



# WELCOME TO ST MARYS PARISH

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Parish Priest: Fr Ronald Masilang RCJ

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Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays: 9.30am —3:30pm

# The Living Word

**Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A**

**3 May 2026**

## First Reading Acts 6:1-7

*They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22**

**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,  
as we place our trust in you.**

or

**(R.) Alleluia.**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Pt 2:4-9

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:6

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I am the way, the truth, and the life, says  
the Lord;**

**no one comes to the Father, except  
through me.**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Jn 14:1-12

*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Trust in God still, and trust in me.  
There are many rooms in my Father's house;  
if there were not, I should have told you.  
I am now going to prepare a place for you,  
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,  
I shall return to take you with me;  
so that where I am  
you may be too.  
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
No one can come to the Father except through me.  
If you know me, you know my Father too.  
From this moment you know him and have seen  
him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?'

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,  
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?'  
Do you not believe  
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?  
The words I say to you I do not speak as from  
myself:  
it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.  
You must believe me when I say  
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;  
believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no  
other reason.  
'I tell you most solemnly,  
whoever believes in me  
will perform the same works as I do myself,  
he will perform even greater works,  
because I am going to the Father.'

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## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: 'Let not your hearts be troubled.'

Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers.

How does this come about?

At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.'

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can share in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: 'God became human so that humans might become God.'

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion!

Alleluia!

mtate@bigpond.com

## St Mary's Deb Ball—2026

Last Friday evening, 24 April, St Mary's Debutante Ball was held, with 12 debutantes and their partners presented to an audience of 250 family members and friends.

The event took place at The Woolshed on Melbourne Road, with music by Nigel Parsons. The autumn theme created a beautiful atmosphere, reflected in the stunning seasonal colours throughout the evening.

It was a wonderful night enjoyed by all, and a special community occasion, with many past students of St Mary's Primary School taking part. Thank you to Maree and her team for their efforts in organising such a memorable event.



## ST MARY'S PARISH MOTTO

"Reaching out to each other  
- growing together in love"

St Mary's Mooroopna acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Nation and the Aboriginal people who have walked this land for thousands of years

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm

Sunday 10.30am

### RECONCILIATION

10:30am to 11:15am Saturday

### WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon 4/5	No Mass	
Tues 5/5	No Holy Hour	5pm
Tues 5/5	No Mass	6pm
Wed 6/5	No Mass	6pm
Thurs 7/5	No Mass	6pm
Fri 8/5	Mother's Day Mass	9:15am

Please return any Project Compassion boxes or envelopes by this weekend, 3 May 2026.  
Thank you.



PROJECT  
COMPASSION

### EASY WORSHIP

Sat 2 May: Liz Donnelly  
Sun 3 May: Imelda

Sat 9 May: Sarah Richards  
Sun 10 May: AM Carroll

### SAVE THE DATES

Diocesan Formation Gathering  
22 & 22 August 2026

Marian Festival, Bendigo  
Saturday 11 October 2026

## The Pope's Monthly Intention for May 2026

That everyone might have food  
Let us pray that everyone from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

ST MARY'S  
*Mother Day*  
MASS

Friday 8 May  
at 9:15am  
in the Marian Centre

There will be no Mass in the Church.

## Sandhurst Youth Ministry Partnership Consultation

A gathering of leaders from the Sandhurst Youth Ministry Partnership (Chancery, Catholic Education, Priests, parishes and schools) to connect, establish a common vision for mission and be co-responsible for Youth Ministry in their local context. If you are interested in accompanying young people (16 – 35 years old) on their faith journey, you are invited to participate.

Contact: [claire.spinelli@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:claire.spinelli@sandhurst.catholic.org.au) for more information or to express your interest in attending .

## St Mary's Primary School



### St Mary's PS—Term 2 Dates

**8th May** - Whole School Mother's Day Mass in the Marian Centre at **10am**. All welcome.

**15th May** - Grade 3/4 Unit Mass incorporating First Reconciliation in the Church at **10am**

**12th June** - Whole School Mass of Compassion - Feast of the Sacred Heart in the Marian Centre at **10am**.



The month of May is dedicated to

# The Blessed Virgin Mary

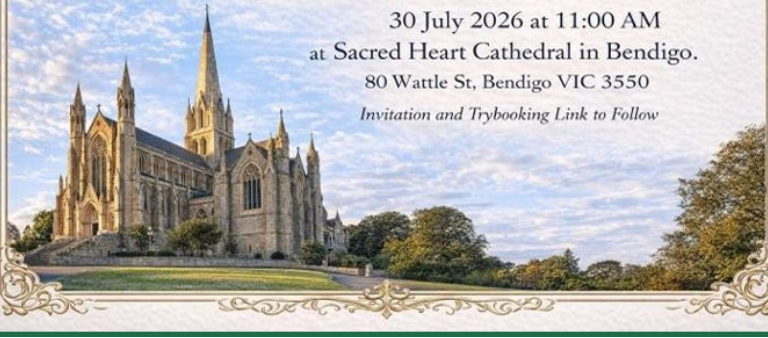
## Save the Date

For the installation of the 9th Bishop of the Diocese of Sandhurst

**Most Rev Rene Ramirez RCJ DD**

30 July 2026 at 11:00 AM  
at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo.

80 Wattle St, Bendigo VIC 3550  
*Invitation and Trybooking Link to Follow*



## CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL SANDHURST

### 'Pentecost'

Be refreshed in the Holy Spirit Charismatic Mass celebrated by Fr Arun Korlakan  
Spiritual Chaplain CCR Sandhurst

**Saturday 23rd May 2026**

9.30am Cuppa,

10.00am-3.30pm at St Brendan's Knight St, Shepparton  
In the Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre

Lunch: Please bring a plate to share. All welcome.

*An offering will be taken up on the day*

Contact:

Brigita Hore: 0412 042 196

Mary Zobec: 0427 190 282

Denise Ilo : 0407 506 813.



## 2026 National Count of Attendance

Each parish is asked to participate in the 2026 National Count of Attendance, conducted by the National Centre for Pastoral Research on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The Count will take place over four consecutive weekends in May 2026 (2–3, 9–10, 16–17 and 23–24 May). All people present are to be counted. Attendance numbers only.

**Weekend 1** – count of all persons.

**Weekend 2** – count of all persons.

**Weekend 3** – count of males and females


**Weekend 4** – count by five age groups (0-17, 18-29, 30-49, 50-69 and 70+)


We ask for your cooperation and understanding during the National Count of Attendance and appreciate your patience as this important work is completed.  
Thank you.

## Morning Tea

St Mary's Mooroopna will be having morning tea after Sunday morning Mass on the first Sunday of every month,

*starting on*  
**Sunday 7 June.**

 Please mark the dates in your calendar.

 We look forward to the connection and fellowship.



 St Mary's Mooroopna

*All are welcome!*



Readings  
for  
this week:

Acts 6:1-7 1  
Peter 2:4-9  
John 14:1-12

Readings  
for  
next week:

Acts 8:5-8,14-17 1  
Peter 3:15-18  
John 17:1-11

## Paul Wickham

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### YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR .....

**Sick List:** Graeme Weir, Dennis Corboy, Pat Hicks, John Raleigh, Josie Anderson, Rosemary Haig, Carolyn Purcell, Logan Clarke-Lines, Margaret Campbell

**Recently Deceased:**

**Anniversaries:**

**Wedding Anniversary:**

**ALTAR HELPERS** Sat 2 May: Chris Flower and Faye Flower Sat 9 May: not required

**BINGO** 9 May: Maree, Amelia Valoia, Vicki Emmanuelli, Rob, Emma Difede, Maria Tripoli

2nd & 3rd May	COMMENTOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY
6:30 pm	Checca Richards	Cathie McMaster	Sarah Richards	Angelina Vigliaturo
10.30 am	Brenda Pye	Elaine Vertriest	Inez Raleigh	Brenda & Leo Pye
9th & 10th May				
6:30 pm	Chris Hogarty	Kamsi Raymond	Rob O'Meara	Annette Rau
10.30 am	Helen Betson	Fiona Dowling	Elaine Vertriest	Michael & Kaye Gaffy