



WELCOME TO ST MARYS PARISH

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

The Living Word

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

23 February 2025

First Reading 1 Sm 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. All soul, give thanks to the Lord, my all being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:45-49

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Lk 6:27-38

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus challenges us to unlearn the language of the world and to learn a language which is counter-cultural, paradoxical, perplexing, such as: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you' etc, etc. Are such attitudes and actions possible?

Our Lord is the best model. Jesus is the Word of God in human history. Jesus is the language of Heaven spoken in a human life. We have to read the Gospels and then imitate His dialect. Otherwise we might merely mutter to ourselves which would end up being eternally Hellish.

When we become aware of our language malpractice, i.e., sinning, and if we become *really* tongue-tied, i.e., seriously sinning, we can come to the Sacrament of Confession and emerge articulate and conversant with Christ again. We can talk with Our Lord again. We are singing the same tune.

Then at the moment of death we can gracefully pass over to our intended destiny which is not incommunicado, but *communicado*, *holy communicado*, *holy conversation* with God and with every creature.

We might pause for a moment and resolve to practise the language of Heaven and to 'walk the talk' every day.

mtate@bigpond.com

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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 **10.00am**

RECONCILIATION

10:30am to 11am Saturday

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon 24/2	No mass	
Tues 25/2	Holy Hour Exposition	5pm
Tues 25/2	Mass	6pm
Wed 26/2	Mass	6pm
Thurs 27/2	Mass	6pm
Fri 28/2	Mass	10am

NO MASS ON MONDAYS

Please spread the word that there will be no mass on Mondays at St Mary's Mooroopna from next Monday 17 February until further notice.



EASY WORSHIP

Sat 22nd Feb: Valoia Family
Sun 16th Feb: AM Carroll

Sat 1st Mar: Imelda
Sun 2nd Mar: Liz Donnelly

Meetings

Baptismal Formation Meeting
Tuesday 29 April from 7pm at St Mary's Church

St Mary's Opening School Mass & Retirement Celebrations



The St Mary's Primary School Opening Mass was held on Friday 21 February in the Marian Centre. It was a wonderful mass that was full of love, laughter, singing and dancing.

My favourite hymn lyrics were: "Side by side, together we grow, underneath God's beautiful rainbow".

After Mass, Principal Elaine Vertriest, spoke and presented Mons with a gift on behalf of the school community. She mentioned that Mons loved the school motto "Let your light shine" and she thanked Mons Peter for shining his light on St Mary's Primary School.

Past Principal, Anthony Butts, was invited up to speak and he explained that he has learned more from Mons Peter than anyone else. He attributes this to the way Mons Peter interacts with people. He also told the story that Mons Peter was once chauffeur to Saint Mother Theresa, so he can say that he has driven a modern day Saint.

Each class presented Mons with beautiful gifts including acrostic poems, artwork and books. It was a terrific celebration for Mons Peter and we thank St Mary's Primary School for your efforts.
Laura Lawn

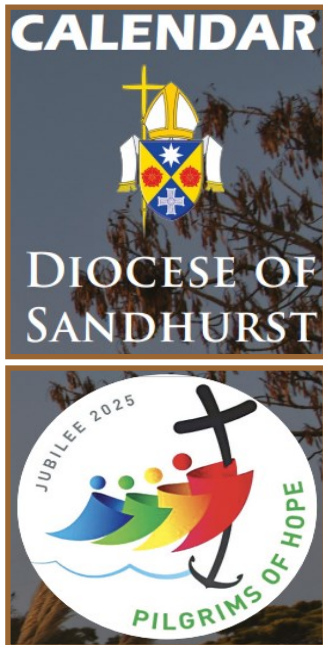
SAVE THE DATES

**Next Sat 1 March and Sun 2 March
is Project Compassion Weekend.**

**On Wednesday 5 March
Ash Wednesday Mass Times
will be 10am & 6pm**

Parish Pastoral Council Membership 2025

St. Mary's Parish Council thanks Mason Crosier and Kate Caraffa for their valuable insight and participation on our PPC over the last few years. At our February meeting, Marie O'Meara was elected as chair and Maree Williams as secretary. We have several vacancies, so we invite people to consider becoming a member. PPC members are encouraged to support fellow parishioners and existing groups within our parish and to listen and respond to their hopes, ideas, needs and concerns. The PPC also provides support for our Parish Administrator, Father Joe Taylor, and our assistant Parish Priest, Father Addin Doe, working collaboratively with them and with each other. We meet monthly and welcome any interested persons to attend a meeting or nominate to become a member. Thanks!



FEBRUARY

- 02 Presentation of the Lord
- 03 - 06 Recently Ordained Priests Inservice
- 08 Saint Josephine Bakhita International Day of Prayer for human trafficking.
- 11 World Day of Prayer for the Sick
- 14 e-News 93
- 15 Marong Cup SYM Ref. Group Meeting
- 20 World Day of Prayer for Social Justice
- 21 SMPC Meeting 9
- 22 SMPC Meeting 9
- 28 e-News 94

MARCH

- 02 Project Compassion Sunday
- 04 Shrove Tuesday Project Compassion Launch
- 05 ASH WEDNESDAY
- 07 World Day of Prayer (ecumenical)
- 09 1st Sunday of Lent
- 10 Labour Day Holiday
- 14 e-News 95
- 16 2nd Sunday of Lent RCIA Rite of Election
- 17 St Patrick's Day
- 19 St Joseph, husband of Mary
- 21 Harmony Day
- 23 3rd Sunday of Lent
- 25 Annunciation of the Lord
- 28 e-News 96
- 30 4th Sunday of Lent RCIA Retreat Anniversary of the Diocese

APRIL

- 04 Last day of school for Term 1
- 06 5th Sunday of Lent
- 11 e-News 97
- 13 PALM SUNDAY
- 15 CHRISM MASS - 11.00 am Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo
- 17 HOLY THURSDAY
- 18 GOOD FRIDAY
- 19 HOLY SATURDAY
- 20 EASTER SUNDAY
- 21 EASTER MONDAY
- 22 School Term 2 starts
- 25 ANZAC Day
- 27 Divine Mercy Sunday Our Lady of Good Counsel

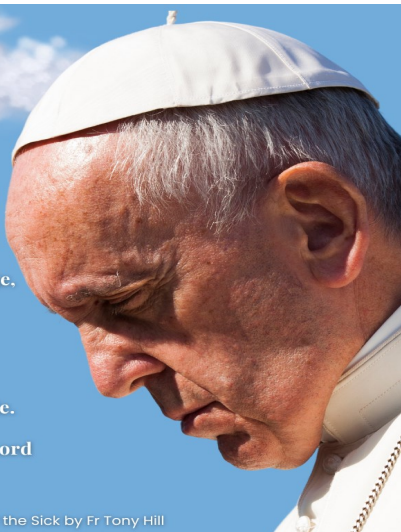
Father in heaven,
grant Francis, our Pope,
comfort in his suffering.

When he is afraid give him courage,
when afflicted, give him patience,
when dejected, afford him hope,

and when alone assure him
of the support of your holy people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord

Adapted from the Ritual of Anointing of the Sick by Fr Tony Hill



Join Our Wonderful School Community! Casual Maintenance Position Available

Are you a hands-on individual with a love for gardening and general maintenance? St. Mary's Primary School Mooroopna is looking for a friendly and reliable person to assist our Maintenance Manager with daily tasks.



Position Details:

- **Hours:** 2 hours each morning (7:45am – 9:45am)
 - **Days:** Monday to Friday
 - **Role:** General gardening and maintenance support
- This is a fantastic opportunity to be part of a welcoming and vibrant school community. Retired applicants are warmly encouraged to apply – your experience and skills are valued here!

Requirements:

- A current Working With Children Check (WWCC)
- If you're passionate about contributing to a thriving school environment, we'd love to hear from you! Please send your expression of interest to:
principal@smmooropna.catholic.edu.au
- Join us in creating a beautiful and well-maintained space for our students, staff, and families. St. Mary's is more than a school; it's a community that cares!



Sandhurst Seminarians: Aaron Baulch, Ryerson De Lai & Mason Crosier at Corpus Christi College earlier this week.

Men's Group

Our next Men's group gathering is on this Sat 22 Feb at 7.30am. We are meeting at Stanley's Café at 48 High St Shepparton, for breakfast and a chance to meet in a more social setting. We would love to have you join us to meet some other men from surrounding areas.

If you have any questions, please call Anthony 58212633 on Tues or Thurs or e-mail shepparton.pastoral@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

WORLD DAY of PRAYER 2025

For Mooroopna Churches

Date: Friday 7th of March

Time: 1.30 pm

Venue: Activity Centre, Rodney Park Village

Host Church: St. Mary's

Women of Cook Islands have prepared this Years' service

Thank you to all who have helped with planning.

Mons. Peter Jeffrey will be the Guest Speaker.

Parishioners are invited to attend.

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea





Readings for
this week:

1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23
1 Corinthians
15:45-49



Readings
for
next week:

Sirach 27:4-7 1
Corinthians 15:54-58
Luke 6:39-45

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Mooroopna Market
Ferrari Park
Last Sunday of each Month
9am to 2pm



MERRITT
FUNERAL SERVICES

PH (24HRS): 03 5825 1651

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Sick List: Graeme Weir, Cherie Mammone, Jim McIntyre, Irene Murphy, Dennis Corboy, Barry Monaghan, Pat Hicks, John Raleigh and Josie Anderson, Rosemary Haig, Jill Taylor (White), Linda O'Rourke, Kellie Seymour, Robert Rocca, Irene Biesiekierski, Rosanna Scarcella, Melissa Scali, Wendy Sinclair, Angelo Conti, Rosemary Wingrave.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: John Stein

ALTAR HELPERS Sat 22nd Feb: Graeme Quinlan & Liz Donnelly Sat Mar 1st: Josie Cortese & Carmel Fasano

BINGO Sat 1st Mar: Maree Williams, Chris Hogarty, Miriam Hogarty, Josie Wood, Emma Difiede

22nd & 23rd Feb	COMMENTOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY
6:30 pm	Kevin Murphy	Millicent Raymond	Mavis Murphy	Checca Richards
10.00 am	Jacques Martin-Lefevre	Laine Martin-Lefevre	Maree Williams	Michael & Kaye Gaffy
1st & 2nd March				
6:30 pm	Margaret Campbell	Mavis Murphy	Sarah Richards	Chris & Miriam Hogarty
10.00 am	Maree Williams	Marie O'Meara	Inez Raleigh	TBC