

Looking at the Readings

The short gospel passage for today is taken from the final words of the gospel of Matthew. It is known as 'The Great Commission' as Jesus is portrayed commissioning his disciples to go out to the world and spread the good news. They are charged to 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.' This is the basis of much of the missionary work of the Church that has gone on ever since then.

However, the focus of today's feast is much more on the first reading than the gospel. The opening verses of the Book of Acts, from the author of Luke-Acts, describe the final instructions of Jesus to his disciples and then his 'lifting up'. The Luke-Acts writer is the only gospel writer to actually describe the Ascension. The fact that the other gospels don't discuss the Ascension in any detail at all is a good indication that this description should not be taken literally.

The message of the Ascension is a powerful one. It reminds us that Jesus was limited to a specific time and place in history. Despite the physical limitations of his life on earth, Jesus ensured that his message and ministry would continue through those he had taught. Knowing that the disciples would need time to grieve and come to terms with all that had occurred in a relatively short space of time, Jesus promised that the Spirit would come upon them in the days to come. That visiting of the Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost was the motivation to set about doing what Jesus had charged them to do. Without the Ascension, there is no Pentecost. © Greg Sunter



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: 16th & 17th May 2026

Saturday: 6:00pm Mass

Sunday: 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 18th May - 22nd May 2026

Monday: 1.30pm Funeral Mass Frank Millar

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

19th May:	2.00pm Social Club Meeting *5.00pm Liturgy Meeting
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
29th May:	9.00am Mary's Makers
31st May:	11.00am Santacruzian

At St Mary's Primary School, Year 6 learners have been reading the story of Mary Magdalene's visit to the tomb. They explored the feelings experienced by the characters, particularly Mary Magdalene, and discussed what it means to be a witness. Through these discussions, learners reflected on themes of faith, hope, courage, and sharing important experiences with others. Learners wrote a diary entry through the eyes of Mary Magdalene:



Today on Easter Sunday, I thank God. Yes, me, Mary Magdalene. I thank you today because I went to the tomb of Jesus. When I went there, I saw the tomb open. I leant over to see where Jesus was. The place where Jesus was laid . . . He wasn't there. Except the white angels. One at the top and one at the bottom. One said to me, "Dear, why are you crying?" I thought it was a gardener. So I said, "I hope you didn't take my friend!" But the white angel was Jesus. I didn't know that it was him until he said, "Mary Magdalene, why are you so thankful for Jesus and God?" Then I realised it was Jesus. Then I said, "Oh my Lord! Thank you!" Then I went back and told all my friends and that's why I was so thankful. ~ Paddy

This weekend we mark

Laudato Si' Week,

a time to reflect on Pope Francis' invitation to cherish and protect the world God has entrusted to us. As we gather to celebrate the Eucharist and pray together, we give thanks for the wonders of creation and consider how each of us can play a part in caring for our environment and helping those who are most vulnerable to its changing conditions. May this special celebration encourage us to live with greater compassion, responsibility, and hope for the future.



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.



St Mary's Parish
ECHUCA
Growing in faith together



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.

Parish Priest's Update – May 2026 by Fr. Novie

It is now almost halfway through the year, and it is wonderful to see our parish continuing to grow and move forward together. I would like to share a few updates about what is happening in our parish community.

Our Parish Strategic Plan for 2026–2031 is now almost complete. We are very grateful to our Parish Pastoral Council for their hard work and support in preparing this plan. We are now waiting for the Diocesan Planning Resources Team to review it and make sure it is in line with the Diocese. While many parishes are still beginning their planning process, ours is already in its final stages. We hope to launch the Strategic Plan soon and gather with ministry leaders and parishioners to discuss how we can put the plan into action.

There have also been some changes and new appointments in our parish ministries. We thank those who have generously accepted these roles.

For our Community Coordinators:

- Julie Moyle will continue supporting community connection, parish ministries, and hospital visitations.
 - Cindy Narvasa, with the help of Jenky Seno, will focus on multicultural connections and events. Cindy will also lead the new Welcoming Team and serve as Editor-in-Chief of the *Revelations Magazine*.
- The new Welcoming Team will help greet and support parishioners and visitors, helping everyone feel welcomed and connected in our parish community.
- The Hospitality Team and G'Day Weekend Team have now merged into one group led by Angela Jefferson.
- The Social Justice Ministry has now been divided into three areas:

- Mission and Project Compassion – Jenny Morris
- Care for Creation – Gayle and Richard Zakrzewski
- Indigenous Ministry – Claire Hogan

Finally, our parish newsletter will soon have a new layout as we begin using Canva, since Publisher will soon be phased out. Thank you for your understanding and support during this change.

Thank you to everyone who continues to share their time, talents, and commitment to our parish community. May we continue to grow together in faith, service, and unity.

May the warm embrace of our Christian community welcome into our midst,



showering him with love and spiritual growth, **Cyrus Stafrace** as he receives the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist this weekend.



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
Growing in faith together

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 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 **Caritas**
www.caritas.org.au

MAY 31 2026
SUNDAY 11:00 AM

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

16th & 17th May 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire Carol Purdon Dom Karunanayake

9.30am: Julie Moyle, Max Marchetti, Claire Hogan

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Leah Williams, Tharaka de Silva

9.30am: Kate Bruty, Trish Marchetti

Prayers of the Faithful: Mary Atkins

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 15th

Lauren Gould, Prue Galea

Setting up the Church: 16th Christine Sebire

Setting up the Church: 17th Julie Moyle

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 19th Pat Whyte & Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: 18th Barb Green

Gardening: Doug Black, Ray Lewis

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

23rd & 24th May 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Rose Quinn, Natasha Tauro, Chris Lee

9.30am: Noela Boyer Abilain Liwanag Michelle Shingles

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Bob Cooper, Allan Chettiar

9.30am: Bebher Mitchell, Ken Liwanag

Prayers of the Faithful: Terry McKiterick

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

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, Margot Oliver

Anniversaries: Fran Beehag, Mary Farley, Barry McMahon, Kathleen Vagg, Mary Byrne and John Monigatti.

Recently Deceased: Frank Millar, Nola Barr

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

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Ps 46:2-3, 6-9***R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

Second Reading*Ephesians 1:17-23***A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*Matthew 28:19, 20***Alleluia, alleluia!**

Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!**Gospel***Matthew 28:16-20***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Week: Pentecost Sunday, Year A**23rd & 24th May 2026****1st Reading:** Acts 2:1-11**Responsorial Psalm:** 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34**2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13**Gospel:** John 20:19-23