



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

# St. Mel's Parish

## BULLETIN

### Looking at the Readings

I remember reading the desperate line in the novel: “One day in the life of Ivan Denisovich” by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. It went like this: the day was so cruel I could not wait to evening; the evening was so cold I could not wait for morning. Misery was unrelenting in that Russian labour camp. Similarly Job reflected on his plight: “Lying in bed I wonder, ‘When will it be day?’ Risen I think, ‘How slowly evening comes!’ ” Undeserved suffering of the innocent is one of the most agonising problems to confront the human mind. There are no ready and definitive answers. The book of Job does confront suffering, drudgery, pessimism. Job’s three comforters offer little comfort or wisdom. While there are no simplistic answers we can look to those who have suffered and have endured. Jesus knew suffering, he took on our sufferings and endured injustice, insults and execution. Yet it is by the cross and resurrection we are saved.

The Gospel passage for this Sunday presents: “One day in the life of Jesus Christ.” In the morning he was teaching in the synagogue, in the afternoon he was in Peter’s house and healed his mother-in-law. In the evening many people came to him with the sick and the possessed whom he cured. Before dawn the next morning Jesus went to a lonely place to pray (Mark 1:29-35). Jesus skilfully combines prayer to the Father with faithfulness to his mission of proclaiming the Kingdom. One strengthens the other. He created opportunities for both: prayer in the morning long before dawn and ministry of healing that evening, after sunset. We cannot create time but we can create opportunities!

### Quote of the Day

Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved. *Helen Keller*

### Pope Francis: Three Attitudes on Discipleship 3

The third attitude of a disciple is the willingness to get our hands dirty and get involved in helping our brothers and sisters, We are called to be brave, to have “that evangelical courage which springs from knowing that there are many who are hungry, who hunger for God, who hunger for dignity, because they have been deprived.” (*Medellin 9/7/2016*)

### On the Lighter Side

Time you enjoy wasting, was not wasted.  
John Lennon  
The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen all at once.  
Albert Einstein

#### This Week's Readings

**Job 7: 1-4, 6-7**  
**1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23**  
**Mark 1: 29-39**



### Liturgical Jottings Liturgy and Christian Life 4 *The Word of God and human communications*

The unity of word-sacrament as proclaiming and realising the Kingdom of God must always be kept in mind. The Word of God is a gift and requires human effort both from the presenter and the listener if it is to be effectively received. And with Humanity as gift, they are to be recognised, accepted, celebrated and enjoyed in the liturgy and in life.

What we celebrate as the word and truth of God in liturgy must exercise its liberating power and function of the Kingdom of God in the church and in the larger human community. Christians have a duty to promote this true and proper worship. The word of God as a two-edged sword remains a permanent challenge to all genuine human communication in life and in liturgy.

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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

### Good News is Meant To Be Shared

Today's readings remind us that if we find the Gospel to be good news, we should share it with others. In the First Reading, we see that Job is in a desperate need of some good news, having lost his property, family, and health. Life has become a burden for him, with no reward or rest in sight. Many of us can relate to this feeling mid-week when the next break or paycheck seems too far away in the face of daily grind. However, we must admit that when we finally get that lunch break or paycheck, it doesn't bring us satisfaction for long, and we quickly return to the drudgery of life. In a seemingly hopeless situation, there's little good news to share. Yet, even in such circumstances, Job knows that his Redeemer lives, and therefore, life is not entirely hopeless.

In his Second Reading today, Paul reminds us that the Gospel is good news that should be shared with others. Just as Paul lived in a world where people faced struggles similar to Job's, we too live in a world where individuals need something to lift them up from their daily struggles. For Paul, spreading the good news was not just something he wanted to do, but something he felt obligated to do. There is no catch or hidden agenda. He is not trying to sell anything. Paul was willing to do whatever it took to ensure that the Gospel was received as good news. Through his example, Paul teaches us that if we do not share the good news, it may be because it is not good news for us. If it is not good news for us, then what is it?

In today's Gospel, we witness the early moments of Jesus' earthly ministry taking shape. He demonstrates his authority and power in the synagogue, and then he goes to Simon Peter's house and heals his mother-in-law. Soon after, people from all over the village come to him, bringing the sick and those afflicted by demons so that he can heal them and liberate them from evil. Despite this success, Jesus knows he can't just stay in one village but needs to bring his teachings and power everywhere. The Good News spreads fast, but today, people don't seem to come to Jesus for healing and liberation from the evil afflicting their lives. We have a duty to spread the Good News, but that goes beyond simply quoting the Bible chapter and verse. It means giving testimony to the impact Jesus has had on our own lives. The crowds in the Gospel today would not have heard anything if Jesus had not taught, healed, or exorcised someone they knew.

Can you help us pay for our new flags?

On Christ the King Feast Day last year, our new flags, 20 in total, were on display at the front of the Church.

It is now time to pay for these flags and the poles.  
Each flag costs \$25, and the poles \$43 each.

We are asking for donations to help with the funds.  
Any donation would be gratefully appreciated.

Envelopes have been placed in the Narthex for you to contribute.  
Thank you for your support.



## Volunteers needed at St Vincent de Paul

St Vincent de Paul Shepparton is needing more volunteers to assist on their PHONE ROSTER. This role involves answering calls at the Assistance Centre once a fortnight for 2 hours.

The Phone Volunteer's role is to take the caller's details and a brief description of the assistance they require. They then make an appointment for the caller to meet with two St Vincent de Paul Conference members.

Please ring Marg on 0438 214362 if you are able to assist or would like more information.

## FORMED - Learn about the Catholic Faith

Our parish has a parish subscription to "Formed". It has movies, video programs, ebooks, audio books. Resources for people at all stages of their faith, and for children too.

Some of its key programs are about the Sacraments eg:

Eternal Rest - Art of Dying Well

Presence - Mystery of the Eucharist

Forgiven - the Transforming Power of Confession

Reborn - You, Your Child, & the Heart of Baptism

Beloved - Finding Happiness in Marriage.

To get free access go to: <https://formed.org/signup> and insert "stmels" to get access.

Visit our website today! <https://smpls.org.au/>

## Our Patron

About Saint Mel - Companion of St Patrick

Feastday: February 6th

Patron: Diocese of Ardagh &  
Clonmacnois, Ireland



Canonized: Pre Congregation (489)

St Mel is the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Ardagh, Country Longford, Eire. The saint was a nephew of St Patrick, who bought him to Longford, and he was there consecrated Bishop by St Patrick who appointed him the first Bishop of Ardagh. St Mel was present at the religious Profession of St Brigid of Ireland, and gave her the Religious veil. The story is told that St Mel was invited by St Brigid to stay a week at her convent, and he offered Mass at the convent daily. As a gift, St Brigid presented him with a cow for each day he had offered Mass. His feast day is on February 6th. May St Mel continue to intercede so that the parishoners will emulate his holiness.

Source: St Mel's Parish Shepparton 50th Anniversary 1955 - 2005)

## Ash Wednesday February 14th

Mass times:

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| St Mel's | 9:15am |
|          | 6:00pm |

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| St Malachy's | 12:30pm |
|--------------|---------|



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## 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 |
| St. Mary's    | 11:00 am |

\*2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays  
Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

#### CONFESSIONS

St. Mel's: Every Thursday at 8am - 9am  
St. Malachy's: 30min before Mass

#### 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

**Ainsley Yandall Etuale**  
Administrative Officer

**Mel Shiels**  
Asst Administrative Officer  
Sacramental Program Coordinator

**Office Address**  
18 Hamilton Street  
Shepparton VIC 3530  
[sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)  
[www.smps.org.au](http://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, February 11th

Commentators

9:30am Anthony Holligan  
5pm Ainsley Yandall Etuale

Lectors

9:30am Mick Hanlon (L1) Trish Mathisen (L2)  
5pm Paul Bertoli

Special Ministers

9:30am Loretta Hanlon & Elizabeth Holligan  
5pm Cathy Cannatelli & Lin Waite

Next Week's Readings

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46  
1Corinthians 10:31-11:1  
Mark 1:40-45

Today, Sunday February 4th

The second collection  
from both Masses will go  
towards the  
St Mel's conference of  
St Vincent de Paul.  
Thank you in advance for  
your generosity.

Change to Mass time this week

On Tuesday, February 6 there will be  
no Mass at 9:15am

Parishioners are invited to attend  
St Anne's College Opening Mass for 2024  
on this day at 9:45am

*We ask for your prayers for*

**Recently Deceased:** Norma Phillpot

**Eternal Repose:** Manno & Maria Vittoria, Joseph Knez, Cosimo Cirillo,  
Raffaella Villani (one year), Antonino Iaria, Cecilia Iaria, Carmela Iaria



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**Vincent Tassoni**  
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& Auctioneer



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We are a child Safe  
Community. We promote  
the safety, wellbeing and  
inclusion of all and a zero  
tolerance to child abuse.

To find out more ways on how you can help improve our Parochial Community please  
contact Ainsley or 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)  
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