of the Jewish nation and faith. Fifty days after the Passover and now fifty days after the Lord's Resurrection.

The Gospel does include an account of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles – even prior to Pentecost. This tells us several things. The Spirit comes at any time – not dependent on the calendar or our timetable. The Spirit comes for a variety of purposes. After the resurrection Jesus came among them, said: "Peace be with you!" He breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit." He brings peace and the authority to forgive sins. (John 20:19-23) The Spirit comes to give strength and the ability to communicate (Acts 2) and the Spirit comes to give us a variety of gifts (1 Cor 12)



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Parish Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9am - 1pm

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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 23rd & 24th May 2026

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday: 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 25th May - 29th 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**

M: 0417 822 589

E: melslattery.home@gmail.com

PARISH CALENDAR

23rd & 24th May:	Pentecost Sunday Please bring an Australian dish to share *Blessing of the Kiosk after the 9.30am Mass
25th & 29th May:	10.00am Coat Drive & Soup Kitchen
27th May:	5.00pm Ladies Drinks May 27th - June 3rd: National Reconciliation Week
29th May:	9.00am Mary's Makers
30th & 31st May:	National Reconciliation Week Commemoration *Soup & sandwiches after Mass 17th June

St Mary's Primary School, Year 6 some more diary entries.

Dear Diary,

I just witnessed the most shocking and exciting moment ever! I was going to go see Jesus in the tomb but he wasn't there! I broke down in tears. I couldn't see straight. Grief took over me, then I saw two angels dressed in white saying, "Jesus isn't dead! Christ has risen!" Then I saw the gardener, tears still streaming down my face. "Do you know where Jesus is? If so, I will go get him." He responded, "Mary!! He has risen!" Then I went to the disciples and told them the good news. Thank God for the miracle of the resurrection. ~ Georgie

Dear Diary,

Today I had gone to pray with Jesus. I was crying next to Jesus' tomb without realising it had been pushed to the side, so I looked in to find it EMPTY! I asked the gardener if he'd seen him. He said my name: "Mary!" My jaw fell onto the floor. I couldn't believe it: it was him. Jesus has risen! But he said to me, "Do not hold onto me!" I felt a mix of many feelings all at the same time. He had risen. I got to see his beautiful alive face once again. Thank you God for his resurrection. ~ Harper



National Reconciliation Week 2026

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) in 2026 takes place from May 27 to June 3. The theme this year is "All In", which calls on all Australians to actively commit to reconciliation every day. The Australian Catholic community actively observes this week through prayer, liturgical resources, and local parish engagement. This week is an opportunity for us all to celebrate what has been done to deepen respect and trust between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and other Australians. It is also a time for us to commit to continue to walk together in the struggle for dignity and justice for Australia's First Peoples. During Masses next weekend we will acknowledge NRW and include First Nations People in our prayers and celebration.

What's the significance of 27 May and 3 June?

27 May marks the anniversary of the 1967 referendum when Australians voted to remove clauses in the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

3 June marks the historic 1992 Mabo decision in which the High Court of Australia recognised native title—the recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights over their lands did survive British colonisation.

"We are reminded that reconciliation is an ongoing journey," Chair of the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Bishop Charles Gauci has said.

What can you do in the name of reconciliation?

Visit the Reconciliation Australia website to learn more about NRW: <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/>

Take the time to learn about the rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures that exist in Australia - the history of the Yorta Yorta People is a great place to start: <https://ynac.com.au/yorta-yorta-history/>.

Revisit the Australian Catholic Bishops 2022-23 Social Justice Statement – Listen, Learn, Love – A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples: <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2023/08/22/social-justice-statement-2023-24/>

Revisit the Uluru Statement from the Heart: <https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/view-the-statement/>

Read the Address of Pope John Paul II to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at Alice Springs in 1986: https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/speeches/1986/november/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_19861129_aborigeni-alice-springs-australia.html

Find the time to talk with your family and friends about why it's important for all Australians to build respectful relationships with each other, and especially with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Include First Nations People and NRW in your prayers:

Let us pray today that Reconciliation will live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians, creating a nation strengthened by just and respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Amen.

Claire Hogan (Parish Indigenous Mission Coordinator)
Contact: chogan@sje.vic.edu.au

Pentecost Sunday

You are warmly invited to join us for our Masses on 23rd/24th May for Pentecost Weekend, followed by our G'Day Weekend cuppas.

As part of our G'Day Weekend celebrations, we also kindly invite you to bring along an Australian dish to share, so we can enjoy and celebrate the delicious flavours of Australia together in a spirit of friendship and community.



On Pentecost Sunday, the **Young Adults Group** of our parish invites you to join us after the 9:30am Mass for the blessing and opening of our newly renovated Piety Store, **Our Lady's Devotions and Delights**.

The store will offer religious items and devotional articles, as well as occasional homemade cupcakes, pastries, and produce from our parishioners. It will also be a welcoming space to enjoy a cuppa together on some weekends.



Invitation for Members for the Welcoming Team

The Welcoming Team is a group of parishioners who help create a warm and friendly atmosphere in our parish. They greet people after Mass, connect with new parishioners, and help everyone feel welcome and included in our community. The team also shares information about parish groups and ministries, encouraging people to become involved and connected in parish life.

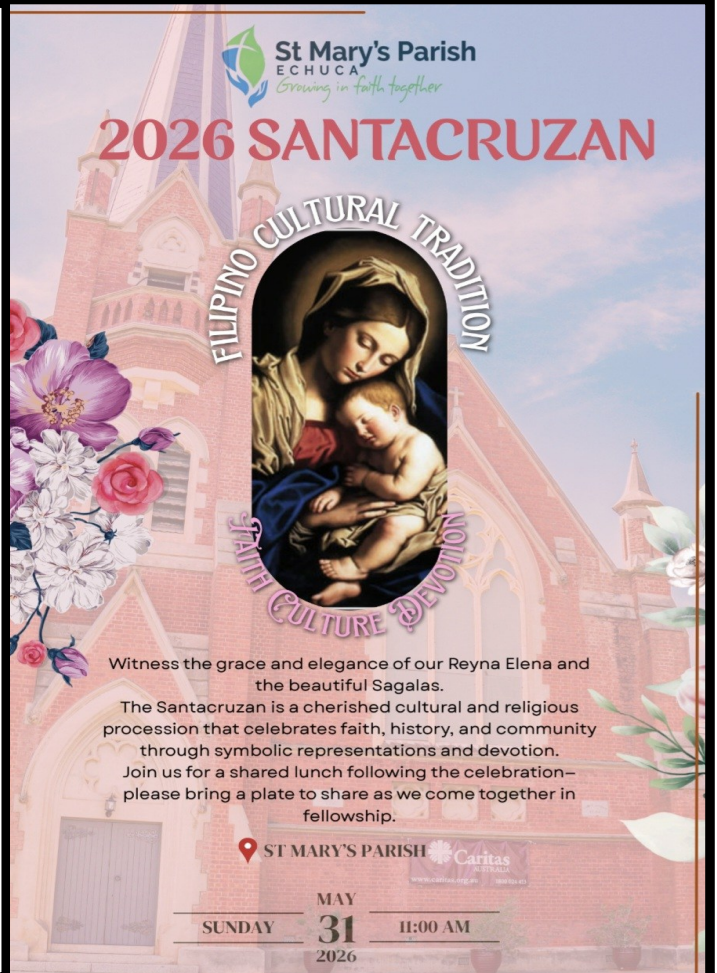
We hope the team reflects the diversity of our parish, with people of different ages, cultures, and backgrounds.

Everyone brings unique gifts and experiences that can help others feel at home.

If you have a friendly spirit and would like to be part of this ministry of welcome and hospitality, we warmly invite you to join the Welcoming Team.

For more information or to join, please contact:

Fr. Novie – nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au
Cindy Narvasa (Community Coordinator) –
cindyaura.austria@gmail.com



St Mary's Parish ECHUCA
Growing in faith together

2026 SANTACRUZAN

FILIPINO CULTURAL TRADITION
FAITH CULTURE DEVOTION

Witness the grace and elegance of our Reyna Elena and the beautiful Sagalas.

The Santacruzán is a cherished cultural and religious procession that celebrates faith, history, and community through symbolic representations and devotion.

Join us for a shared lunch following the celebration—please bring a plate to share as we come together in fellowship.

ST MARY'S PARISH 

MAY 31 2026
SUNDAY 11:00 AM

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

23rd & 24th May 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Rose Quinn, Natasha Tauro, Chris Lee

9.30am: Barb Green Abilain Liwanag Michelle Shingles

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Bob Cooper, Allan Chettiar

9.30am: Bebher Mitchell, Ken Liwanag

Prayers of the Faithful:

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 22nd

Josie Drakatos, Effie Xodo, Mel Slattery

Setting up the Church: 23rd Rose Quinn

Setting up the Church: 24th Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 26th Eileen Pineo, Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: 25th John and Julie Moyle

Gardening: Doug Black, Ray Lewis

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

30th & 31st May 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Tania Dixon, Christine Sebire, TBA

9.30am: Rachel McAsey, Barb Green, Judi O'Farrell

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Rose Quinn, Kristy Serpell

9.30am: Matt Butler, John Moyle

Prayers of the Faithful: Noela Boyer

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 29th

Elaine Roberts, Tania Dixon, Holly Morris

Setting up the Church: 30th Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 31st Rachel McAsey

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 2nd Brendan, Andrew, Peter

Hospital Visiting: 1st Noela Boyer

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, Geoff Brown, Barb Smith

Anniversaries: Richard Moyle, Vincent Galea, Nell Stapleton, Marie Fraser, Jean Kelly and Lesley Moller.

Recently Deceased: Margot Oliver

***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 2:1-11***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 104.1-2a, 24+25c, 27-28, 29b-30*

**R. Lord, send out your Spirit,
and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honour and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment. **R.**

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures,
living things both small and great. **R.**

These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. **R.**

When you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

Second Reading*1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13***A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians**

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

Gospel*John 20:19-23***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Week: The Most Holy Trinity, Year A**30th & 31st May 2026**

1st Reading: Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9

Responsorial Psalm: Daniel 3:52-56

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel: John 3:16-18