



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

# St. Mel's Parish

## BULLETIN

### Looking at the Readings

The first readings on every Sunday in Lent commemorate one of the significant moments in salvation history. In Cycle B, the First Sunday: The Great Flood, the second Sunday: Abraham's test of faith, and today: The Ten Commandments given to Moses. As God freed his chosen people from slavery, the giving of the law is freeing them from the evils and their devious entrapments by offering them a code of life St Augustine used them as a framework for his moral teaching which is carried through in the present Catechism of the Catholic Church, Political alliances can be short lived, diplomatic negotiated peace can be so fragile, even friendships have their limits, yet St Paul first letter to the Corinthians bypasses human expectations in miracles or human wisdom and goes straight to God. In God there are no vagaries or fancies. God's wisdom and strength exceeds anything human. Hence the Jesus' Cross makes sense, yet we struggle to make sense of our crosses.

### Lenten Poem: The Trace of God

Here is the promised land where the human assembly knows the love of God.  
Here is the festive space where the human family gives a face to God.  
Here is the house of peace where those who share receive the gift of God.  
Here is the open temple where those who adore become witnesses of God.  
*French Cistercian poem*

### Prayer over the People

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful,  
and in your kindness grant your servants this grace:  
that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbour,  
they may fulfil the whole of your commands.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
*(Roman Missal, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent)*



### On the Lighter Side

At the Australian Catholic University, my roommate decided that he would be giving up pizza for Lent. Food-related Lenten sacrifices are fairly common. What's notable about my roommate's pizza abstinence was the fact that he started on the first weekend in December and carried through the end of the year Mr. Observant, it turns out, confused Lent with Advent. We didn't have the heart to tell him otherwise.



### Liturgical Jottings Collections and Appeals

Turning over the money changers tables though quite dramatic became a minor incident in the Gospels in relation to Jesus' subsequent teaching. Nonetheless sincere people have compared today's gospel with gift stalls, tourist shops, etc. within the walls of great cathedrals. Are they not repeating the errors of the past? Also within the liturgy there are collections for the upkeep and mission of the parish, annual projects like Project Compassion and special appeals. We must deal with cash, donation envelopes and "tap and pay" credit card readers. The 2010 General Instructions to the Roman Missal says very little about money in church: "The offerings are then brought forward. ... Even money or other gifts for the poor or for the Church, brought by the faithful or collected in the church, are acceptable; given their purpose, they are to be put in a suitable place away from the Eucharistic table." GIRM n.73

#### This Week's Readings

Exodus 20:1-17  
1 Corinthians 1:22-25  
John 2:13-35

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

### Jesus Wants Us to Find True Satisfaction

In a world that is often filled with stress, anxiety, and uncertainty, the quest for happiness and fulfillment has become a universal desire. We all want to find that sense of contentment and satisfaction that comes from knowing that we are on the right path in life. However, as the text above points out, we often look for fulfillment in the wrong places. We are bombarded with messages that tell us that success, money, power, and popularity are the keys to happiness. We are told that if we just work hard enough, we can achieve anything we want. While there is nothing inherently wrong with striving for success and financial security, these things cannot take the place of a true and meaningful relationship with God.

The text reminds us that God has put a homing device in our hearts, drawing us towards fulfillment and happiness. We have a deep longing to know God and to experience His love and grace in our lives. However, because of sin, we often look for fulfillment in the wrong places. We try to fill the void in our hearts with things that can never truly satisfy us. Jesus passionately desires that we find God and experience true satisfaction in our lives. He wants us to understand that the pursuit of material possessions and worldly success will never bring us lasting happiness. Only through a deep and meaningful relationship with God can we find the fulfillment we crave.

As we go about our daily lives, we should always be mindful of this truth. We should strive to put our relationship with God first and foremost in our lives. This means making time for prayer, worship, and spiritual reflection. It means seeking out opportunities to grow in our faith and to deepen our understanding of God's love and grace.

In conclusion, the quest for happiness and fulfillment is a universal desire that is deeply rooted in the human experience. However, we must be careful not to look for fulfillment in the wrong places. Instead, we should seek out a deep and meaningful relationship with God, knowing that only He can truly satisfy the longings of our hearts.

## St Anthony's Feast Day celebrations at St Mel's on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024

The St. Anthony's Feast Day celebrations will be held again this year at St. Mel's Parish on Sunday, June 9th. We are seeking volunteers to join the organizing committee. The more volunteers we have, the greater the success of the day. Please consider making yourself available to help with the running of the event by contacting Sev Cortese at 0417 229 038 or emailing him at [sev.cortese@hotmail.com](mailto:sev.cortese@hotmail.com).

We aim to make this a special day for children and adults alike, especially for those who remember our previous successful events before COVID.

However, events like these require the participation of volunteers like you. Therefore, put your hand up to help us make this day a memorable one.



## 2024 Synod Consultation

As the Church prepares for the Second Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2024, we have been invited to contribute our response to the question: *How can we be a synodal Church in mission?*

Please join other parishioners from our Deanery on 14 March 2024 at 5.00 – 6.30 pm in St Mel's Parish Gathering Room, to take part in the discussion, consider how our own parish can be more synodal and help shape the communications provided to the Second Session of Synod in October.

Some pre-reading of the Synthesis Report of the First Session would be valuable - the focus will be on Chapters 8-12, 16 and 18 during this session.

Synthesis Report: [2023.10.28-ENG-Synthesis-Report IMP.pdf \(synod.va\)](#)

## Parish Welcomes New Bookkeeper

Our parish community is excited to welcome Carmel Zito as our new bookkeeper. Carmel brings with her over 20 years of experience in the medical field as a scientist, but has decided to make a career change and transition to administration.

Carmel now works part-time at Corbetts Chartered Accountants and Advisors and is eager to lend a hand in the bookkeeping task for the parish. She is thrilled to be able to use her skills and experience in this new role and is excited to be a part of the parish community.

"I'm happy to have the opportunity to contribute to my community in a meaningful way," Carmel says. "I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone and working together to keep the parish running smoothly."

Our parish community is grateful for Carmel's willingness to serve and is excited to have her on board. We are confident that her experience and dedication will be a valuable asset to the team.



**Please join us in welcoming Carmel to our parish community**

Dear St Mel's Parish,

I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible opportunities and experiences that I gained during my time at St. Mel's Parish Office. I am thankful for all the support, guidance, and growth that each one of you provided me with. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all the group members that I have worked with, as well as all our parishioners at St. Mel's Parish. I will always be grateful for the wonderful memories and personal development that I experienced during my tenure.

If there were any attitudes or language that were not appropriate during my time of service to you, please forgive me. Thank you for believing in my abilities. May God bless you all and bring you peace.

Sincerely yours,

Ainsley

## ALPHA happening at St. Brendan's

Fr Rene and Fr Ruel are inviting parishioners to join them for the ALPHA program at St. Brendan's. The program will start on Monday, March 18th, 2024, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The meeting kicks off with a light dinner, a video and some sharing. This will be a great opportunity to connect with each other and create meaningful relationships ahead of our own ALPHA meetings scheduled for next year.



## Third Sunday of Lent - 3 March

Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions. Please donate to Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



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

### St Malachy's

#### SUNDAY (1st & 3rd)\*

St. Malachy's 09:00 am  
St. Mary's 11:00 am

\*2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays  
Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

#### CONFESSIONS

St. Mel's: Every Thursday at 8am - 9am

#### BAPTISMS (St Mel's)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

#### MARRIAGE

2 months-notice required

## Parish Staff

**Fr. Rene Ramirez RCJ**  
Parish Priest

**Fr. Ruel Desamparado RCJ**  
Assistant Priest

**Sr Pam Barlow**  
Pastoral Associate

**Mel Shiels**  
Asst Administrative Officer  
Sacramental Program Coordinator

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(03) 5831 2194

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



# Commentators/Lectors/Special Ministers

## Sunday 10 March

Commentators  
9:30am Xavier Tanner  
5pm Dom Poppa

Lectors  
9:30am Mick Hanlon (L1) Sr Pam Barlow (L2)  
5pm Luisa Cassise

Special Ministers  
9:30am Loretta Hanlon & Sev Cortese  
5pm Dom Poppa & Erin Tanner

Next Week's Readings  
2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23  
Ephesians 2:4-10  
John 3:14-21

### Up coming Parish Office Closure

From 9 April to 12 April inclusive, the St Mel's Parish office will be closed to allow Mel to spend time with her family during the school holidays.

For bulletin notices to be included 14 April, including anniversaries, please send through to the office no later than Thursday 4 April 10am. Thank you.

During this time for all inquiries, please email us.

Reminder  
Commentators and Lectors  
meeting this  
**Tuesday, 5 March at 7pm**  
in the Parish House Gathering  
Room.

### *We ask for your prayers for*

**Recently Deceased:** Josephine Chilcott, Carmelo Distefano, Leticia Busa  
**Eternal Repose:** Barry Pommeroy, Rosina Papallo, Frank Papallo, Joe Bovalino, Salvatore, Antonio & MariaAngela Gagliardi, MariaAnna & Antonio Parini, Caterina Budha, Gatano Lostre



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**Vincent Tassoni**  
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& Auctioneer



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would like to join our  
corporate sponsors,  
please phone or  
email the office**



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

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



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