

Looking at the Readings

Have you noticed that when Jesus Christ does something, it is not for himself but for others? He feeds 5000, not because he is hungry, but the people are, he calms the storm, not because he is afraid but the disciples are, he sits down to meals to converse with the scribes, the pharisees, the tax collectors and sinners. He is baptised by John not for himself, even John recognised that, but for others. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "Jesus loaded the burden of mankind's guilt upon his shoulders: he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan, ... by stepping into the place of sinners" Similarly, Christ died on the cross for others, taking the sins of the world and put them to death. He rose from the dead for us to gain new life.

We may look at Christ's baptism on two levels, the first that he gave example to those on the shore of the Jordan: baptism is a sign of conversion which all must heed and by entering the water he gave water that potency for the sacrament yet to come. On the deeper level he aligned his humanity with our humanity, his divinity as manifested by the coming of the Spirit upon him with the divine life we receive through the coming of the Holy Spirit in our Baptism and Confirmation.

The words of the Lord, through the Prophet Isaiah, enumerates three titles of the Messiah: Servant, Chosen One and Spirit endowed. The words of God heard at Christ's Baptism: 'This is my Son, the Beloved' do overlap and help the hearer accept Christ's standing and servant-son and his mission of bring love to God's people.

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Parish Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9am - 1pm

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PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: 10th & 11th January 2026

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am Mass

Weekday Masses: 12th - 16th January 2026

Wednesday: 12.00pm 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

12th January:	2.30pm Social Club Meeting	Please note new date
26th January:	9:30am Australia Day Mass	
28th January:	3:15pm Schools Combined Staff Mass	
14th/15th February:	G'day weekend	
18th February:	12noon and 6pm Ash Wednesday Masses	
24th February:	5:30pm Ladies Drinks	
28th February:	"Save the Date" Ladies Breakfast	

Could all Groups please send through their 2026 calendar dates for the diary. Thank you

Liturgical Jottings

Baptismal Font

The Collect of the Second Sunday of Easter has an interesting clause: "that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed"

Do we know the place of the font we were baptised?

Or more importantly do we understand the importance of going into the water of baptism and then raising out representing dying to sin and raising to new life?

Several baptisms in the Early Church are attested in the Acts of the Apostles. Mostly lacking detail, but we do read of the Ethiopian being baptised in a stream by Philip (Acts 8). Baptisteries were often separate buildings, like the ones in Ravenna, Florence or St Lydia's at Philippi in Greece. Now Baptisteries may be a chapel in a church or a baptismal font at the front door or on the sanctuary. Some are ankle or knee deep for immersion or raised bowl (round or octangular) for water to be poured over the head.

Quotable Quote

Christ receives the sacrament of enlightenment, or rather he enlightens us with his brilliance. ... Let us go down into the water with him, so that we may come up with him. *St Gregory of Nazianzus*

On the Lighter Side

A family of three generations were baptised together: grandparents first, parents and finally the children. The three-year-old did not scream or resist, he saw that it was OK and happily followed the older ones.

Prayer for the Day

This prayer captures the different strands expressed in the three readings of the feast for this year, Cycle A.

God of the covenant, you anointed your beloved Son with the power of the Holy Spirit to be light for the nations and release for captives.

Grant that we who are born again of water and the Spirit may proclaim with our lips the good news of his peace and show forth in our lives the victory of his justice.



**May the warm embrace of our
Christian community extend a
joyful welcome to**

Indie Larcombe

&

Johan Uzoh

(Sunday morning)

**as they receive the sacrament
of Baptism this weekend.**

VISITATION MINISTRY TEAM

Our Visitation Ministry Team is dedicated to reaching out to the elderly members of our community, offering companionship, pastoral care, and Holy Communion in aged care facilities, private homes, and hospitals.

We warmly invite you to consider becoming part of this meaningful ministry. If you feel called to give your time by visiting, listening, praying, or simply being present with others, we would love to hear from you.



For any queries or questions, please contact our Coordinator:

Kath Quinn
0439 101 282

✉ kathquinn55@hotmail.com

Do You Know Someone Who Would Like a Visit?

If you know someone who would appreciate a home visit or has recently moved into residential care—either permanently or for respite—please complete this form and return it to the parish office or place it in the collection bag for the Visitation Ministry Team.

Your Name: _____

Your Contact Number: _____

Name of Person to be Visited: _____

All information will be treated with strict confidentiality.



Can Collection

For those wishing to drop their cans direct to the depot, please use the barcode below, quote the number C2000011110 or mention St. Mary's Echuca to collection staff. Funds will be paid directly into our parish account. Cans can still be left at the Parish, near the kiosk. Thank you for your support.



Zone ID: C2000011110

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

10th & 11th January 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Chris Lee, Nick Lee, Terry McKiterick

9.30am: Noela Boyer, Judi O'Farrell, Rob Morris

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Rose Quinn, Tharaka de Silva

9.30am: Loretta Holman, Mel Slattery

Prayers of the Faithful: Terry McKiterick

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 10th

Jan Tarr, Gabe Phelan, Jenny Morris

Setting up the Church: 10th Christine Sebire

Setting up the Church: 11th Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 13th Brendan, Andrew, Peter

Hospital Visiting: 11th Barb Green

Gardening: Rob Morris & Bob Cooper

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

17th & 18th January 2026

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Mary Atkins, Tania Dixon, Christine Sebire

9.30am: Julie Moyle, Kerry McLoughlan, Lauren Gould

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Dominic Kanunanayake, Allan Chettiar

9.30am: Kate Bruty, Cecilia Merrigan

Prayers of the Faithful: Noela Boyer

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 17th

Loretta Holman, Mary Byrne

Setting up the Church: 17th Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 18th Julie Moyle

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 20th Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: 18th John & Julie Moyle

Gardening: Rob Morris & Bob Cooper

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: Patricia Voge, 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

Anniversaries: Carmela Stivala, Justin Dullard, Evie Parsons, Robert Russell, Dianne Egan and Mary McWhinney.

Recently Deceased: Michael Thompson

***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*Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7***A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.

I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring
true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice
heard in the streets.

He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the
wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver,
nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;

I have taken you by the hand and formed you;

I have appointed you as covenant of the people

and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind,

to free captives from prison, and those who live in

darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading*Acts 10:34-38***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth
I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not
have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who
fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and
it was to them that the good news of peace was brought
by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You
must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea;
about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee,
after John had been preaching baptism. God had
anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and
because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good
and curing all who had fallen into the power of the
devil.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm***Ps 28:1-4, 9-10***R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R.**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R.**

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*Mark 9:8***Alleluia, alleluia!**

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!**Gospel***Matthew 3:13-17***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by
John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need
baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!'
But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it
is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that
righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.
As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the
water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw
the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming
down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is
my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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Next Week: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**17th & 18th January 2026**

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Responsorial Psalm: 39:2, 4, 7-10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel: John 1:29-34