



This Week's Readings

Exodus 17:8-13
2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
Luke 18:1-8

Next Week's Readings

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Readings

The painting Rephidim by John Dubrow depicts the scene in the first reading about Moses whose arms were supported by Aaron and Hur while he prayed to God for victory against Amalek. Dubrow notes: "The battle confronts us with difficult questions that defy easy answers." The Amalekites were cut down. Does God condone such hostility? What is the message of this reading? One noted writer, Fr Ronald Rolheiser OMI, explained it this way: "when we read passages in the Old Testament of much slaughter, we need to read the fine print at the foot of the page: 'no person was harmed in the production of this story.'" While often the stories are embellished, and numbers exaggerated to convey God's power and protection, we do wonder what really happened. This passage, like many others, have quite a different angle on the events – or rather about the relationship between God and the people. God is the protector of his people; he answers their pleas. While the people may forget his promises and fail to trust, God does not forget his people, his ways are not our ways. The responsorial psalm sums up this relationship well. Today's Gospel adds another light on the necessity for perseverance in prayer.



Liturgical Jottings

Mass for Various Intentions

Last week we looked at Masses and prayers for various needs and occasions, section 2 for Civil or Public Needs in the Roman Missal "These provide Mass formularies that may be used in the various times of Christian life." GIRM 368. Section 3 is titled: "For Various Intentions or for personal needs. The Masses include intentions for: Forgiveness of Sins, Chastity, Charity, Relatives and Friends, Our Oppressors, Those Held in Captivity, Those in Prison, the Sick, the Dying, the Grace of a Happy Death, In Any Need, Giving Thanks to God, The Roman Missal in USA adds: Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life. The Ambrosian Missal (in Italy) adds: for Concord and one for the Family. Since the missals had been printed new Masses and prayers have been approved: In Time of Pandemic (2021) and Mass of Care for Creation (2025).

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Prayer for World Mission Day

God of all people, fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit, that we will act justly in our relationships with each other and for our brothers and sisters all over the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pope's World Mission Sunday Message 2025

In following Christ the Lord, Christians are called to hand on the Good News by sharing the concrete life situations of those whom they meet, and thus to be bearers and builders of hope. Indeed, "the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts" (Gaudium et Spes 1). Given by Pope Francis, 25 February 2025

On the Lighter Side

A carpenter, a gardener and an electrician argue whose trade is the oldest. The carpenter says: "when Noah built his ark before the flood, he made it out of wood, so carpentry is the oldest." The gardener says: "well, when Adam and Eve were in the garden, someone had to plant the trees and flowers there, so gardening is the oldest." The electrician smirks and says: "fellas, when God said 'let there be light,' we already had the cables laid down."



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.

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

THE NEED TO PRAY AND NOT TO GIVE UP - *Let's reflect and learn.*

Prayer is important in Luke's Gospel. Jesus prays (3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28; 22:41), and sweats drops of blood in the agony of prayer on the Mount of Olives (22:44). He also teaches the disciples about prayer (6:28; 11:1-13; 18:9-14; 19:46; 20:47; 22:40, 46). The parable that follows tells of the persistent prayer of the widow. More importantly, it tells us of the character of God. There is no question that persistent prayer – continuing communion with God – reshapes our hearts to God's original design. Once this happens, clogged channels are cleared to receive God's mercies.

"There was a judge in a certain city who didn't fear God, and didn't respect (entrepomenos) man" (v. 2). Moses charged judges to render fair and honest decisions irrespective of the wealth or social standing of the petitioner (Deuteronomy 1:16-17) – but we cannot expect justice from this judge, who does not fear God or respect people. Fearing God is a positive attribute in both Old and New Testaments. When Jehoshaphat appointed judges over Judah, he counselled them, "Now therefore let the fear of Yahweh be on you. Take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with Yahweh our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of bribes" (2 Chronicles 19:7). Luke has mentioned that God's "mercy is for generations of generations on those who fear him (1:50). When Jesus tells us that this judge does not fear God, we know that the judge is not to be trusted.

"A widow was in that city, and she often came to him, saying, 'Defend me from my adversary!'" (v. 3). Widows are symbols of vulnerability in both Testaments. With no means of support, they were dependent their grown children or on. Because of their vulnerability, the scriptures demand protection for widows: God has a special affection for widows, orphans and aliens (Deuteronomy 10:18-19); just as God provided relief for the Israelites from their Egyptian captivity, God requires Israel to provide relief for other vulnerable people (Deuteronomy 24:17-21); Jesus condemns those "who devour widow's houses" (20:47); the early church provides food for widows (Acts 6:1-6); widows are honoured, because of their dependence on God (1 Timothy 5:3-5).

This widow, like the man who demanded bread from his neighbor in the middle of the night (11:5-8), persists in asking. Her feisty character is unusual for a woman in that patriarchal society, but she has the weight of scripture and justice on her side. She dwells on high moral ground, and everyone knows it. This judge would not tolerate this nagging behavior by a man, but even a judge who knows no shame must exercise forbearance in the presence of a woman who enjoys the protection of scripture and the sympathy of the community.

"He wouldn't for a while" (v. 4a). Perhaps the judge is waiting for a bribe. Perhaps he reserves favourable treatment for wealthier or more influential people. Perhaps he just doesn't want to be bothered.

"but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God, nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will defend her, or else she will wear me out by her continual coming'" (vv. 4b-5). The word translated "wear me out" is *hypopiazē* – literally "hit under the eye." While the judge cares nothing for God or man, he recognizes that this woman can create problems for him. But it makes no difference to our understanding of this parable why this judge gives the woman what she wants. This judge is not a "stand-in" for God. Instead, this parable contrasts this evil judge with our loving God.

"Won't God avenge his chosen ones" (eklekton) (v. 7a). Jesus argues from the lesser to the greater. If the unjust judge will do the right thing for this widow, even if for the wrong reasons, can't we expect God to do the right thing for us? Can't we expect a loving God vindicate "his chosen ones"?

"who are crying out to him day and night" (v. 7). This story suggests "that every word of prayer must penetrate to a depth of the heart that can be reached only by unceasing iteration" (Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*). The passion of those who cry to God day and night reminds us of Jesus' prayer just before his death. "Being in agony he prayed more earnestly. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground" (22:44). The Father did not respond by removing the cup of suffering, but by redeeming it.

Prayer of the Heart

Loving Father, we cry out to you in our need.
Listen to our prayers for you are our Loving Father.
Grant us perseverance to trust in your provident care.
This we ask through Christ our Lord.
Amen. – FRM



Mass for the Commemoration of All Souls

All Souls Day will be observed on Sunday, 2 November 2025. A special Mass will be held at the Shepparton Cemetery at 5:00 PM to commemorate and pray for all the faithful departed.

Save the date:

Date - Sunday, 2 November 2025

Time - 5:00 PM

Venue - Shepparton Cemetery, 5 Rudd Road

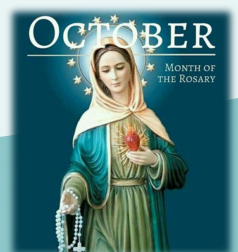
Further details will be shared in upcoming parish bulletins of location at cemetery.

B.Y.O chair.

The Holy Rosary at St Mel's Parish - October

Prior to each Sunday Mass in October the Rosary will be recited in St Mel's Church, commencing at 9am and again at 4:30pm.

On weekdays, (Tuesday to Saturday) the Rosary will be recited following the 9:15am morning Masses (around 9:45am), and on Thursday at the conclusion of the Holy Hour (around 10:30am).



World Mission Sunday

Today we celebrate World Mission Sunday with the theme "Missionaries of Hope among All Peoples." It reminds the entire Church, and we--the community of the baptised--of our fundamental vocation to follow in the footsteps of Christ and be messengers and builders of hope.

Envelopes are available at all entrances of the Church for you to make a donation. These can be placed in the collection plates and we will forward the contributions to the missions. Alternatively you can post the pre-paid envelope.



This week, you're invited to partner with the Church in Zambia to help women overcome poverty and mothers give birth safely.

The Women's Cooperative, led by Sr Jane will provide women with the training and support required to break the cycle of scarcity, and the Chilonga Mission Hospital is determined to ensure every woman and baby receives a safe and dignified start to life.

During World Mission Sunday, we are called to be 'Missionaries of hope among all peoples', and we invite you to extend Christ's love to those in need in Zambia. You can support this work by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/mission, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also assist many other Church programs around the world.

**Free call: 1800 257 296**
catholicmission.org.au/mission



St Mel's Parish Sacramental Program

This year we have 14 Candidates journeying towards the Sacraments of Initiation: *Reconciliation – Confirmation – First Eucharist*

Adults attended a Faith Development evening for Reconciliation on Thursday in the Parish House Gathering Room, with a focus on relationships, forgiveness and connection.

The Candidates and their families will be attending our Parishes Masses next Sunday 26 October to make their commitment to the program and receive their Steps in Faith book for Reconciliation.

Candidates will be wearing their white stole when they attend Masses. Please make these families feel welcome when you see them in the Church community.



2026 Columban Art Calendars

The 2026 Columban Art Calendars are now on sale from the Parish Office. These make an ideal gift for Christmas! If you are unable to come to the office during opening hours, please place \$10 in an envelope with your name and contact phone number clearly written and note: order for Columban Art Calendar, then place it in the slot beside the office door. The following Sunday your order will be available to collect in the Narthex.

Fresh Flowers request

We are looking for donations of fresh flowers or shrubbery to be provided to the Church each Saturday morning, for use on Sunday. If you are able to contribute, please see Rosana on Saturdays in the Church before or after the daily Mass at 9:15am.



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 9:45 - 10:30 am

BAPTISMS (St Mel's & St Malachy's)

3rd Sunday of the month

MARRIAGE

2 months-notice required

Parish Staff

Fr. Ronaldo Masilang RCJ
Parish Priest

Fr. Ruel Desamparado RCJ
Assistant Priest

Fr. Damianus (Addin) Doe RCJ
Assistant Priest

Fr. Adi Indra
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 3630
sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
www.smeps.org.au
(03) 5831 2194

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

Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

**Sunday 26th
October**

Commentators

9:30am Mick Hanlon
5pm Filipino Community

Lectors

9:30am Anthony Butts (L1) Gabrielle Barrette (L2)
5pm Filipino Community (L1) (L2)

Special Ministers

9:30am Pauline Pettigrew & Loretta Hanlon
5pm Lin Waite & Sr Pam Barlow

**The Parish Office will be closed next Friday 24 October.
Please send all bulletin notices, including anniversaries, to the
office by Wednesday 22 October.**

We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of

Anniversaries: Claudio Aloj, Mary Monaghan,
Gulia Tassone, Girolamo Tassone



**St. Mel's Parish
BAKE
SALE**

Join us for a sweet Sunday!

**19TH OCTOBER 2025
AFTER 9:30AM/5PM MASS**

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS KEEP OUR PARISH THRIVING.
ENJOY A TREAT AND SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE!



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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