



This Week's Readings

Isaiah 53:10-11
Hebrews 4:14-16
Mark 10:35-45

Next Week's Readings

Jeremiah 31:7-9
Hebrews 5:1-6
Mark 10:46-52



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Focus on the Readings

When we set out to follow Jesus, faithful to the promises that we made at baptism to renounce sin and live lives directed by the Spirit, we normally do so with generosity of heart. However, after we have borne the burdens of this decision and realise some of the implications of our commitment, we begin to wonder if it was worth it. We believe that God will generously bless us. Still, would it be so wrong to hope for a little more, especially if we have made significant sacrifices along the way?

Of those to whom much has been given, much will be required in return. The closer we are to Jesus, the more we will be expected to mirror him. The great ones in the reign of God, the ones who exercise authority over others, must be the servants of the rest. Parents, teachers, civil authorities, managers of every kind, pastoral leaders must all be servants, as Jesus was a servant. We will also have to drink from his cup of suffering and be baptised into his death. As we draw close to the one who gave his life as an offering for sin, we will find that the same self-sacrifice is being asked of us. When we struggle with the misfortunes that we face because of our commitment to Jesus, we will have him as an inspiration and a model to follow. He can sympathise with our weaknesses, identify with our suffering. We can draw strength from his example and hope from his kindness. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Prayer for the Week

Most glorious God, in Jesus you show us that your will is to save. Grant to us your people the boldness to desire a place in your kingdom, the courage to drink the cup of suffering, and the grace to find in service the glory you promise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Quote for the Day

Jesus called his disciples to follow him and become like him, a servant to all. This call is reflected in this poem: "One day they would learn **the price of the last place**. They had not seen at their feet the master turned slave. They have not tasted the cup of bitterness. Today the Spirit gathers you: Enter with Jesus into his baptism of fire" *Tropaires des Dimanches*

On the Lighter Side

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also given other names. Jesus bestowed a nickname on the two brothers: "Boanerges", in Aramaic and Greek meaning Sons of Thunder. The fiery evangelical zeal and extreme reactions often displayed by these two inspired Jesus, rather humorously, to dub them "the Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17).



Liturgical Jottings Inculturation II

Inculturation process occurs when elements of a local culture are integrated into the worship of a local Church, influencing the way prayer formularies are composed, ritual actions are performed, and the message is expressed in art forms.

"In our own time, Vatican Council II recalled that the Church fosters and assumes the ability, resources and customs of each people. In assuming them, the Church purifies, strengthens and ennobles them.... Whatever good lies latent in the religious practices and cultures of diverse peoples, it is not only saved from destruction, but it is also cleansed, raised up and made perfect unto the glory of God, ... and the happiness of humankind. The liturgy must not be foreign to any country, people or individual, and at the same time it should transcend the particularity of race and nation."

Varietates Legitimae (1994) n. 18

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

Saints Among Us

Saints are often viewed as perfect individuals, entirely devoted to righteousness. However, the story of the apostles James and John reminds us that being a saint doesn't mean being flawless.

In the Gospel, even those closest to Jesus grappled with their ambitions. James and John, after spending extensive time with Him, sought positions of power within His Kingdom. Their desire for greatness humbly reflects our common human inclination toward self-advancement. Their oversights in humility, even after witnessing miracles, offer comfort by revealing our shared imperfections.

Mark's inclusion of this episode is significant; he presents the apostles' struggles authentically. This honesty in Scripture underscores that personal failure is part of faith and highlights that the journey toward holiness is often non-linear.

What strikes me is Jesus' response to their ambition. Instead of casting them aside in disappointment, He patiently taught them about the nature of His Kingdom. This reinforces a core truth in our spiritual lives: recovery is possible. If James and John, who stumbled in Christ's presence, could rise to sainthood, then we too can learn from our missteps.

Their example encourages compassion for ourselves and others. We may find ourselves aiming for the wrong things, driven by ambition or misunderstanding. Yet, like James and John, we have the opportunity to grow from these experiences. Jesus remains steadfast, guiding us back to humility and service.

Their willingness to engage with the challenges of leadership, despite misjudging Jesus' mission, shows their fervor and passion. It reminds us that enthusiasm in faith can coexist with mistakes.

As we reflect on our lives, we should acknowledge our shortcomings. Each day is an opportunity for growth and deeper connection with God. Saints are defined not by perfection but by their capacity to learn and love despite flaws. Through struggles and triumphs, we are not alone; we navigate this journey together toward holiness.

2024 Catholic Mission Church Appeal

Today during World Mission Sunday, we are called to "Invite others to the banquet", and we invite you to share the warmth of God's love with our brothers and sisters who need it most in Mongolia. You can support this work by using the appeal envelope on the pews and placing them in the collection plate or going online at catholicmission.org.au/mongolia.



Understanding All Souls' Day and Its Significance

All Souls' Day, observed on November 2, is a touching occasion dedicated to honoring and praying for the souls of the faithful departed. This day holds particular significance within the Catholic tradition, inviting believers to reflect on the afterlife and the importance of prayer in supporting those who have passed away.

On this day, a priest may celebrate or concelebrate Mass three times, as long as the celebrations occur at different times throughout the day. Typically, a priest may celebrate only one Mass per day. However, bishops can grant exceptions for special circumstances, allowing up to two or even three Masses on Sundays or holy days of obligation. The structure of these Masses is meaningful: the second is offered for all the faithful departed, while the third is dedicated to the intentions of the pope. Importantly, no offerings are accepted for either of these Masses, emphasizing the focus on communal remembrance rather than financial contributions.

November is particularly recognized as a month of remembrance for the deceased. On All Souls' Day, a plenary indulgence can be obtained by visiting a church and praying the Lord's Prayer and the Creed. To gain this indulgence, three essential conditions must be met: sacramental confession, eucharistic communion, and prayer for the pope's intentions.

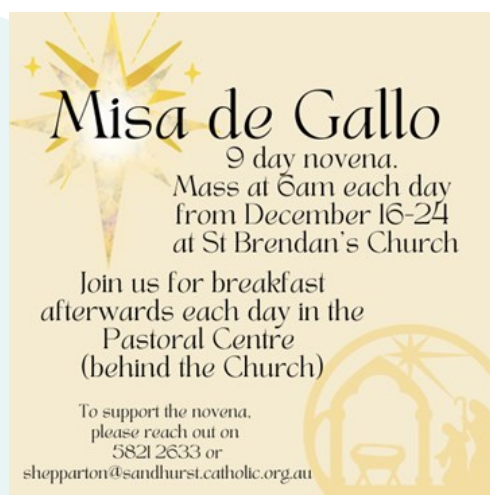
As communities come together in prayer, All Souls' Day serves as a reminder of the bond between the living and the dead, encouraging a spirit of reflection and intercession for those who have gone before us.

We will have three Masses at St. Mel's on Saturday, November 2, 2024.

9:15am - Weekday Mass @ St Mel's Church

11:30 am - Outdoor Mass @ St Anne's College, Kialla

5:00 pm - (Italian Mass) / Vigil for Sunday @ St Mel's Church



Parish Volunteers Bring a Plate Christmas Dinner.

Wednesday, 11 December from 6 pm in the Gathering Room.

We encourage all parish volunteers to join us for a festive evening!

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.

Memorial Mass

Join us to honor and remember the lives of our recently deceased, especially those who have passed in the last year

Wednesday 20 November 2024 @ 7pm

St Mel's Catholic Church
18 Hamilton Street, Shepparton

All welcome

St Mel's Parish Sacramental Program

This year we have 18 Candidates journeying towards the Sacraments of Initiation.

The Candidates and their families will be attending our Parishes Masses TODAY Sunday 20 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 our Church community.



November Masses

As we approach November, we have the opportunity to honor our departed loved ones in a special way. We are encouraged to use dedicated envelopes to inscribe the names of our cherished departed family and friends. These envelopes will be placed before the altar, where Masses will be offered for their souls throughout the entire month of November. The envelopes will be blessed with holy water, symbolizing our baptism and our connection to the Church.

We believe that the use of holy water is a powerful representation of our love for the Trinity and our commitment to living according to Christ's teachings. This tradition provides a beautiful way to honor our departed loved ones and deepen our connection to the sacraments and to God. It's important to note that public announcement of the names in the envelopes is not necessary for the effectiveness of the prayers. The intention is a spiritual act, and its effectiveness is not influenced by public announcement.

Additionally, we kindly ask for your support in offering mass intentions with a donation, which will concretely show our participation in the celebration. This year, the proceeds of the donation through the November envelopes will go to the Rogationist Mission in Kigali, Rwanda for the construction of a school for underprivileged children in the countryside.

We understand that there may be special occasions during November, such as death anniversaries or birthdays of loved ones, and we will still accept separate mass intentions for them inscribed on the (white) Please Offer Holy Mass envelopes. These special occasions will be mentioned in the bulletin and prayers of the faithful. However, for all other intentions for our departed loved ones, we kindly request that they be channeled through the (yellow) November Masses envelopes.

Your participation and support in this meaningful initiative are greatly appreciated. Let us come together as a community to remember and honor our departed loved ones and to support a noble cause.



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
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www.smps.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 29th
October**

Commentators
9:30am Gabrielle Barrette
5pm Filipino Community

Lectors
9:30am Pauline Pettigrew (L1) Mary Calandro (L2)
5pm Filipino Community (L1) (L2)

Special Ministers
9:30am Trish Mathisen & Lucy Ciancio
5pm Lin Waite & Sr Pam Barlow

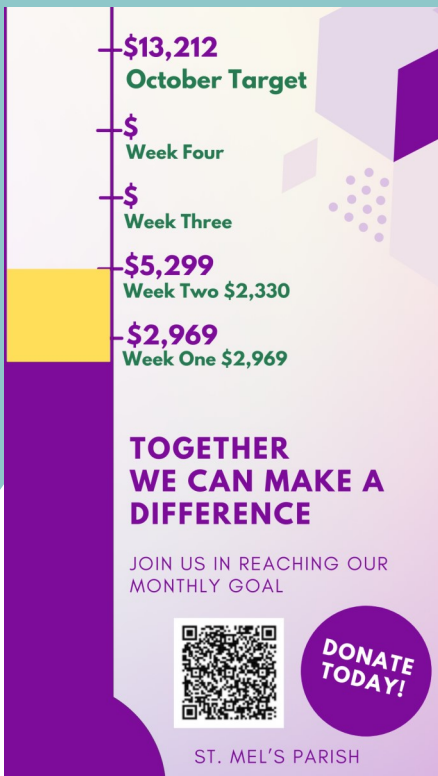
Support your Parish!

Help fund our initiatives to move from maintenance to mission!
"Together we do more"
Use the QR Code to access our Donations Page.



The Holy Rosary at St Mel's Parish

Before each Sunday Mass in October the Rosary will be recited in St Mel's Church, commencing at 9am and again at 4:30pm. If anyone would be interested to assist in leading the Rosary, please see Maureen or contact the office.



Parish Volunteer Safeguarding Forms and WWCC Requirements

TODAY Sunday 20 October, the Parish office will be open following the 9:30am Mass, with administration officers available to support Parishioners who are still needing to complete these requirements for Safeguarding. We can assist with applying for or linking your WWCC, and will have hard copies of forms to be signed. Please bring with you your Working With Children Card and have your mobile phone.

5pm Choir Roster

- 1st Sunday of the month - Samoan Choir
- 2nd Sunday of the month - Denise accompanied by Sam and Maree
- 3rd Sunday of the month - Samoan Choir
- 4th Sunday of the month - Filipino Choir
- 5th Sunday of the month (approx. 4 x per year) will be rotated by the above

****Please note, changes to this schedule may be made, this is a rough guide****

We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of

Recently Deceased:
Sebastiano Amodio

Anniversaries:
Rebecca Kelly,
Carmela Gallace,
Antonino Andronaco, Guilia Tassone, Girolamo Tassone, Mary Monaghan



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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
or visit our website at www.smps.org.au