



## This Week's Readings

Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24  
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15  
Mark 5:21-43

## Next Week's Readings

Ezekiel 2:2-5  
2 Corinthians 12:7-10  
Mark 6:1-6



**Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!**

# St. Mel's Parish

## BULLETIN

### Focus on the Gospel

The Book of Genesis final edition believed to be about a millennium before Christ and the Book of Wisdom was written in the last half of the first century before Christ. Much has gone under the bridge in the intervening centuries. While Genesis chapters 2-3 emphasises the mortality of humankind, the Book of Wisdom emphasises the immortality of the human person, made in the image of God. The belief in the resurrection of the dead emerged at that time. Despite the goodness of creation, sin did enter human experience, yet sin and evil are to be overcome by the saving actions of the coming Messiah. This short reading is enheartening, sobering and hope filled.

Two miracles of Jesus that are presented in the longer version of the Gospel this Sunday both interrupt and interact. At first Jesus and his disciples were on the way to heal a young girl when they were interrupted by a much older woman seeking healing. Only after her healing Jesus continues to the younger girl bedside to also heal her. Mark provides much dialogue in these accounts to highlight that these miracles are a prefigurement of Christ's victory over sin and death. The elderly woman is invited to "Go in Peace" and young girl: "Arise". Jesus words capture his post-resurrection messages.

Jairus, the father of the girl, has an interesting name in Hebrew: "God enlightens". From the outset he had faith to seek Jesus. The elderly woman also showed great faith to seek and just to touch Jesus.

### 2024 Declaration on Human Dignity 4

The first conviction, drawn from Revelation, holds that the dignity of the human person comes from the love of the Creator, who has imprinted the indelible features of his image on every person (cf. Gen. 1:26). The Creator calls each person to know him, to love him, and to live in a covenantal relationship with him, while calling the person also to live in fraternity, justice, and peace with all others. In this perspective, dignity refers not only to the soul but also to the person as an inseparable unity of body and soul. Accordingly, dignity is also inherent in each person's body, which participates in its own way in being in imago Dei (in the image of God) and is also called to share in the soul's glory in the divine beatitude. 18.

### Quote for the Week

Jesus Christ, in His infinite love, has become what we are, in order that He may make us entirely what He is." *St Irenaeus of Lyons*

### On the Lighter Side

Don't you really get annoyed when someone answers their own questions?  
I do.

I used to think I was indecisive.

But now I'm not so sure.



### Liturgical Jottings Liturgy and Fire

While small flames are common in our liturgy with the use of candles, blazing fires occur at the Easter Vigil and in some places on Shrove Tuesday when the palms from the previous year are burnt for the ashes. Fire is an evocative symbol that may also be used at Pentecost. Our indigenous people use fire and smoke to begin significant events and welcome people. Fire also is expressed in the Mass prayers in various contexts:

*Fire of your [God's] Spirit (6 times)*

*Fire of your divine love (4 times)*

*Fire of charity (4 times)*

*Fire of love/holy love (three times)*

*Fire in our hearts (twice)*

*Fire of God's glory, on Fire with zeal,*

*Fire of longing, pillar of Fire, Fire and lightning on Mt Sinai, Fire on the Earth. and tongues of Fire*

Fire is a polyvalent symbol – it carries power and many meanings: Fire dispels the darkness of sin, is associated with human affections and emotions, divine glory, honour, holiness, and power of the Spirit.

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

Fear and Faith: Trusting in God's Goodness

The story of Jairus and the woman with a hemorrhage in the Bible offers a powerful lesson on the relationship between fear and faith. Jairus, a synagogue official, faced the devastating news of his daughter's death, and in that moment of despair, Jesus' words, "Do not be afraid; only have faith," challenged the very core of his existence.

Despite the undeniable reality of loss, Jesus reminded Jairus that faith in God's goodness can set things right and that it surpasses the storms of life in a fallen world.

Similarly, the woman with a hemorrhage demonstrated remarkable faith by reaching out to touch Jesus' cloak, despite the risks and years of uncertainty and fear. Her act of faith led to physical and emotional healing, illustrating the transformative power of trust in God.

Reflecting on these stories, it becomes evident that faith involves trusting in God's goodness, wisdom, and power, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. It requires a childlike trust that allows God's love to unfurl in our lives and reminds us that we are in the hands of an omnipotence of love, as Pope Benedict aptly expressed.

In our own lives, embracing faith over fear can revolutionize our perspectives and experiences. It encourages us to trust in God's plan, even when circumstances appear dire, and to believe that His love and power are greater than any obstacles we may encounter.

As we navigate the uncertainties of life, may we draw inspiration from the stories of Jairus and the woman with a hemorrhage, and may we cultivate a steadfast faith that conquers fear and opens us to the transformative power of God's love.

## Fr. Rene Leaves for his Annual Break and Retreat

Father Rene embarks on his annual retreat and a two-week vacation from June 27th to July 20th. During this time, he will be reuniting with his family, including his mum, siblings, and his dad's side of the family, in Chicago, Illinois.

Expressing his anticipation for the upcoming break, Father Rene shared, "I am eagerly looking forward to this precious time with my family, surrounded by the warmth and love that Chicago has to offer."

During the recent BYO Lunch to celebrate his 26th Priestly Anniversary last Sunday, the community extended their well-wishes to Father Rene as he prepares for his well-deserved break. As the departure date draws near, the community is eagerly awaiting his return, revitalized and ready to continue his invaluable work.

In the spirit of solidarity, we extend our heartfelt wishes to Father Rene for a serene and energizing time with his family in Chicago. We are eagerly anticipating his return and the continuation of his impactful contributions to our community.



## Greater Shepparton Winter Night Shelter (GSWNS)



*"I will give you every seed-bearing plant: they will be yours for food".*  
**Genesis 1: 29**

Should you have a surplus of fruit e.g. lemons or oranges, please consider giving them to South Shepparton Community Hub (open weekdays from 10-3pm). Or ring Maree McKenna on 0409 956 464. Thank you.

## Annual Collection to support the work of the Holy Father (Peter's Pence)

This Saturday we celebrate the feast of Sts Peter and Paul (29 June), which is the customary date for a collection in support of the Holy Father (also known as Peter's Pence), taking place at that weekend's Masses. This is one of the appeals listed as an annual collection on the Diocesan Fundraising Policy. It is an opportunity for us to show in a very practical way our support and appreciation for the Pope's ministry in the Church and for his powerful witness in the world.

This collection is used for two primary purposes:

- To support the Pope's service of the universal Church, carried out by the Dicasteries that assist him in evangelization, the promotion of integral human development, education, communication, etc.;
- To contribute to numerous charitable works directly assisting the most in need (people and families in distress, populations hit by natural disasters or war, or who are in need of humanitarian assistance or development support).

**Today's second collections at St. Mel's will go towards this appeal. Thank you in advance for your generosity.**

Collection 2024

**PETER'S  
PENCE**

REJOICE IN HOPE, ENDURE IN AFFLICTION, PERSEVERE IN PRAYER.  
Rm 12.12

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>

## A blessed Sunday to thank God!

Fr. Rene Ramirez RCJ celebrated a thanksgiving mass last Sunday, June 23, 2024 at 9:30am for his 26th Priestly Anniversary here in St. Mel's Parish. A Samoan Kava Dance was presented by the Samoan community, and a simple gift was given to Fr. Rene from Trish Mathisen, the PPC President, on behalf of our Parish community. A sausage sizzle and hearty lunch was served after in the Parish House Gathering Room. Thank you to everyone who assisted!



## JuIEYE

JuIEYE is an annual campaign (July 1-31) designed to raise awareness and protect our eyes from preventable eye diseases. In Australia, more than 453,000 people are blind or vision-impaired, with the prevalence being three times more for Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous. Almost one third of Australians do not have regular eye tests, yet 80% say that sight is their most valued sense. About 90% of blindness and vision impairment is preventable or treatable if detected early. So, think about making an appointment this month! Mary Pianta. Disability Contact Coordinator. Diocese of Sandhurst.



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)

3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
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(03) 5831 2194

#### Office Hours

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



### 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.

## Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

Sunday 7th July

Commentators  
9:30am Gabrielle Barrette  
5pm Elizabeth Holligan

Lectors  
9:30am Pauline Pettigrew (L1) David Sellwood (L2)  
5pm Helen May (L1) Paul Bertoli (L2)

Special Ministers  
9:30am Trish Mattisen & Sarah Maloney  
5pm Cathy Cannatelli & Helen May

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*

Wishing our school communities of St Anne's College and St Mel's Primary a wonderful school holiday break.

May you come back refreshed and prepared for another successful semester.



**We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of Recently Deceased:** Gabriella Cortese, Angelo Battista  
**Anniversaries:** Damiano Manno, Vincenzo Campi, Carmela Iaria, Fortunato & Ofelia Iorianni, Fortunato Cortese, Raymond Barwick

**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



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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](mailto:sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)  
or visit our website at [www.smeps.org.au](http://www.smeps.org.au)