



This Week's Readings

Acts 13:14,43-52
Apocalypse 7:9,14-17
John 10:27-30

Next Week's Readings

Acts 14:21-27
Apocalypse 21:1-5
John 13:31-35



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Readings

The Gospel today is the third "instalment" of the reading on the Good Shepherd. The first two instalments are read on Fourth Sundays of Easter in cycles A & B. Hence this Sunday is called "Good Shepherd Sunday". In the Sundays of Ordinary Time and major feast days the first reading from the Old Testament relates to the Gospel. In Easter and Lent, not so. There are no readings from the Old Testament during Easter Season, since the first readings are from the Acts of the Apostles that describe the Apostles' proclamation of the Risen Lord Jesus and the growth of early Christian communities that gather in prayer, celebrate baptisms and the "Lord's Supper" and minister in charity to one another.

The image, however, of the Good Shepherd developed by Christ in John's Gospel has several Old Testament precedents. Jeremiah 23:1-6 (read on 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time cycle C on 20 July 2025), Ezekiel 34:11-6 (read on the feast of the Sacred Heart this year and on the feast of Christ the King next year.). On each of these days the reading is followed by Psalm 22(23), the Lord is my Shepherd. The Psalm Response today is "We are his people, the sheep of his flock." (Ps 99:3)

This Psalm relates to the Gospel which, this year focuses on the people. The people listen to his voice, receive life and unity and enjoy the sense of belonging to God. His Son leads them. In a nutshell the Good Shepherd gives life to his people.

Did You Remember?

The Second Reading from the book of the Apocalypse 7:9,14-17 is very much the same as the First Reading on the Feast of All Saints (Friday 1 Nov 2024 - Apoc 7:2-4, 9-14) except today verse 17 is included: "Because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water." The scene described in John's vision is portrayed in a complex 15th-century polyptych altarpiece in St Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent, Belgium.

Prayer for the week

God, the true Shepherd, thank you for your care and protection. Today, I will do what I can to help your work. Make me aware of the people in my life who are weak, injured, straying, or lost. With your help, I will do what I can to strengthen them, heal them, and bring them back to you. Perhaps, I too can be more like a shepherd, than like a sheep that merely follows the crowd or gets lost.

(source: Catholic Youth Bible, appropriate for Vocations Sunday)

On the Lighter Side

"It is the duty of a good shepherd to shear his sheep, not to skin them." Tiberius"



Liturgical Jottings Mass Offerings 3

In the Mass the Body of Christ, the entire Church, is offered to the Holy Trinity. With Christ, the Church is offered whole and entire. It unites itself to his intercession with the Father for all" (CCC §1368). If we are to actually participate in this sacrificial action of the Church, the 'entire Christ' – Head and Body – then, we have also to offer our hearts, our very lives to God. This interior participation in the Eucharist is vital, and it is the essence of the 'active participation' called for by Vatican II. Therefore, "Christians, in all their actions, are called to offer true worship to God. The Eucharist, since it embraces our everyday existence makes possible, day by day, the progressive transfiguration of all those called by grace to reflect the image of the Son of God" (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, §71).

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Condolence Book for Pope Francis

For those who would like to express gratitude for the life and work of Pope Francis and condolences on his passing, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is collating messages sent to: condolencebook@catholic.org.au.

The Bishops Conference will respectfully forward these messages to His Excellency, Archbishop Charles BALVO, the Apostolic Nuncio for Holy See.

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

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 62ND WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS - 11 May 2025

Pilgrims of Hope: the Gift of Life

Dear sisters and brothers,

On this, the 62nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, I wish to extend to you a joyful and encouraging invitation to become pilgrims of hope by generously offering your lives as a gift. A vocation is a precious gift that God sows in our heart, a call to leave ourselves behind and embark on a journey of love and service. Every vocation in the Church, whether lay, ordained or consecrated, is a sign of the hope that God has for this world and for each of his children. Nowadays, many young people feel dismayed as they look to the future. Often they experience insecurity about their prospects of employment and a profound identity crisis, a crisis of meaning and values, which the confused messages of the digital world only aggravate. The unjust treatment of the poor and vulnerable, the indifference of a complacent and self-centred society, and the brutality of war all threaten the hopes for a fulfilling life that young people cherish in their hearts. Yet the Lord, who knows the human heart, does not abandon us in our uncertainty. He wants us to know that we are loved, called and sent as pilgrims of hope. We, the adult members of the Church, and priests in particular, are called to acknowledge, discern and accompany the young on their vocational path. You, young people, for your part, are called to set out on that path, together with the Holy Spirit, who awakens in you the desire to make your lives a gift of love.

EMBRACING OUR SPECIFIC VOCATION

Dear young people, “your youth is not an ‘in-between time.’ You are the now of God” (Christus Vivit, 178). Realize that the gift of life calls for a generous and faithful response. Look to the young saints and blessed who responded joyfully to the Lord’s call: Saint Rose of Lima, Saint Dominic Savio, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, the soon-to-be Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati, and many others. They experienced their vocation as a path towards true happiness through friendship with the risen Lord. Whenever we listen to Jesus’ words, our hearts burn within us (cf. Lk 24:32) and we feel the desire to consecrate our lives to God. Naturally, we want to find the way of life that will best allow us to return the love with which he loved us first.

Every vocation, once perceived in the depths of the heart, gives rise to an impulse to love and service, as an expression of hope and charity, rather than a means of self-promotion. Vocation and hope go together in God’s plan for the happiness of each man and woman, all of whom are called by name to give their lives for others (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 268). Many young people seek to know the path God is calling them to take. Some find, often to their surprise, that they are called to the priesthood or to the consecrated life. Others discover the beauty of the call to marriage and family life, to the pursuit of the common good and to a life of witness to the faith among their friends and acquaintances. Every vocation is inspired by hope, marked by confident trust in God’s providence. For Christians, hope is more than mere human optimism: it is a certainty based on our faith in God, who is at work in each of our lives. Vocations mature through the daily effort to be faithful to the Gospel, and through prayer, discernment and service.

Dear young friends, hope in God does not disappoint, because at every step of the way he accompanies those who entrust their lives to him. Our world needs young people who are pilgrims of hope, who courageously devote their lives to Christ and rejoice in being his disciples and missionaries.

DISCERNING OUR VOCATIONAL PATH

The discovery of our vocation comes about as the result of a journey of discernment. That journey is never solitary but develops within a Christian community and as a part of that community.

Dear friends, the world pushes you to make hasty decisions and bombards you with a constant blare that prevents you from experiencing a silence that is open to God who speaks to the heart. Have the courage to pause, to listen to what your heart tells you, and to ask God about his dreams for you. The silence of prayer is indispensable if we are to learn how to hear God’s call amid the specific circumstances of our lives and to respond consciously and freely. Prayerful recollection helps us to realize that all of us can be pilgrims of hope if we make our lives a gift, above all by placing ourselves at the service of those who live on the world’s material and existential peripheries. Those who heed God’s call cannot turn a deaf ear to the cry of so many of our brothers and sisters who feel excluded, wounded and abandoned. Every vocation confirms us in our mission of being Christ’s presence wherever light and consolation are most needed. In a particular way, the lay faithful are called to be the “salt, light and leaven” of the Kingdom of God through their social and professional commitments.

ACCOMPANYING VOCATIONS

Consequently, pastoral ministers and vocation directors, especially spiritual directors, should readily accompany young people with the hope, patience and trust that reflect God’s own “pedagogy.” They should be capable of listening to them respectfully and sympathetically, and show themselves trustworthy, wise and helpful guides, ever attentive to discerning the signs of God’s presence in their journey. I urge that every effort be made to foster vocations in the various spheres of human life and activity, and to help individuals to be spiritually open to the Lord’s voice. It is important, then, that adequate space be given to the accompaniment of vocations in educational and pastoral planning.

The Church needs pastors, religious, missionaries and spouses capable of saying “yes” to the Lord with trust and hope. A vocation is never a treasure stored away in the heart; rather, it grows and is strengthened within a community that believes, loves and hopes. No one can respond to God’s call alone, for all of us need the prayers and support of our brothers and sisters.

Dearly beloved, the Church is alive and fruitful when she generates new vocations. Our world looks, often unknowingly, for witnesses of hope who proclaim with their lives that following Christ is a source of true joy. Let us never tire, then, of asking the Lord for new labourers for his harvest, certain that with great love he continues to call them. Dear young people, I entrust your efforts to follow the Lord to the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church and Mother of vocations. Keep walking as pilgrims of hope on the path of the Gospel! I accompany you with my blessing and I ask you, please, to pray for me.

Rome, Gemelli Hospital, 19 March 2025.

Happy Mother's Day!

THE CHURCH IS ALIVE WHEN SHE GENERATES NEW VOCATIONS... LET US NEVER TIRE, THEN, OF ASKING THE LORD FOR NEW LABOURERS FOR HIS HARVEST...
- POPE FRANCIS

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 11, 2025
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

2nd World Day of Prayer FOR VOCATIONS

PILGRIMS OF HOPE: THE GIFT OF LIFE

SEND, O LORD, HOLY APOSTLES INTO YOUR CHURCH!

Together with the whole Church, let us all pray for more and holy vocations.

Join us for the
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS
11th May 2025
3:30PM
St. Mel's Parish Church

"Send, O Lord, holy apostles into your Church."

Mass Attendance Counts - May 2025

These will continue over the next 3 weekends, 11, 18 and 25 May.



Thank you to those who volunteer to record these counts each week.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Liberation & Healing

Catholic Charismatic Renewal invite you to celebrate the Jubilee Year with Liberation & Healing, a free event on Sunday 25 May from 1:30pm to 3:30pm at Our Lady's Church 102 Murdoch Rd, Wangaratta, contact Brigita – 0412 042 196 for more information or see the poster on the Narthex notice boards.

Safeguarding Training – Tuesday 20 May at 6:30pm

As required by the Diocese of Sandhurst, all parish volunteers must complete safeguarding training, which is to be renewed every two years.

We will complete this training together as a group in the Church on **Tuesday 20 May**.

Doors will open at **6:00pm** for registrations, and the **session will begin promptly at 6:30pm**.

An email invitation will be sent to all parish volunteers to RSVP. If you are unable to attend, you will have the option to complete the training independently at home.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keeping our parish a safe and welcoming place for all!



We are committed to the
NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

Celebrate & Act

Caritas Australia & the Bishops' Office for Justice, Ecology & Peace are hosting a Webinar on Friday 16 May from 12-1pm to celebrate 10 years of Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si'*, and to launch the Jubilee Action Campaign 'TURN DEBT INTO HOPE'. Register at www.caritas.org.au/act/turn-debt-into-hope.

Also on that day, Sandhurst launches its own LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN (LSAP) in Sandpiper.

Join a *Sandhurst Celebration & Discussion Hub* at St Brendan's Parish Shepparton at 12 noon on Friday 16 May OR Wodonga Parishes at 12 noon on Friday 16 May OR St Kilian's Parish Bendigo at 10.30am with Morning Tea on Wednesday 21 May. How can you help TURN DEBT INTO HOPE? How will the Sandhurst LSAP inspire your parish to develop its own plan?



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
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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 8:15 - 9:00 am

BAPTISMS (St Mel's)

3rd Sunday of the month

MARRIAGE

2 months-notice required

Parish Staff

Fr. Joe Taylor
Parish Administrator

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

May Month of Mary

During the whole month of May, there will be flower offerings to the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary before the final blessing during all Masses. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their own flowers for this purpose.

We would like to invite you also to join the rosary following the weekday Masses.

May
Month of
Mary



Office Closure

Please note the parish office will be closing earlier than usual next Tuesday 13 May at 12:30pm.

Any enquiries during this time can be emailed to sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au



We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of

Recently Deceased: Helen Duffy, Vicente (Vince) Brun

Anniversaries: Genoveffa Cirillo, Cosimo Rullo, Carmine DeGrazia, Maria Monteleone

Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

Sunday 18th
May

Commentators

9:30am Mick Hanlon

5pm Tim Kelly

Lectors

9:30am David Sellwood (L1) Trish Mathisen (L2)

5pm Luisa Cassise (L1) (L2)

Special Ministers

9:30am Sev Cortese & Loretta Hanlon

5pm Angie Knez & Cathy Cannatelli

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.

May's Target = \$14,877



\$14,877 is May's Target

\$ Week Four \$

\$ Week Three \$

\$ Week Two \$

\$3,109 Week One \$3,109

**TOGETHER
WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

JOIN US IN REACHING OUR
MONTHLY GOAL

**DONATE
TODAY!**

ST. MEL'S PARISH



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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