



This Week's Readings

Ezekiel 17:22-24
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34

Next Week's Readings

Isaiah 49:1-6
Acts 13:22-16
Luke 1:27-66,80



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Focus on the Readings

The cedar tree (Ezekiel's allegory/parable on the kingdom of David) parallels with the mustard tree (Jesus' parable on the Kingdom of God). The cedar tree is a mighty noble tree and stands for the restoration of the Judaic monarchy after the Exile. Its timbers are used for the reconstruction of the Temple. Ezekiel's prophecy finds its fulfilment in the Kingdom of Christ.

The mustard tree in Christ's time and place was a scrawny bush, the complete opposite to the cedar. Listeners would have wondered where Jesus is taking them in this parable. He begins with the allusion to the cedar: it provides a home and shelter for the birds. Following with the allegory, the mustard tree in what the kingdom of God is like. The big differences are notable: small beginnings, humble existence yet for all a home and shelter, a visible presence of the new kingdom on earth: the church as the people of God and the body of Christ. In the light of the first parable in today's Gospel, the growth on the kingdom of God requires God's wisdom and might and the participation of humankind to do the planting. From small beginnings comes the final consummation.

2024 Declaration on Human Dignity 3

There is widespread agreement today on the importance and normative scope of human dignity and on the unique value of every human being. However, the phrase "the dignity of the human person" risks lending itself to a variety of interpretations that can yield potential ambiguities that lead us to wonder whether the equal dignity of all human beings [...] is truly recognised, respected, protected and promoted in every situation." This brings us to recognise a fourfold distinction: ontological (or innate) dignity, moral dignity, social dignity, and existential dignity. The most important among these is the ontological dignity that belongs to the person as such simply because he or she exists and is willed, created, and loved by God. This dignity is indelible and remains valid beyond any circumstances in which the person may find themselves. *DI 7.*

Quote of the Week

Little things are indeed little, but to be faithful in little things is a great thing.
St Teresa of Calcutta

On the Lighter Side

Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever... it remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything. However, if you use digital cameras they last only until the new operating system or new image formats.



Liturgical Jottings Creation and Liturgy 2

We acknowledge creation in the prayers over the gifts, as they are presented on the altar: "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread, ... the wine." Through God's creation we have not only food to sustain us in body but also in our spiritual growth. Indeed the body, soul and spirit are interconnected in one being. The Collect in the Mass for giving thanks to God for the gift of human life reads: "O God, who adorn creation with splendour and beauty and fashion human lives in your image and likeness, awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of human life." All creation is blessed and has the touch of God. Human life, also within God's creation has a special role to reverence and nurture God's creatures.

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

Embracing Christ's Vision: The Church as a Kingdom, not a Club

The concept of the Kingdom of God was central to Christ's teachings. It was the focal point of his first public sermon and a recurring theme in his messages. Reflecting on this, it becomes clear that Christ viewed the Church as a Kingdom, not merely as some kind of club.

The notion of a kingdom implies the presence of a king and subjects. In seeing the Church as a Kingdom, Christ invites us to acknowledge His kingship and our role as His subjects. This challenges us to consider whether we truly perceive the Church in this light.

When we pray, "Thy Kingdom come," do we align our intentions with what Jesus meant when he uttered these words? Do we earnestly desire to see God's Kingdom manifest on earth, where hearts are governed by faith and love?

A striking juxtaposition is presented between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world. The former represents hearts obedient to God, while the latter symbolizes hearts driven by self-centeredness, egoism, and fear. Christ's call for us to partake in the redemption of the kingdom of this world necessitates our commitment to obeying Him, even when it challenges our selfish tendencies.

In acknowledging the difficulty of obeying someone else, Christ reassures us that He does not seek blind, mindless obedience. Instead, He offers parables to elucidate and promise that obedience to Him leads to a fruitful life. The virtues instilled in us at baptism are likened to seeds that flourish as we follow and obey Christ in our daily lives.

Being good citizens of Christ's Kingdom is not merely a duty; it is a pathway to abundant spiritual fulfillment during our earthly existence and for eternity. It is a call to embrace virtues such as wisdom, courage, self-control, and Christ-like love, which enrich our lives and contribute to the beauty of the Kingdom.

Ultimately, embracing Christ's vision of the Church as a Kingdom challenges us to align our lives with His teachings and commands. It urges us to strive for a deeper understanding of His message and a sincere commitment to live as citizens of His Kingdom. In doing so, we pave the way for the abundant spiritual harvest that Christ promises, both in this life and in the hereafter.

Celebration of the Feast of St Anthony of Padua

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us in celebrating the Feast of St. Anthony at St. Mel's Parish on June 9, 2024. The church was filled to capacity, with visitors travelling from as far as Wangaratta to partake in our joyous festivities. The procession was a touching display of unity, and the abundance of food exceeded our expectations. The cultural presentations from our parishioners were a highlight, and the generous financial donations received may cover 50% of our annual cleaning budget. Thank you to all who made this celebration a truly memorable event.



Greater Shepparton Winter Night Shelter (GSWNS)

St Teresa of Avila reminds us that "Christ has no hands but yours..."

Our GSWNS has begun in a different format so as to reach more people in need. Thank you for food donations and financial assistance. Please contact Maree McKenna (0409 956 464) if you can help or drop off cooked meals at the South Shepparton Community Hub between 10-3pm weekdays.



Fr. Rene to Attend Intensive Course Organised by Institute of Tribunal Practice

Fr. Rene, our parish priest, will be taking a two-week leave to participate in an intensive course organized by the Institute of Tribunal Practice. The course, running from June 10th to June 21st, will equip Fr. Rene with the qualifications to assist in the Marriage Tribunal process and interviews in our diocese.

The primary aim of this course is to enable Fr. Rene to provide support to couples seeking to regularize their current situations or to help individuals move forward from difficult circumstances. This opportunity will allow Fr. Rene to extend his assistance and guidance to those in need within our community.

The Institute of Tribunal Practice, established in 1978, is affiliated with the Catholic Institute of Sydney and is responsible for educating individuals about the ministry of the Catholic Church, particularly regarding the annulment and dissolution of marriage. The course is designed to prepare individuals to participate in tribunal ministry concerning the judicial process for the nullity of marriage.

The Institute Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee of the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand, oversees the curriculum, structure, lecturers, and assessment criteria of the Institute. The course, held in Sydney over a two-year period, consists of a live-in session comprising two weeks each year. Upon completion, a Certificate of Achievement of the Institute of Tribunal Practice is jointly granted by the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand and the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

Fr. Rene's dedication to furthering his knowledge and skills in order to better serve our community is commendable, and we wish him well as he embarks on this enriching educational opportunity.

Want to know what's happening around our Parish? Did you know there is a calendar on our website? Check it out! <https://smps.org.au/calendar>

Gallery - St Anthony of Padua Celebrations at St Mel's Parish



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)

3rd 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
Religious Sister of Mercy

Carmel Zito
Bookkeeper

Mel Shiels
Secretary
Sacramental Program Coordinator

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Office Hours

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



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



Free Activities and Supports for Unpaid Carers

The Victorian Government has funded Carers Victoria to provide a range of activities for unpaid carers. Events include, 'Mingles' high tea, lunches. Please see Flyer for full list of events. Contact Catherine Hyette at catherine.hyett@carersvictoria.org.au or the Carers Victoria Statewide Advisory Line on 1800 514 745.

FOR SHEPPARTON – Carers Victoria unpaid carers lunch Friday 21 June 12pm all welcome Registrations essential call Catherine Hyette at catherine.hyett@carersvictoria.org.au or the Carers Victoria Statewide Advisory Line on 1800 514 745.

The World's Worst Jackaroo

The Central Victorian Irish Association will be presenting "The World's Worst Jackaroo" in narrative, bush poetry and song. An inspiring story of how the Brigidine nuns in Echuca turned round a young exiled Dublin delinquent and useless jackaroo to eventually become a high British World War II Government Minister. Further information will appear in 'The Sandpiper' around 7th June. Performance date - Saturday 22nd June at 2.30 pm in the La Trobe Art Centre, View Street, Bendigo. Admission \$5 cash at the door.



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.

We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of

Gabriella Scarcella, Rosa Calandro and Giuseppe & Michelina Latorre

Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

Sunday 23rd June

Commentators
9:30am Pauline Pettigrew
5pm Filipino Community

Lectors
9:30am Mick Hanlon (L1) Trish Mathisen (L2)
5pm Filipino Community (L1) (L2)

Special Ministers
9:30am Gabrielle Barrette & Loretta Hanlon
5pm Lin Waite & Sr Pam Barlow

The Parish Office will be closed for two Fridays on 5 July and 12 July. Please have all Bulletin notices, including anniversaries in by the Wednesday prior.

OFFICE Closure

Celebrate with us our pastor's

26th Priestly Anniversary



Join us for a Sausage Sizzle & Bring a Plate Lunch on the 23rd of June at 11:30am in the Parish Gathering Room! It's going to be a fun day. Don't miss out!



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We are committed to the NATIONAL CATHOLIC 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 or visit our website at www.smeps.org.au