

WELCOME TO

ST MARYS PARISH

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Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays: 9.30am —3:30pm

The Living Word

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A — *25 October 2026*

First Reading Ex 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
   my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
   My God is the rock where I take refuge;
   my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
   The Lord is worthy of all praise:
   when I call I am saved from my foes. *(R.)*

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
   Praised be the God who saves me.
   He has given great victories to his king
   and shown his love for his anointed. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Thes 1:5-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

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Reflection *by Fr Michael Tate*

Did you notice that Jesus does not command us to love 'God'? No, we are to love 'the *Lord* your God', the One who rescued the Jewish people from slavery. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals the Lord God as the liberator from the apparent final dominance of death. Loving such a liberator is the natural response. So, 'Love *the Lord* your God'.

Then Jesus does not command us to love our neighbour! Rather, 'Love your neighbour as *yourself* .' But who is 'yourself'? In the wonderful story-telling of Genesis, we are told that Adam, an earthen statue, had Divine Breath breathed into the nostrils, creating him as a human being. We earthlings are conceived with the Divine Breath at the core of our being.

The challenge for you and for me is to see 'yourself' in that way, and thereafter every human being whose lives we can affect: the neighbour. And in today's global world, the neighbour can be a person in a society geographically or culturally distant.

We could pause for a moment to see the true dimensions of God, self and the other, to more easily fulfil the dual command.

St. Mary's Primary School

On Sunday 18 October, the school community joyfully celebrated the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Congratulations to Daniel Sibio, James Sibio, Kodinna Raymond and Boston Ferrari who received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Fr Ruel led a warm and meaningful Mass, ensuring each candidate felt welcomed and valued as they took this important step in their faith journey. It was a beautiful occasion for the school community as they celebrated these significant milestones in the lives of the students.

We congratulate all the candidates and pray that they continue to grow in faith, guided by the love of Christ and supported by their families, the parish and the school community.



Italian Remembrance Day

This year's Italian Remembrance Day Service at the Italian Chapel and Memorial, located within the Murchison cemetery, will be held on **Sunday 8 November 2026,** commencing at 11.30am. It will be followed by Mass at 12 noon.



After the service we can gather in the Murchison Community Centre or the park near the river for a BYO picnic.

Please come along and support this unique event.

Attendees are advised to bring a chair, and lunch if you will remain for the picnic.

NB: This year there will be a bus to and from the event, leaving from St Mel's.

For information about the bus service please contact Lisa's Tours on *Tel: 03 9700 1875; Mob: 0438 386 713.*

***La Commemorazione al sacrario militare italiano di Murchison per la "Giornata del Ricordo" quest'anno** si terrà **domenica 8 novembre 2026**.*

La funzione inizierà alle 11:30 am, e sarà seguita dalla Santa Messa alle 12:00.

Dopo la funzione ci riuniremo per il solito picnic al Murchison Community Centre, o all'aperto nel parco.

Vi aspettiamo numerosi a questo evento unico.

Ricordate di portare la propria sedia per la funzione, ed il pranzo se rimarrete per il pomeriggio.

NB: Quest'anno ci sarà un autobus per l'evento, andata e ritorno da St Mel's, organizzato da Lisa's Tours;

Tel: 03 9700 1875; Cel: 0438 386 713.

ST MARY'S PARISH MOTTO

"Reaching out to each other - growing together in love"

St Mary's Mooroopna acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Nation and the Aboriginal people who have walked this land for thousands of years

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm

Sunday 10.30am

RECONCILIATION

10:30am to 11:15am Saturday

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon 26/10	**No Mass**	
Tues 27/10	**Holy Hour**	**5pm**
Tues 27/10	**Mass**	**6pm**
Wed 28/10	**Mass**	**6pm**
Thurs 29/10	**Mass**	**6pm**
Fri 30/10	**Mass**	**10am**

EASY WORSHIP

Sat 24 Oct: Sarah Richards
Sun 25 Oct: AM Carroll

Sat 31 Oct: Liz Donnelly
Sun 1 Nov: Imelda



POPE HEALTH UPDATE

Pope Leo XIV has recovered well from his recent surgery. His doctors have confirmed that the tumor removed on October 13 was a lung adenocarcinoma and that the disease was localized and no further treatment is necessary. This week he met with participants in the International Congress for Pastoral Care in Schools and Universities. Pope Leo urged Catholic educational institutions to make young people feel encouraged and loved, in order to help younger generations build a better world.



St Mary's Mooroopna

All Souls Day

Monday 2nd of November at 10am

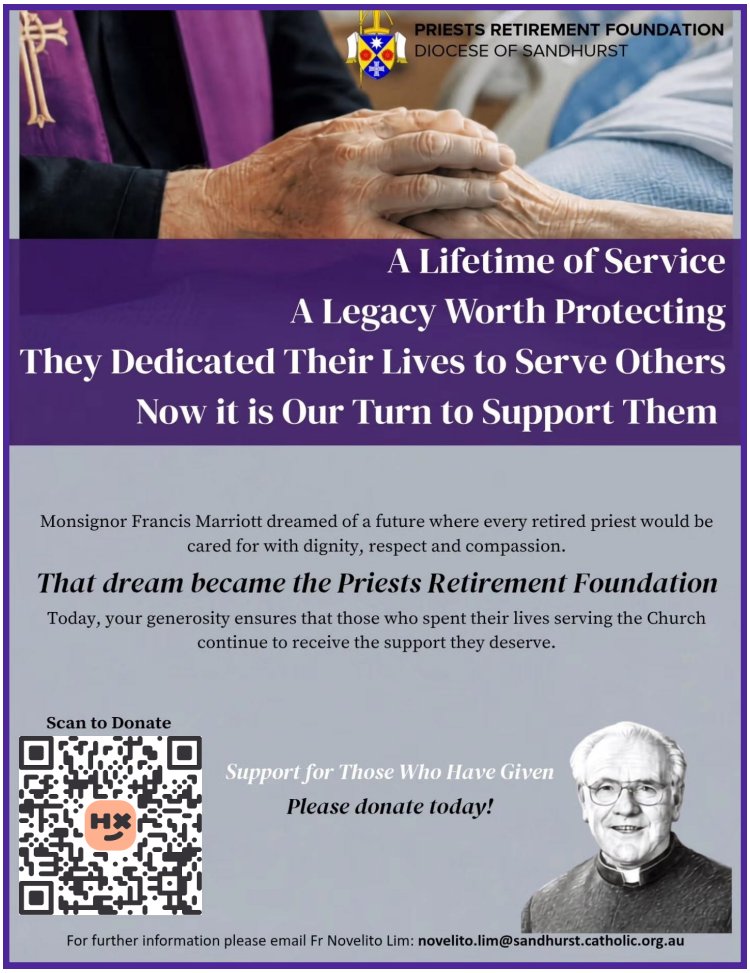
Please bring envelopes with names and place in basket in front of altar.

Note: Masses will be offered for the faithful departed throughout the entire month of November.

SANDHURST PILGRIMAGE AUGUST 2027

WYD SEOUL 2027

Bishop Rene invites potential pilgrims to apply for the Sandhurst Pilgrimage to World Youth Day Seoul 2027 from ***30 July to 11 August 2027.***
World Youth Day is an extraordinary opportunity to meet with the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, to celebrate our faith, encounter Jesus Christ, and be renewed in our call to live as missionary disciples. Millions of young Catholics from every corner of the globe will come together under the theme: "Take courage! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) If you have any questions, please contact Sandhurst Youth Ministry at sandhurstyouthministry@sandhurst.catholic.org.au



A Heartfelt Thank You

A sincere thank you to the St Mary's Bingo Committee and all the dedicated volunteers for their continued generosity and support. We are incredibly grateful for their recent donations of $1,500 to St Mary's Parish and $1,500 to St Mary's Primary School.

Your hard work, commitment and generosity are truly appreciated. Thank you for making such a positive contribution to our parish and school communities!



Prayers

Please keep Helen Haines and her family in your prayers following her tragic accident this week, which has left her with a serious disability. Our thoughts and prayers are with Helen and her loved ones during this difficult time.

Father Paul Sireh has also asked for prayers for much-needed rain on Manus Island, where the effects of El Niño have severely impacted local communities. Many residents, who rely on their gardens for food, are being evacuated to the mainland. Please pray for rain and for the safety and wellbeing of all those affected.

All Souls Day at Shepparton Cemetary

All Souls Day will be observed on **Monday 2 November 2026**. A special Mass will be held at the **Shepparton Cemetery** at **6PM** to commemorate and pray for all the faithful departed. Please bring your own chair.

Location: The Mass will be held in front of the large cross in the centre of the roundabout near ***the Vaults.*** Parking is available inside the second (smaller) entrance off Rudd Road (just past the main entrance), or on the roadside nearby. Those parking at the main entrance carpark (office area) can enjoy a short walk through the cemetery to reach the Mass location.

Readings for this week:	Exodus 22:20-26 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 Matthew 22:34-40	Readings for next week:	Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12a

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YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR .....

Sick List: Dennis Corboy, Pat Hicks, John Raleigh, Josie Anderson, Rosemary Haig, Logan Clarke-Lines, Margaret Campbell

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Sally Law, Alf Townsend, Anna O'Keeffe

ALTAR HELPERS **Sat 24 Oct:** not required **Sat 31 Oct:** not required

BINGO **31 October:** Maree, Emma, Debbie Dunkley, Jade Vigliaturo

24th & 25th October	COMMENTOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY
6:30 pm	Liz Donnelly	Mary Coad	Mavis Murphy	Angelina Vigliaturo
10.30 am	Brenda Pye	Elaine Vertriest	Liam Cowan	Brenda & Dottie
31st October & 1st November				
6:30 pm	Checca Richards	Cathie McMaster	Sarah Richards	Annette Rau
10.30 am	Liam Cowan	Inez Raleigh	Elaine Vertriest	TBA