



This Week's Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:12-14:2
Luke 21:25-28

Next Week's Readings

Baruch 5:1-9
Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Focus on the Readings

Today the church begins the Season of Advent. But Advent begins at the end: the readings and prayers of the Liturgy focus on the second coming of Christ at the end of time. The Gospel of Luke explicitly refers to the end of time, space, the earth and the heavens when Christ will come with power and great glory. Luke grants us a smidgin of comfort the other gospels omit: "Stand up, ... your liberation is near." (24:28). It will be a time of confidences, hope and joy. The Prophet Jeremiah words have, as at several times, two levels of interpretation: the Messiah's first coming or his next coming at the end of time: "In those days and at that time" (Jer 33:15) The Advent Preface also carries the two comings of Christ: At Bethlehem and when He comes again in glory and majesty. Again, the prophecy is not gloom and doom but speaks of great promise and hope (Advent Preface 1).

The Christians progresses through Advent, starting at the end being vigilant and waiting, On the second Sunday on hearing the warnings in the mission of John the Baptist, Third Sunday on the coming of the Messiah – a time of rejoicing. And the Fourth Sunday on the events leading up to the birth of the saviour, the first Christmas, a new beginning.

Quote of the Day

The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognise him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognising the coming of the Lord. Henri Nouwen

Excerpts from the Synod 2024

The Synod on "Communion. Participation and Mission" published its final document containing an Introduction and Five Parts. Each begins with a quote from the Gospel of John. All post-resurrection passages inspired the titles of the five parts: The Heart of Synodality Called to Conversation; On the Boat Together, Cast the Net; An Abundant Catch; and finally: So I Send You". The synodal journey took place in the light of the second Vatican Council with its two foci: Aggiornamento [bringing up to date] and Ressourcement [returning to the sources]. The synod described the Council like a seed thrown onto the field of the world and the Church. to grow and flourish. (n.5)

On the lighter Side

A Christmas pageant that went badly: Hand puppets were given to all the children to act out the nativity at Bethlehem. There were sheep, cattle, camels, shepherds, kings and Mary and Joseph. However, a wolf was mistakenly put in the bag. A very creative lad found it. The wolf terrorised the sheep, bit the shepherds and howled all night, giving no-one any peace.



Liturgical Jottings Springtime of the Liturgy II

After the New Testament books that provided many liturgical texts came early writings of the Church: The Didache, perhaps collated from several sources in 1st & 2nd centuries contained framework of the Eucharistic Prayer, though not a complete text. Letters from Clement of Rome, Justin Martyr, and Clement of Alexandria and a homily of Melito of Sardis give us witness of the way of celebrations of prayer and sacraments. The most important document of this era is the Apostolic Tradition of St Hippolytus (ca 213) which describes the liturgy and Christian practice in Rome. Other rich sources are found in Catechesis from Jerusalem, the Anaphora of Addai & Mari (Syria) and from Serapion in Egypt.

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

Advent: A Time of Preparation and Anticipation

As we enter the Advent season, we find ourselves called to a sacred time of waiting and expectation. The message of Advent is one of vigilance, urging us to keep our eyes on the horizon and to remain ready for the coming of the Bridegroom. This powerful imagery speaks to the core of our spiritual journey, reminding us that while we may not know the exact day or hour of His arrival, the promise remains steadfast—He will come.

The invitation to keep watch is not merely about passive waiting; it is an active engagement in our faith. We are called to be proactive in our spiritual preparation, ensuring that we are not caught unprepared when that moment arrives. This notion resonates deeply within us, especially in a world that often distracts and pulls our focus away from the divine.

Advent offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the “Hidden Advents” of our lives. These moments might be subtle but are rich in significance. They remind us of the small, often overlooked instances of grace and divine presence woven throughout our daily existence. Recognizing these moments can fortify our spirits and bolster our resolve as we navigate our journey.

The celebration of the mass, especially during this time, becomes a source of nourishment and strength for our souls. It acts as a reminder of Christ’s presence in our lives and provides the spiritual food we need to continue our Advent journey. In this sacred space, we gather with a community of believers, united in our hope and anticipation, sharing in the divine mystery that unfolds before us.

As we embrace the season of Advent, let us reflect on our readiness to welcome this promise. Are we cultivating a sense of hope amid uncertainty? Are we opening ourselves to the transformative moments that God places in our path? By doing so, we not only prepare for the coming of Christ but also deepen our relationship with Him and each other.

In this season of preparation, let us commit ourselves to a journey of faith that goes beyond mere tradition. Let it be a time for introspection, prayer, and active participation in the life of our faith community. With hearts open and eyes focused on the horizon, let us prepare to celebrate the joy of the coming of our Savior, understanding that each step along the way is significant and filled with purpose.

May this Advent season be a time of profound growth and renewal, drawing us closer to the love and light that is Christ.



SINULOG SYNCHRONIZED DANCE COMPETITION
GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 1 The competition is open to all cultural groups and will focus on the theme "Unity in Diversity: One Beat, One Dance, One Vision, One Parish!"
- 2 Each contingent must have a minimum of eight (8) dancers. For each additional dancer, there will be a .25 point addition to the total score for each judge.
- 3 Groups are free to choose their costumes and attire based on their specific cultures.
- 4 The music must be pre-recorded. Contestants may also use basic choreography provided on platforms such as YouTube https://youtu.be/6SKCZGwMAlA?si=47fgD1j2vY9C_On_
- 5 Presentations should be kept within 5-10 minutes.
- 6 Judges for the competition will be selected by the Committee.
- 7 A registration fee of \$100.00 is required. Registration will be open from November 1, 2024, and will close on December 16, 2024.
- 8 By the end of December, or as soon as possible, registered contestants must submit a video clip of their presentation for evaluation to determine its suitability for the celebration's objectives.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

Theme and Concept:	10%
Performance Precision /Synchronization:	30%
Choreography Creativity:	25%
Costume Design:	15%
Use of Props:	10%
Adherence to the Sinulog Concept:	10%
Total:	100%

PRIZES

1st Prize	\$1,000.00
2nd Prize	\$600.00
3rd Prize	\$350.00

All prizes will be awarded if there are more than 3 contestants. If there are fewer than 3 contestants, only the 1st Prize will be given.

for more information, please contact:
St. Mel's Parish 18 Hamilton Street, Shepparton VIC 3630
SheppartonSouth@shepparton.catholic.org.au

11:00 am // 19 January 2025
St. Mel's Primary School Grounds

Planned Giving Program Envelopes

Our new look Planned Giving envelopes are now available for collection in the Narthex. These commence on Sunday 1 December. We would appreciate you collect your envelopes as soon as possible and assist us in saving on postage costs.

To everyone on our program, and to all those who contribute financially to our parish, we thank you for your generosity and support.

We are seeking expressions of interest for a chartered bus service to attend

The Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Fr Rene on Saturday 1 February 2025

Please contact the office or Sev as soon as possible to allow us to gauge the possibility and our options.

Sev Cortese - Ph: 0417 229 038

Parish Volunteers Bring a Plate Christmas Dinner

Through out the year, many parishioners volunteer their time and talents in support of our Parish community. To acknowledge and thank you, we welcome all those who assist in the various ministries and roles, on **Wednesday 11 December from 6 pm** in the Gathering Room for an evening of festive celebration! We encourage all parish volunteers to join us and bring along a plate to share. To RSVP or any queries, please contact the office.



International Day of People with Disabilities

In the lead-up to IDPWD on December 3, the ABC is featuring content that highlights the wins, stories and challenges experienced by millions of Australians with disability, the goal being to increase awareness, understanding and acceptance of people living with disabilities, visible or invisible. I hope you manage to connect with some of these programs on radio or TV. Under the Act (1992), those living with disabilities should be treated equally in all day-to-day activities, without having to face discrimination. Mary Pianta. Disability Contact Coordinator.

Lebanon Crisis Appeal

The escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has pushed Lebanon into severe turmoil, with tragic consequences that have spread from Southern Lebanon to the entire nation. The situation is dire: over 3,000 lives have been lost, more than 13,000 people injured, and critical infrastructure has been destroyed.

In response to a heartfelt plea for assistance by Bishop Tarabay and Bishop Rabbat, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in partnership with Catholic Religious Australia, Caritas Australia and Caritas Lebanon, has launched the Lebanon Appeal. This appeal aims to provide essential humanitarian aid to our brothers and sisters suffering in Lebanon, especially those who are displaced and without homes or shelter. Donate today: www.caritas.org.au/lebanondonate

NOVENA MASSES IN PREPARATION FOR THE 2025 FEAST OF SEÑOR STO. NIÑO

St. Mel's Parish, Shepparton

Join us for 9 first Friday Masses at St. Mel's Parish Church to honour the Infant Child Jesus starting on 3rd May 2024 at 6:00pm.

18 Hamilton St. Shepparton VIC 3630

Misa de Gallo

9 day novena.
Mass at 6am each day
from December 16-24
at St Brendan's Church

Join us for breakfast afterwards each day in the Pastoral Centre (behind the Church)

To support the novena, please reach out on 5821 2633 or shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

On the 21st of December, St. Mel's Parish will be leading the Misa De Gallo celebration at St. Brendan's. Our priest, choir, and lectors will lead the celebration as part of the 9-day inter-parish preparation for Christmas. Attendees are encouraged to bring a plate for the breakfast following the Mass.



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)

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

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



Christmas Masses

Join us at St Mel's Parish

24 December
6:30 PM - Family Mass
9 PM - Christmas Eve Vigil

25 December
9:30 AM - The Nativity
of The Lord (Christmas)

18-22 Hamilton Street, Shepparton

Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

Sunday 8th
December

Commentators
9:30am Pauline Pettigrew
5pm Samoan Community

Lectors
9:30am Mary Calandro (L1) David Sellwood (L2)
5pm Samoan Community (L1) (L2)

Special Ministers
9:30am Gabrielle Barrette & Gita Kelleher
5pm Rosana Legalo & 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.

Our December Target is
now \$14,358.



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.
There will be no monthly cuppa in January.

*We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of
Anniversaries: Aurelia Andreola, Vincenzo Martino,
Annunziata Cardillo, Antonino Iaria, Cecelia Iaria*

~~\$14,066~~
November Target

~~\$12,022~~
Week Four \$3,681

~~\$8,341~~
Week Three \$2,354

~~\$5,987~~
Week Two \$2,571

~~\$3,416~~
Week One \$3,416

**TOGETHER
WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

JOIN US IN REACHING OUR
MONTHLY GOAL

**DONATE
TODAY!**

ST. MEL'S PARISH



21 Watson Street, Shepparton VIC 3630
T 03 5821 9055 F 03 5831 3634 M 0408 055 748
www.sheppartonfoodsolutions.com.au
orders@sheppartonfoodsolutions.com.au



**CORBETTS
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS
& ADVISORS**

60 High Street
Shepparton VIC 3630
Phone: 03 5820 1300
www.corbetts.com.au



We see more than property.



0417 374 105

Vincent Tassoni
Licensed Estate Agent & Auctioneer

ST. MEL'S PARISH WOULD
LIKE TO THANK OUR

**CORPORATE
SPONSORS**



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.smps.org.au