



## This Week's Readings

Isaiah 43:16-21  
 Philippians 3:8-14  
 John 8:1-11

## Next Week's Readings

Luke 19:28-40 (Entrance)  
 Isaiah 50 50:4-7  
 Philippians 2:6-11  
 Luke 22:14-23:56



**Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!**

# St. Mel's Parish

## BULLETIN

### Looking at the Readings

The Gospel today begins at the Mount of Olives. This place is mentioned eleven times in the Gospels, often as a place where Jesus prayed alone or sometimes with a few disciples. At the beginning of Lent, Jesus taught us to pray (Ash Wednesday, Tuesday, first week of Lent). After prayer Jesus went to the Temple to teach.

We heard that the scribes and pharisees wanted to trap Jesus. They must have been waiting at the temple, knowing he would come that way. They were ready with the accused and their tricky question. It was a three way trap: If he were to say, let her go he would go against the Law. If he were to say let her receive the prescribed punishment he showed no mercy and guilt of a crime. And thirdly, either response would have discredited him before the people. Commentators also add that stoning to death, despite several scenes in popular movies, was not practiced in that era, it was against Roman law. Jesus, after dispelling the accusers, is moved to compassion. And confronted by Jesus' compassion, the woman is in a somewhat quandary. This passage ends abruptly just like the parable last week. Did the older brother, urged by his father, go to the party? Did the women take to heart the mercy of God and amend her life? What are our attitudes to those who do wrong? The sudden endings leave us to ponder what would be our response to God's reaching out to us in mercy. We may be moved to hear more the words of Jesus in the Gospel and to prayer and celebrate the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist

### Lenten Quote from the Saints

"Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again:  
 for forgiveness has risen from the grave!" *St John Chrysostom*

### Did Jesus Write?

The incidence at the Temple is the only example we have of Jesus writing. But there is no record of what he wrote. Was he just doodling to give the accusers time to think? Jesus taught, preached, gave witness to love, justice and mercy and rose to life and sent the Holy Spirit. He never wrote a book in the bible, he let his disciples do the writing so that later generations may benefit from his words.

### On the Lighter Side of Writing

How do you make a small fortune in publishing?  
 First you start with a large fortune.  
 What would you find in Charles Dickens's pantry?  
 The best of thyme, the worst of thyme.



### Liturgical Jottings

#### Lenten Prayer 5

It is truly right and just for us to exalt you, the all-powerful Father and offer you our song of thanks and praise. In your kindness you absolve the repentant, you restore to your friendship the sinner who seeks your forgiveness. You curb the punishment due for guilt and with great mercy you bestow the gift of eternal life. And so, with the choirs of angels we join our voice to glorify your name.

*Source: Ambrosian Rite, Preface for Lent, Thursday week 2*

#### Lenten Prayer 6

Gracious Father, help us to carry the image of Jesus standing beside the woman, reminding us that in our moments of fear and shame you are there recognising our frailty. May we strive to replace our stones with compassion, extending grace to ourselves and those around us and to seek always your light. Amen.

*Source: Diocese of Wollongong.*

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

A WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY - *Let's reflect and learn.*

*"The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman taken in adultery"* (v. 3a). The question is whether this woman was guilty of adultery (meaning that she was betrothed or married) or fornication (Greek: *porneia* – meaning that she was single). The Greek word used here, *moicheia*, means adultery, which suggests that she was betrothed or married. The scribes and Pharisees say that the Mosaic Law prescribes that she be stoned. Leviticus 20:10 prescribes death as the penalty for adultery but does not prescribe the method. Ezekiel 23:43-47 suggests that stoning was also used for adultery. During this period, only the Roman government had the legal authority to exercise capital punishment, but there is some evidence that Jewish authorities, in violation of Roman law, executed women for adultery (Keener, 736).

We should also note that the law that requires the execution of the woman also requires the execution of the man who was her partner in sin. This story makes no mention of the man. In that patriarchal society, people were more likely to excuse a man than a woman for sexual sin. Also, these scribes and Pharisees need only this woman for their nefarious purposes. It is really Jesus who is on trial here. The scribes and Pharisees have seen him deal mercifully with sinners and hope to show that he has strayed beyond the bounds of the law to do so.

*"Teacher, we found this woman in adultery, in the very act"* (v. 4). "Teacher" would ordinarily be a respectful form of address, but in this case, it is part of their scheme to entrap Jesus. First, they acknowledge Jesus as an authority. Then they will present him with a problem that they believe will impale him on the horns of a dilemma.

*"Now in our law, Moses commanded us to stone such. What then do you say about her?"* (v. 5). If Jesus says that the woman should not be stoned, they can bring charges against him for subverting Mosaic Law. But if he says that she should be stoned, his decision will cost him the support of the common people who would be offended by the strict adherence to this Mosaic Law – a law that we have reason to believe was honoured mainly in the breach at this point in time. A decision to stone the woman might also bring Jesus into conflict with Roman authorities, because Rome alone has the authority to impose capital punishment.

*"He who is without sin (anamartetos) among you, let him throw the first stone at her"* (v. 7c). The law specifies, "The hand of the witnesses shall be first on him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people" (Deuteronomy 17:7). We do not know whether the scribes and Pharisees witnessed the adultery. If so, they would have to be among the first to stone the woman. But Jesus goes beyond the requirement of the law. He does not tell the scribes and Pharisees that, acting as witnesses, they must throw the first stone. Instead, he invites any of them who are without sin to cast the first stone.

*"They, when they heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning from the oldest (presbyteros – a word that is often translated "elder"), even to the last"* (v. 9a). Jesus' challenge hit the mark. The *presbyteros* – the more experienced among the scribes and Pharisees – see quickly that they are outflanked and deem it better to retreat rather than to stand and argue with someone who so easily turned their most potent challenge to his own advantage. Their quiet retreat acknowledges their guilt.

*Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way. From now on, sin no more."* (v. 11). While it is clear that the woman is guilty, Jesus neither condemns nor excuses her. His statement acknowledges her guilt but simply challenges her to abstain from sin in the future – offers her a chance for a new life.

## A Catechesis on the Chrism Mass

Diocese of Sandhurst – on 15 April 2025, Holy Tuesday



The Catholic Chrism Mass is a significant liturgical event held annually before Easter where the bishop blesses the holy oils used in the sacraments of baptism, holy orders and anointing of the sick; and priests renew their vows to the priesthood, symbolizing the unity of the Church.

The Chrism Mass reminds the faithful of their unity in Christ through Baptism and its holy anointing, made possible by the ministry of the bishop and his priests.

## Prayer of the Heart

Loving Father, teach us not to condemn our brothers and sisters who go astray for you too do not condemn us when we sin.

Embrace us all with your loving mercy so that we may also be loving and merciful to one another.

This we ask through Christ our Lord.  
Amen. – (FRM)

## Join us today!

On the first Sunday of each month our PPC members rotate to volunteer and have the urn boiling after 9:30am Mass. Stay for a cuppa, biscuit, and chat with your fellow Parishioners.  
All welcome!



## Holy Land Collection - Good Friday, April 18th, 2025

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 18th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world.

In 2024 Australian Catholics were once again extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land nearly \$1.5 million (\$1.4 million [2023], \$1.4 million [2022] and \$1,126,098 [2021]).

The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges, financial and spiritual, and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday.

Thank you.

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 15 April for our Priests and staff to attend the Chrism Mass in Bendigo

## Glimpses from the Past - St Mel's PS Time Capsule

Recently Mr. Tom Sexton, former principal of St. Mel's PS, visited the school to open the envelope buried in the year 2000. The contents of the envelope contained items from 2000 and items from the original time capsule buried in 1973.

The items from the two periods will be on the display in the Church foyer during the three week school holiday break for parishioners and visitors to the parish to browse. This year St Mel's PS will bury these items along with new content from 2025. The next time the capsule will be opened is scheduled for 2050.



## School Holidays: Three Weeks

Our parish schools will be closed for three weeks from Monday 7 April until Friday 25 April.

These holidays have been extended for students due to three days of professional learning for the staffs of our parish schools between Easter Monday and Anzac Day.

Our schools will join schools across the diocese for professional learning focused on the Neuroscience of Learning.



## Holy Week & Easter 2025

### Palm Sunday, 13 April

9:30am & 5pm Masses

### Holy Tuesday, 15 April

No Weekday Mass  
11am Chrism Mass - Bendigo Cathedral

### Holy Wednesday, 16 March

9:15am Weekday Mass

### Holy Thursday, 17 April

No Weekday Mass  
5 to 6:30pm Personal Confession  
7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

### Good Friday, 18 April

9:30am Stations of the Cross - St Anne's College, Kialla  
3:00pm The Lord's Passion

### Holy Saturday, 19 April

7:00pm Easter Vigil

### Easter Sunday, 20 April

9:30am Easter Sunday Mass  
No evening Mass

St Mel's Parish - 18-22 Hamilton St, Shepparton



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

#### CONFESSIONS

St. Mel's: Every Thurs at 8:10 - 9:10 am

#### BAPTISMS (St Mel's)

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

#### MARRIAGE

2 months-notice required

## Parish Staff

**Fr. Joe Taylor**  
Parish Administrator

**Fr. Ruel Desamparado RCJ**  
Assistant Priest

**Sr Pam Barlow**  
Religious Sister of Mercy

**Carmel Zito**  
Bookkeeper

**Mel Shiels**  
Secretary  
Sacramental Program Coordinator

#### Office Address

18 Hamilton Street  
Shepparton VIC 3530  
sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au  
www.smps.org.au  
(03) 5831 2194

#### Office Hours

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





## Fifth Sunday of Lent 5th and 6th of April 2025

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.



# UNITE AGAINST POVERTY

this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

### We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of

Anniversaries: Domenic Mallamaci, Ted Cahill, Nazzarena Tassone, Frank Tassone

## Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

Sunday 13th  
April

### Commentators

9:30am Gabrielle Barrette

5pm Samoan Community

### Lectors

9:30am Pauline Pettigrew (L1) David Sellwood (L2)

5pm Samoan Community (L1) (L2)

### Special Ministers

9:30am Anthony Butts & Sarah Maloney

5pm Angie Knez & Erin Tanner

## 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.

April's target = \$14,438



**\$14,227 March Target**

**\$13,594**  
Week Five \$3,357

**\$10,237**  
Week Four \$1,910

**\$8,327**  
Week Three \$2,220

**\$6,107**  
Week Two \$2,450

**\$3,657**  
Week One \$3,657

### TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

JOIN US IN REACHING OUR  
MONTHLY GOAL

**DONATE  
TODAY!**

ST. MEL'S PARISH



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We are committed to the  
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SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

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](mailto:sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)  
or visit our website at [www.smps.org.au](http://www.smps.org.au)