



This Week's Readings

Isaiah 50:5-9
James 2:14-18
Mark 8:27-35

Next Week's Readings

Numbers 11:25-26
James 5:1-6
Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Focus on the Readings

Apparently, most people like Messiahs, that is, someone from outside to come, fix the problem, restore what was lost and save the day. Jesus' disciples had now come to recognise Christ as the Messiah, albeit on how they understood Messiahship – the one who would restore Israel to its glorious past. Jesus, however, again and again taught and lived a different understanding. In today's gospel he reminds them that he would be rejected and suffer death. The disciples could not cope with this.

Unfortunately, the church in the recent past and society in general had experienced the same reactions as the disciples, arguing about who is the greatest, how to dominate and to avoid suffering and sacrifice. Today we must recognise that pain and sacrifice are very much part of being disciples, living our faith and showing love and forgiveness to others.

Christ, who challenged his disciples to become like little children, speaks to our church today: we are to be repentant, take up the call for a change of heart and mind; to recommitted ourselves to innocence and holiness; to act with integrity and justice; and to safeguard the young and the vulnerable. It may be uncomfortable, and it may hurt but also it would be life giving. Peace and Goodness!

Quote of the Day

"Most people are no longer exposed to regular exhortations from church pulpits to act lovingly, kindly and charitably towards each other and particularly towards the marginalised and the disadvantaged: when these lessons are not regularly reinforced, they can easily fade. *Hugh Mackay, The Way We Are, 2024, p20*

Prayer for the Day

I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name for it is good. Ps 53:8.

Season of Creation

The groaning of creation, of Christians and of the Spirit is the anticipation and expectation of a salvation already at work; all the same, we continue to find ourselves enduring what Saint Paul describes as "tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword" (Rom 8:35). Hope, then, is an alternative reading of history and human affairs. It is not illusory, but realistic, with the realism of a faith that sees what is unseen. This hope is patient expectation, like that of Abraham. *Pope Francis, Message 2024*

On the Lighter Side

"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring."

Bernard Williams

Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!' Robin Williams



Liturgical Jottings Liturgy and Children

Jesus welcomed children, treated them with respect and recognised their innate dignity. In the gospel he urges adults to "become like them" in the innocence, eagerness and enthusiasm and willingness to listen, learn and grow in God's love. The Church from the earliest times accepted children for baptism and so initiated them into the church and the risen life of Christ.

Recognising the faith and needs of children the universal church has published particular liturgical rites and books for them. Namely the Directory for Masses with Children (1973), three Eucharistic Prayers for Children (1974, revised 2011) Lectionary for Masses with Children, (1991) Order of Baptism of Children (1973 revised 2020), Order of Christian Funerals with prayers for Children (1989). Also the Book of Blessings contain many blessings for children.

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

Reflecting on the Meaning of "Handing Over"

As we journey through life, there are moments that speak to us deeply and demand our introspection. One such moment is the act of "handing over." This act is woven into the fabric of our faith, and it holds profound significance that resonates through the ages.

The first instance that comes to mind is the betrayal of Jesus by Judas with a kiss in the garden. This act of betrayal, a handover of a different kind, serves as a sobering reminder of the complexities of human nature and the choices we make.

Then, there is the handing over of faith, the passing on of the Good News. The apostle Paul, in his letters, speaks of "handing on" the faith, emphasizing the importance of preserving and sharing the teachings of Christ.

These moments from the past compel us to reflect on our present reality. How do we live our lives knowing that Jesus has been handed over to us? Are we squandering this great gift, or are we embracing it with reverence and gratitude?

When we contemplate the idea of Jesus being handed over to us, we realize that it takes various forms. It is manifested in the atonement for our sins, in the Eucharist, in the Scriptures, and in the faith we have received. Each of us has been entrusted with the treasure of salvation, sacraments, and faith.

This leads us to a crucial question: What do we do with this treasure trove of gifts? Do we cherish and nurture them, or do we disregard their value and significance?

In our moments of doubt and introspection, we may even question if we are akin to Judas, the betrayer. It is a haunting thought, but it serves as a poignant reminder of the fragility of our human nature and the potential for both greatness and betrayal within us.

As we navigate through life, let us strive to honor the act of "handing over" by living in a manner that reflects deep appreciation for the gifts we have received. Let us seek to emulate the selflessness and love inherent in the ultimate act of "handing over" – the sacrifice of Jesus for our salvation.

May we find solace in the knowledge that while we may falter and question, we are also capable of great love, faith, and redemption. Let us carry the legacy of "handing over" with humility and grace, knowing that we are entrusted with something truly extraordinary.

St Mel's Parish Sacramental Program

The final day to return enrolment packs to the parish office for the children who wish to complete the 2024-2025 Steps in Faith program for Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist, will be Thursday 26 September.

Season of Creation 2024

A Prayer for our Earth

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Amen.

(Laudato Si', 246)



Thank you to Our Generous Donors for St Anthony's Feast Day 2024

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All the anonymous donors

(Apologies to anyone we have forgotten)

All those who brought along food and drinks for the day

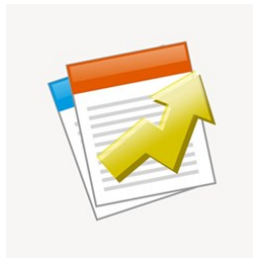
WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT YOU BRING TO OUR FEAST DAY EVERY YEAR

Annual Financial Report Conversation TODAY

A month ago an Annual Parish Financial Report was released to all parishioners. A printed copy of the report is still available in the narthex for your review.

We would like to extend an invitation to join us and the Finance Committee for a casual gathering, a "Cuppa," TODAY the 22nd of September after the 9:30am Mass at our Parish Gathering Room.

This will provide an opportunity to discuss any questions or clarifications about the report. We genuinely appreciate your devotion and commitment to our parish.



Save The Date: Annual Public Rosary

All are welcome to attend this prayerful and social gathering. Saturday 12 October 2024, 10.30am at St Brendan's Parish Church Gardens. (If wet weather: we will move to the Church). Followed by a cuppa in the MPJC. The centre will be open prior to Rosary, please bring a plate to share while socialising.

BYO: Chair/Rug/Cushion/Hat and Spectacles for your comfort.

PETITIONS: Prayers and thanksgivings to Our Lady will be forwarded by ANF to Fatima in Portugal.



Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in Shepparton in 2025

A part-time Unit of CPE will be conducted in Shepparton in first semester 2025, from 3 February to 24 June. The course will be conducted by the North-east Victoria CPE Centre.

CPE is one of the most highly recognised programs of supervised education for provision of spiritual and pastoral care, and is rarely available outside the metropolitan area.

For more information, please contact the CPE Centre Director, Dan Murphy, on dan.murphy1949@gmail.com

We are looking for Italian & English-speaking volunteers in the Shepparton, Mooroopna & Tatura surrounding areas

Greetings,

My name is Josie and I am the Regional Coordinator for the Shepparton area. Currently I am looking for male & female Italian speaking volunteers in the Shepparton & surrounding areas to visit lonely, isolated gentlemen & women who would appreciate a friendly chat once a week for an hour or so.

Currently we have around 100+ wonderful volunteers who generously donate their time to visit elderly people in the community each week to help reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness.

If you have an hour a week to spare and would like to make a difference to an elderly persons' life and a rewarding experience for yourself, please contact me by phone or email for more information.

Phone: 0481 603 740

Email: jpellegrino@coasit.com.au



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

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(03) 5831 2194

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

50th Marian Festival

Dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary



Sunday 13th October 2024

at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.

11:00 am - Mass celebrated by Bishop Leslie Tomlinson
12 noon - BYO Lunch or BBQ available
1:00 pm - Festival begins, Rosary procession, Guest Speaker, Benediction
3:45 pm - Festival concludes with afternoon tea. Piety stall in cathedral

WEBSITE: www.bendigofatima.com CONTACT: info@bendigofatima.com

— PRAY THE ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE —

Finally my Immaculate Heart will Triumph

- Our Lady of Fatima, July 13, 1917

Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

Sunday 29th
September

Commentators

9:30am Maureen Munro
5pm Tim Kelly

Lectors

9:30am Mary Calandro (L1) Gabrielle Barrette (L2)
5pm Luisa Cassise (L1) Paul Bertoli (L2)

Special Ministers

9:30am Pauline Pettigrew & Sarah Maloney
5pm Angie Knez & Erin Tanner

Parish Office Closure

Over four (4) consecutive Fridays the Parish Office will be closed. September 13, 20 and 27 and October 4.

During this time any enquires can be sent via email to sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au.

Please ensure any bulletin notices, including anniversaries, are sent no later the Wednesday prior.

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 Fatima Prayer

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.

We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of

Anniversaries: Bruno Ciancio, Antonino Andronaco, Alfonzio Aloe, Chrisan Cirillo



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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