

Looking at the Readings

The Prophet Habakkuk appears in the Lectionary only twice in the three-year cycle: today and Saturday 18th week in Ordinary Time year 2. These readings, however, are the same: Habakkuk questions and complains to God – the first prophet to do so – and God replies. Habakkuk's questions are perennial "Why, Lord, do you not answer?" and secondly, "Why do injustices befall me?" God's first reply is, "Wait and be faithful!" And his more considered reply goes much deeper: God is ever faithful to his covenant which the people must return to and observe faithfully. The Lectionary places these words of the prophet with today's Gospel. The link is the advice given to be faithful and to grow in faith. Habakkuk then prayed in awe of God's mighty deeds (3:1-19).

Jesus' parable of the mustard seed responds to the apostles' request: "Increase our faith." We, likewise, seek an increase in faith from our faithful God. Then faith moves us onto service, love and fullness of life.

Today we begin a four-week sequence from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy. Paul is an old man now and in prison for being a Christian, a very active Christian. He is curtailed in his missionary journeys but now active in his letter writing or having a follower as scribe to pen the letters. We hear great lines: "fan into a flame the gift of faith (1:6); "If we have died with Christ, then we shall live with him (2:11); "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith (4:7).



Fr. Des Welladsen

Resident/ Supply Priest from 10th Sept to 11 Dec

Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim

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Mobile: 0450 185 021

Admin Officers: Joy Padilla/Marianne Kelly

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9am - 1pm

St Mary's Parish Centre

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Ph: (03) 5482 1127

Email: admin@stmarysechuca.org.au

Website: www.stmarysechuca.org.au

Facebook: St Mary's Parish Echuca

Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle

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Visitation Ministry Coordinator: Kath Quinn

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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

Weekday Masses: 6th - 10th October

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass

4th & 5th October—Weekend Masses

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday : 9:30am 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

September, October, November: Fr Novie is on Sabbatical

The Office will be closed on the 7th & 8th of October

8th October: 6.30pm Young Adults
10th October: 10.00am Aged-Care Liturgy
12th October: 12.00pm Combined Family Groups Luncheon, Fromelles Room RSL Club
15th October 5.00pm Bereavement Meeting
17th October: 9.00am Mary's Makers
18th & 19th October: G'Day Weekend Sacramental Team, St Mary's School
21st October: 5.00pm Liturgy Meeting
22nd October: Ladies Drinks

**Joy and Marianne are attending
Parish Administration Conference**

Greetings from Rome!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Warm greetings from the Eternal City! When I first set out on this journey, I had hoped to send you a note as soon as I arrived in Rome and got settled. I'm now ready to begin a short course at the Pontifical North American College, which starts this Monday, October 6.

This journey has truly felt like a pilgrimage — full of faith, history, and yes, a little bit of adventure. I've been blessed to visit some amazing places: the breathtaking Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, the historic Hagia Sophia in Istanbul (now a mosque), the iconic Notre Dame in Paris, the beautiful Paderborn Cathedral in Germany, and even the ancient ruins of Corinth. Each stop has been a reminder of the deep and living faith that has shaped our Church through the centuries.

Here in Rome, I had the great privilege of concelebrating Mass in the Vatican, presided over by Pope Leo, during the Jubilee for Catechists. To my surprise and joy, I was even chosen to help distribute Holy Communion in St. Peter's Square — not a bad blessing for a first-timer in Rome!

Of course, no pilgrimage is without its trials. A few days ago, while on the train from Rome to Venice, my backpack was stolen, along with my laptop and other belongings. I had actually witnessed a similar incident the day before — and the next day, it happened to me. These thieves are real experts, no matter how careful you are with your belongings. It was disappointing, but also a strong reminder to trust in God's providence. As they say, "Welcome to Italy!"

Despite that little setback, I move forward with a grateful heart. I've now wrapped up the first part of my sabbatical and am ready to focus on this next stage of renewal and learning.

Please know that I carry you all in my prayers. Being here — walking the same streets as saints and martyrs — is humbling and inspiring. May the Lord bless you all at St. Mary's as we continue this journey of faith together, even while we're apart.

With warm regards,
Fr. Novie Lim



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.

CASH FOR A CAUSE 2025

100 Tickets Available worth \$100 each

A FUNDRAISER FOR ST. MARY'S PARISH HALL RENOVATION

There will be TWO winners of \$100,
which will be drawn over four weeks, after Sunday Mass.

TWO winners on the 16th of November
TWO winners on the 23rd of November
TWO winners on the 30th of November
TWO winners on the 7th of December
All winning numbers will be returned
for subsequent draws each week.

And **GRAND PRIZE**, ONE winner of \$1000 will be drawn
at the Christmas Party on the 14th of December.

You may choose your number from 1-100 (first in first served).
All tickets must be paid in cash or direct credit
to a bank account (to be provided).
Parishioners may also purchase ONE TICKET
between 2,3,4 or 5 people, etc.

For ticket sales, please Contact Margaret Hart (0419 506 254)
or Julie Moyle (0409 826 336), tickets are available for
purchase before or after Weekend Masses from the
4th of October until the 2nd of November 2025.



Fellow Parishioners

One of our parishioners, Chris, has kindly offered her services as a Justice of the Peace. Chris will be available from 9.30am to 10.30am each Wednesday in the Parish office.

As a Justice of the Peace, Chris will be available to witness documents used for official or legal purposes.

We thank Chris for her offer. If you have further queries or questions please contact Julie Moyle on 0409 826 336 to discuss.

Combined Family Groups

Luncheon

Sunday 12th October, 2025 at 12 Noon.

To be held in Fromelles Room at the RSL Club,
56 Merool Road, Moama.

It is essential that all attendees RSVP by Friday 10th October 2025 to either: **Your Family Group Leader** or **Carol Purdon 0467363861** or **Helen Taverner 0427 521273**.

Don't forget to wear your name tag. You do not have to be a Family Group member to attend the Luncheon.

Missing Items.

Table clothes and a plastic tub have gone missing from the unused office in the centre, if you have accidentally forgotten to return them could you please do so. There was also a big pot taken from the kitchen back in July.

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

4th & 5th October 2025

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire, Carol Purdon, Karla Chisholm

9.30am: Margaret Hart, Julie Moyle, Cecilia Merrigan

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Ruth Phillips, Carmel Mackenzie

9.30am: Loretta Holman, John Moyle

Prayers of the Faithful: Noela Boyer

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 4th

Loretta Holman, Mary Byrne

Setting up the Church: 4th Carol Purdon

Setting up the Church: 5th Rachel McAsey

Baptism Preparation: Bec Lloyd

Counters: 7th Eileen Pineo & Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: 6th Carmel Mackenzie

Gardening: Ken Hatfield, Alfred Grigg

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

11th & 12th October 2025

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire, Terry McKitterick, Rose Quinn

9.30am: Barb Green, Max Marchetti, Claire Hogan

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Leah Williams, Tania Dixon

9.30am: Trish Marchetti, Matt Butler

Prayers of the Faithful: Rose Quinn

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 11th

Lauren Gould, Prue Galea

Setting up the Church: 11th Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 12th Kenn Liwanag

Baptism Preparation: Bec Lloyd

Counters: 14th Brendan, Andrew, Peter

Hospital Visiting: 13th Barb Green

Gardening: Ken Hatfield, Alfred Grigg

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: David Baker, Bruno Barbera, Monica Beckwith, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, Chloris Dignan, Caroline Farley, Fred Molluso, Murray Perrett, Meredith Ryan (Maddick), Bruce Haines, Maureen McKenner, Lenny Reid, Alistair Corman, Frank Slattery, Elizabeth Kyne (Weekly), Patricia Vogeles, Meaghan Broom (Byrne), Maurice O'Connor, Ian Phillips, Antonia Molluso

Anniversaries: Harry McCann, Jan Hynes, Alicia Miller, Mary Sanderson, Greg Pollock, Clarrie Worsnop, Gomer Oliver, Grace Sciotto, Bernadette Ryan, Vanessa Makoni, Charles Hodson, Christina Alves De Jesus, Max Jacobs, Dorothy Carter, Bill Vagg and Mick Briggs.

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*Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4***A reading from the prophet Habakkuk**

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help
 while you will not listen;
 to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear
 and you will not save?
 Why do you set injustice before me,
 why do you look on where there is tyranny?
 Outrage and violence, this is all I see,
 all is contention, and discord flourishes.
 Then the Lord answered and said,
 'Write the vision down,
 inscribe it on tablets
 to be easily read,
 since this vision is for its own time only:
 eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive;
 if it comes slowly, wait,
 for come it will, without fail.
 See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights,
 but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Second Reading***2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14***A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy**

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Responsorial Psalm***Ps 94:1-2, 6-9*

**R. If today you hear his voice,
 harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
 hail the rock who saves us.
 Let us come before him, giving thanks,
 with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
 let us kneel before the God who made us
 for he is our God and we
 the people who belong to his pasture,
 the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
 as on that day at Massah in the desert
 when your fathers put me to the test;
 when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*1 Peter 1:25***Alleluia, alleluia!**

The word of the Lord stands for ever;
 it is the word given to you, the Good News.

Gospel*Luke 17:5-10***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately?" Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Next week: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year C
 11th & 12th October 2025**

1st Reading: 2 Kings 5:14-17**Responsorial Psalm:** 97:1-4**2nd Reading:** 2 Timothy 2:8-13**Gospel:** Luke 17:11-19