



This Week's Readings

Number 21:4-9
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

Next Week's Readings

Amos 8:4-7
1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 16:1-13



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Readings

The first reading from the Book of Numbers reveals God's ready willingness to forgive and to heal the Israelites by transforming an image of the cause of their suffering and death into the source of healing for them. To look upon the bronze image of the serpent "lifted up" on a pole they were healed.

In today's gospel, In the Gospel of John, the term "lifted up" has a double meaning. First it refers to Jesus being "lifted up" on the cross, lifted up in the cruel and shameful death resulting from the sinful actions and ways of his people. But it also refers to Jesus being "lifted up" in the glory of his resurrection and ascension to God. That "lifting up," he promises Nicodemus and us, will be given to everyone who believes in him. The passage closes with a clear statement meant to relieve any fears or anxiety we might have because of our sins: God sent his Son into the world that through him the world might be saved."

In the passage from Paul's Letter to the Philippians Belief in Christ means embracing that life of self-emptying service for the forgiveness and healing of the sins of our time and our people.

The Gospel passage closes with a clear statement meant to relieve any fears or anxiety we might have because of our sins: "For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." *From Peace with Creation by James E Hug SJ.*

Pope Leo on Creation

With infinite love, God has created all things and given them life. That is why Saint Francis of Assisi could call every creature his brother, his sister and his mother. Only a contemplative gaze can change our relationship with creation and bring us out of the ecological crisis brought on by the breakdown of our relationship with God, with our neighbours and with the earth that is the effect of sin (*cf. Laudato Si', 66*). *Homily Pope Leo XIV, on 9 July 2025*

Prayer for the Day

Lord, holy Father, you placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one, who conquered on a tree, might likewise on a tree be conquered, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

On the Lighter Side

- Q. Why did St Patrick drive the snakes out of Ireland?
A. It was too far to walk or swim!
Q. What do you call a snake who works for the government?
A. A Civil Serpent!



Liturgical Jottings Liturgy and Justice II

Liturgy and justice are inter-connected aspects of faith, with the former being the public worship of God and the latter being the pursuit of fairness and righteousness in human relationships. Many believe that a truly reverent liturgy should inspire and be informed by a commitment to social justice, while also recognizing that justice-oriented actions should be rooted in a deep understanding of God's call to love and mercy.

Since Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum* and Pope John XXIII's *Pacem in Terris* the Church as brought social justice and faith together. The liturgical movement at the same time has recognised that prayer and the liturgy are at the foundation of the Catholic social mission. The Word of God celebrated, reflected upon and prayed about inspire Catholics to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

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Please note:
The Parish Office will be closed
Friday 26 September and
Friday 3 October

St Mel's Parish would like to acknowledge the elders past and present of the Yorta Yorta Nation, and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our parish and church is situated.



Weekly Reflection

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD - Let's reflect and learn.

"No one has ascended into heaven, but he who descended out of heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven." Jesus makes it clear that he speaks with authority about heavenly things. He was with God in the beginning (1:1). He was present at the creation and participated in the creation (1:3). He came into the world (1:9-10) and became flesh (1:14). No one has seen God, but Jesus has made him known (1:18).

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up..." These verses answer Nicodemus' question, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (v. 4). Both the "lifted up" serpent and the "lifted up" Jesus confer new life on those who look upon or believe in them.

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (v. 14). The story is from Numbers 21:4-9, and every Jewish child knows it. The Israelites sinned by grumbling against God for bringing them out of Egypt into the wilderness. God punished them with a plague of fiery serpents, killing many Israelites. The Israelites confessed their sin and begged for mercy, so God told Moses to make a bronze serpent and hold it aloft on a pole. Whoever looked up at the bronze serpent was saved from the fiery serpents – given new life – born anew. God provides the agent of salvation – the bronze serpent in the first story and the Son of Man in the second.

The term, "lifted up," has multiple meanings in this Gospel. It refers to Jesus' cross, but it also refers to his resurrection/ascension/glorification. Jesus will be lifted up on the cross, the great Paschal sacrifice; he will be raised up on the third day, conquering death. His cross and his resurrection/ascension are simply different facets of his glorification. This Gospel does not include an account of the ascension itself but does include several allusions to it by Jesus (6:62; 7:33; 13:3; 14:28; 16:10, 16, 28; 17:11, 13; 20:17).

This is the first mention of eternal life in this Gospel, where it is mentioned seventeen times, fifteen from the lips of Jesus. The word, life, which has the same sense, also appears frequently. We tend to think of eternal life as life without end, and it does have that sense (6:58). However, it also refers to a quality of life lived in the presence of God. Later, in his prayer, Jesus will define eternal life thusly: "This is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ" (17:3). According to that definition, eternal life begins now for those who know the Father and the Son.


"For God so loved the world (Greek: kosmos) that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life." God sends the Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

God's motive is love and God's objective is salvation. However, God provides not salvation but opportunity to the world. Those who actually receive eternal life are those who believe in the Son. This is also amazing to Nicodemus. He understands that God loves Israel, God's chosen people, but would find it difficult to believe that God loves the world.

"may have eternal life." The word "have" is present tense, suggesting that believers possess it in the here and now rather than having to wait for some future inheritance. This is Johannine "realized eschatology" – the already-received gift – eternal life as relationship with God beginning now.

Prayer of the Heart

Loving Father, you sent to us
Your Son Jesus out of your great love for us.
May we always look on him
who hangs on the cross
and believe so that we may be saved.
This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen. – FRM



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the Lay Faithful

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IS TO LOVE HIM**

Catechesis for Today's Catholic

Deepening our
understanding of the
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Restarting
September 2025
1st and 3rd Tuesday of
the month
7.00-8.00pm
St Mel's Parish Gathering Room
18 HAMILTON STREET,
SHEPPARTON
For more information,
contact Stef at 0437 943 495 or
catechesisministrygv@gmail.com

All welcome

51st Marian Festival

Dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary



"Finally my Immaculate Heart will Triumph."

- Our Lady of Fatima, July 13, 1917

SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2025

at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.

11:00 am - Mass celebrated by Bishop Leslie Tomlinson

12 noon - BYO Lunch or BBQ available

1:00 pm - Festival begins, Rosary procession, Guest Speaker, Benediction

3:45 pm - Festival concludes with afternoon tea.

Piety stall in cathedral. National costume dress welcome.

— **PRAY THE ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE** —

WEBSITE: www.bendigofatima.com

CONTACT: info@bendigofatima.com



COME & CELEBRATE WITH US!

The Rogationists 10th Anniversary in Australia

20 September 2025 (Saturday)
St. Mel's Parish Church

Thanksgiving Mass
@10:30 AM

MOST REV. HERMAN G. ABCEDE, RCJ, D.D.
 Bishop of Daet, Philippines
Presider

Rogationist Priests, Religious & Diocesan Clergy
Concelebrants

Join the Celebrations!

There is an opportunity for parishioners to join the lunch program following the Holy Mass here at Shepparton South on Saturday 20 September.

Please make contact with Mel Shiels, parish secretary, as soon as possible via email sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au or message 0400 150 188.

This program will be at no cost. RSVP is essential no later than Sunday 14 September .

St Mel's Parish Sacramental Program

Thank you to all those who attended the information session for the 2025 – 2026 St Mel's Parish Steps in Faith Sacramental Program

Reconciliation – Confirmation – First Eucharist

If you were unable to attend and wish for your child/ren to journey through the program and receive the Sacraments of Initiation please visit the Parish office Tuesday, Thursday or Friday to collect an enrolment pack and speak with Mel.

This program is suitable for children in Years 3 and above.

Priests Retirement Foundation Appeal

Our second collections from next weekend, 20th / 21st of September, will be for the Retired Priests of the Sandhurst Diocese. The Diocese has 12 retired priests who depend on the support from the diocese, which means the support of the people of the diocese. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. Those requiring receipts of donations over \$10, please use the envelopes provided. Thank you.

Men's group

Our next men's group meeting is set for Saturday the 20th of Sept, in the Parish Centre at St Brendan's. This meeting will be a very special gathering, we farewell a founding member and man of God, Fr Joe Taylor. Fr Joe is retiring at the end of the month and we would like to thank him for his amazing support and encouragement for the Men's group in the Shepparton region. Fr Joe will share with us a few thoughts and reflections on his priestly life, and his plans looking towards retirement. Please come along and say Thank you Fr Joe, for all that your presence has been to the group over the last 12yrs.

We will present Fr Joe with a farewell gift at the meeting, Anthony K.



Subscribe to Flocknote, to receive parish news & updates about upcoming events: Subscribe by using the QR Code.



Shepparton & Nagambie Mass Schedule

St Mel's

SUNDAY

St. Mel's	9:30 am
St. Mel's	5:00 pm

TUESDAY to SATURDAY

St. Mel's	9:15 am
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St Malachy's

SUNDAY (1st & 3rd)*

St. Malachy's	09:00 am
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*2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

CONFESSIONS

St. Mel's: Every Thurs at 9:45 - 10:30 am

BAPTISMS (St Mel's & St Malachy's)

3rd Sunday of the month

MARRIAGE

2 months-notice required

Parish Staff

Fr. Ronaldo Masilang RCJ
Parish Priest

Fr. Ruel Desamparado RCJ
Assistant Priest

Fr. Damianus (Addin) Doe RCJ
Assistant Priest

Sr Pam Barlow
Religious Sister of Mercy

Carmel Zito
Bookkeeper

Mel Shiels
Secretary
Sacramental Program Coordinator

Office Address

18 Hamilton Street
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www.smps.org.au
 (03) 5831 2194

Office Hours

Tuesday to Thursday: 9:30am- 2:30pm
 Friday: 9:30am -12:30 pm



Support your Parish!

Help fund our initiatives to move from maintenance to mission!

"Together we do more"

Use the QR Code to access our Donations Page.



Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

Sunday 21st September

Commentators
 9:30am Sev Cortese
 5pm Tim Kelly

Lectors
 9:30am David Sellwood (L1) Mary Calandro (L2)
 5pm Luisa Cassise (L1) Dom Poppa (L2)

Special Ministers
 9:30am Trish Mathisen & Lucy Ciano
 5pm Angie Knez & Dom Poppa

Mass Schedule Updates

Saturday 13 September - 9:15am Mass in Italian

Friday 19 September - 9:15am Mass CANCELLED

Saturday 20 September - 9:15am Mass CANCELLED

Saturday 20 September - 10:30am Holy Mass in Celebration of the Rogationist 10th Anniversary in Australia - All Welcome!

Friday 3 October - 6pm Novena Mass in honour of Sto Nino

We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of

Recently Deceased: Guiseppe 'Joe' Mellino,
 Cosimo Rando (one month mind)

Anniversaries: Giuseppe Maruzza, John De Lai



ST. MEL'S PARISH
 WOULD LIKE TO
 THANK OUR

CORPORATE SPONSORS

If your business would like to join our corporate sponsorship program for 2025-2026 please contact the parish office

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Email
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We are a Safe Church Community.
 We promote the safety, wellbeing
 and inclusion of all and a zero
 tolerance to abuse.

St Mel's Parish Safeguarding officer
 is Trish Mathisen. Ph: 0428 213 757

To find out more ways on how you can help improve our Parochial
 Community please contact Mel at **(03) 5831 2194**
Tuesdays to Thursdays, between 9:30am to 2:30 pm
 email: sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
 or visit our website at www.smps.org.au