



WELCOME TO ST MARYS PARISH

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

The Living Word

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

2 March 2025

First Reading Sir 27:4-7

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.

The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.
The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.

Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:54-58

Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your sting? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 6:39-45

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

A Greek word for an actor is *hypokrites*, and Jesus often uses it in a disparaging way. How often have we heard the sad, sometimes angry, remark by someone let down by a person they trusted: 'It was all a big act'. Eventually, the true character of the dishonest or manipulative person is revealed. All the acting in the world will not forever suppress what is bound to overflow from the heart.

This takes us to the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus pronounces a blessing on 'the pure in heart, for they will see God'. This does not describe those who are ritually or sexually pure, but those who, at the core of their being, are not actors. There is no duplicity or camouflage, no lie or deception clouding the heart. Because of this, Jesus says they are well prepared to see God because they do not have the great plank of acting in their eye.

Of course, we already see God in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, so that we can pray with the clear-sighted Richard, Bishop of Chichester in 1253: 'O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day.'

We could pause for a moment and resolve to make that prayer with a pure heart. Then, when we grace-fully share Christ's resurrection life in Heavenly Glory, in the embrace of Divine Love we shall truly see the Triune God face-to-face!

Disciples or Mask-Wearers?

In ancient Greece actors wore masks which concealed the face. One may say they were 'two-faced'. They were called 'Hypocrites', and we derive our word and the idea of 'hypocrite' from that. As did Jesus.

He could always see through the veneer which people (such as you and I) present to the outside world, and his gaze would (and still can) penetrate through to the heart – the core of the personality.

For us, judging the heart of someone is fraught with risk. As Jesus humorously put it, how readily we see the smallest splinter of sawdust in someone else's eye, and in super-critical mode fail to see the plank of wood which impairs and distorts our vision. We should not rush to judgment.

The fact is that only the gaze of God can really penetrate to the heart of someone. We know that the gaze of Jesus, Who is God, is always a loving gaze visualising a heart open to salvation. (Mk 10:17-22)

This is one of the reasons why recent Popes have opposed capital punishment. Time must be given for the heart of the convicted criminal to respond to that loving gaze. And it leaves the Final Judgment, even of the murderer, to God.

Listen to the dying moments of Our Lord. His loving gaze penetrated beyond the masks and actions of his tormentors and focused on their hearts. Then he cried out this plea: 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.'

We are all conscious of the times we have fallen short of the practice and teaching of our Master despite our praying: 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

We could pause for a moment to pray that The Teacher's loving gaze fall upon us to make us whole-hearted disciples willing 'to be formed by divine teaching'.

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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 3/3	No Mass	
Tues 4/3	Holy Hour Exposition	5pm
Tues 4/3	Mass	6pm
Wed 5/3	Mass	6pm
Thurs 6/3	Mass	6pm
Fri 7/3	Mass	10am

St Mary's Monthly Devotions

First Friday Adoration

(1st Fri of every month) following the 10am Mass. Concluding with Benediction at 6:45pm.

At 11am, 1pm, 3pm and 5pm the Mysteries of the Rosary will be recited. *Next Friday 7 March*

First Saturday Adoration

Adoration 9am to 10am
Mass 10am to 10:30am followed by Reconciliation as per normal 10:30am to 11am.

EASY WORSHIP

Sat 2nd March: Imelda
Sun 3rd March: Liz Donnelly

Sat 8th Mar: Valoia Family
Sun 9th Mar: AM Carroll

SAVE THE DATE

On Wednesday 5 March
Ash Wednesday Mass Times
will be 10am in the Marian Centre &
6pm in the Church.

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

A Thanksgiving Celebration for Mons
Peter Jeffrey will be held on
Sunday 30th of March 2025

It will take the form of 10am Mass at
St Mary's followed by lunch in the Marian
Centre. Meat will provided.
Asking for the attendees to please bring a
salad or a dessert.

There are sheets at
the Church doors for
names please or
contact Maree on
5825 2584.



Project Compassion Sunday 1st and 2nd of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty*
through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generous support this Lenten Season will
enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing
support to vulnerable communities in need.



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

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite
Against Poverty this Lent.*

Men's Group

Our next meeting is set for Saturday the 8th of March in the St Brendan's Parish center at 7.30am. We will share breakfast and then hear from Fr Adi who will share a topic for reflection for the group. Our times of reflection can help us to deepen our understanding of God's deep longing for relationship with us, not apart from our everyday lives, but in the nitty gritty of everyday events. We would love you to come and join us on the 8th. Fr Adi try's like us to live and breathe this relationship with God, I am sure he will inspire us to do the same. If you have a questions please call Anthony 58212633 Tues or Thurs.

Open Tours 2025

Bookings Now Open

This year Notre Dame College will be holding Open Tours from **Monday 17 March** until **Thursday 20 March**.

Tours will occur daily at 9:15am and 9:35am at the Knight Street Campus



Notre Dame
COLLEGE

**Bookings are essential
and can be made online at**
▶ notredame.vic.edu.au

Join Our Wonderful School Community! Casual Maintenance Position Available

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)
- Please send your expression of interest to:
**princi-
pal@smmooroopna.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!

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



PRAYER FOR THE POPE

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

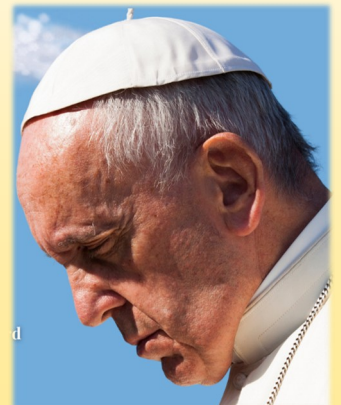
Of the support of our holy people.

We ask this through

Christ our Lord.

Amen

*Adapted from the Ritual
of Anointing of the Sick
Fr Tony Hill, PP Echu-
ca*



Lenten Reflection Day with Maria Forde

St. Mary's Parish Echuca is hosting a reflection day for Lent, which will be presented by Maria Forde. This will be a day of reflection and music as we prepare for Easter. The event is open to all, and attendance is free. Donations will be welcomed on the day to help cover food costs. The event will take place on the 15th of March, starting at 10:30 am, with morning tea available from 10:00 am, at St. Mary's Parish Centre, 224 Anstruther Street, Echuca.



Readings
for
this week:

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

Readings
for
next week:

Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

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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 Biesieki-erski, Rosanna Scarcella, Melissa Scali, Wendy Sinclair, Angelo Conti,

Recently Deceased: Rosemary Wingrave

Anniversaries:

ALTAR HELPERS Sat 1st March: Josie Cortese & Carmel Fasano Sat Mar 8th: not required

BINGO Sat 8th March: Owen Macreadie, Carmel Fasano, Anne Maksacheff, Bernadette Dow

1st & 2nd March	COMMENTOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY
6:30 pm	Margaret Campbell	Mavis Murphy	Sarah Richards	Chris & Miriam Hogarty
10.00 am	Maree Williams	Marie O'Meara	Inez Raleigh	TBC
8th & 9th March				
6:30 pm	Irene Tumua-Valoia	Michael Valoia	Rob O'Meara	Gwen & Alex Ransome
10.00 am	Brenda Pye	Sheila Griffin	Angela Iacono	TBC