



This Week's Readings
Jeremiah 1:4-4, 17-19
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
Luke 4:21-30

Next Week's Readings
Isaiah 6:1-8
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Readings

The first reading, from the Prophet Malachi speaks of the purification of the Temple. It is an analogy, for it is the purification of the people that will be achieved with the Coming of the Lord. The letter to the Hebrews, the second reading, also speaks of the cleansing of the hearts of the people by the one who came in flesh and blood, just like us, to do away with sin. While this feast day looks back to Christmas it also looks forward to Easter. The feast celebrates the purification, the coming of Christ, and the true Light of the world.

The Blessing and Song of Simeon and the Praise and Words of Anna are the heart of today's Gospel. Joseph and Mary went to the temple to do what the law required regarding purification and presentation. They were greeted by Simeon and Anna. Even as a small newly born these prophetic persons recognised in Jesus as the one who is to suffer and bring salvation and light to the nations.

As we begin the new year, we give praise to God for bringing Christ our light into our world. We celebrate it in Christmas and Epiphany, in today's feast and at Easter (20 April 2025).

Words of Pope Francis

The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple is also known as the Feast of the Encounter: Jesus goes to meet his people. Thus, this is the encounter between Jesus and his people, represented by Simeon and Anna that took place in the Temple. What does St Luke say of the elderly? He wrote: Simeon was a righteous and devout man, Anna was a "prophetess" In short, these two elders are full of life! They are full of life because they are enlivened by the Holy Spirit, obedient to his action, sensitive to his calls

Prayer of Blessing of Candles (2)

O God, true light, who create light eternal, spreading it far and wide, pour, we pray, into the hearts of the faithful the brilliance of perpetual light, so that all who are brightened in your holy temple by the splendour of these candles may happily reach the light of your glory. Through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

On the Lighter Side

Following last week's name count for Ezra (406) over 9,600 children were registered in Australia with the first name "Anna" from 1954 to 2023. No stats are available for Simeon.



Liturgical Jottings Candlemas

Traditionally the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple is celebrated on the 40th day after Christmas, that is on 2 February. This year, being a Sunday the feast displaces the 4th Sunday in Ordinary time. Though the Christmas season closed with the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord, the Presentation brings us back to some vestiges of the Christmas themes of Light and the coming Christ in our midst and Christ for all nations. The feast also focuses onto the Temple in Jerusalem and on candles. It is the day that candles for liturgy, prayer at home and in schools are blessed. The feast arose in the fourth century and the blessing of candles on this day in the 11th century, so called Candlemas. The last time the feast occurred on a Sunday was in 2020, the next will be in 2031.

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.



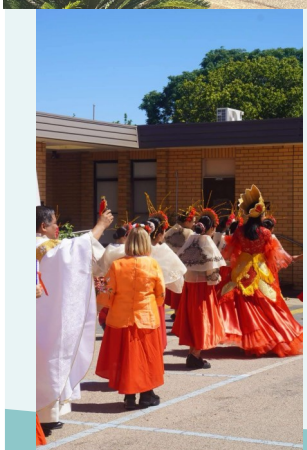
What a wonderful celebration at St Mel's Parish! On Sunday, 19 January, the parish joyfully embraced the Feast of Santo Niño, a cherished tradition from the Philippines.

The 9:30am Mass began with the vibrant Sinulog dancers, setting a spirit of devotion and festivity. Following the Mass, parishioners gathered to enjoy a delightful feast of Filipino cuisine from various food trucks, creating a beautiful sense of community and shared joy.

Such celebrations not only honour faith and tradition but also bring people together in a spirit of unity and gratitude.

A huge thank you to the committee for their dedication and hard work in organizing such a wonderful celebration, and to Fr. Ruel for his vision and leadership in bringing this event to life. We truly hope this will become an annual event, continuing to bring faith, culture, and community together in a joyful and meaningful way.

Viva Pit Señor!



Congratulations

to Most Reverend Rene Ramirez RCJ on his Episcopal Consecration as Auxiliary Bishop for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

May his ministry be blessed with wisdom, strength, and compassion as he continues to serve the Church and the faithful.

St Mel's Parish and all who have been touched by his pastoral care surely celebrate this special milestone with prayers and best wishes for his future mission.



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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Office Hours

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

Shepparton Men's Group

The Men's group from our local Parishes will meet for the first time in 2025 on Saturday the 8th of February at 7.30am in the Parish center.

The men's group meets fortnightly to share breakfast and a faith reflection topic, normally in the St Brendan's Parish center. Jesus encourages us to gather as friends often, Jesus often shared a meal with people from his community, he valued these gatherings very much. It is in the simple encounters of life that we meet our God, present in the other person we encounter. If you would like to meet other men in a relaxed environment sharing friendship over meal and reflection please consider joining us on Saturday the 8th of Feb, at St Brendan's. Any questions to Anthony Kilmartin, 58212633 Tuesday or Thursday



THE WAY OF THE CROSS
Bendigo's own Passion Play
Directed by Julie Lovell

AUDITION REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN
WE NEED YOU

SCAN TO REGISTER



Subscribe to Flocknote, to receive parish news & updates about upcoming events: Subscribe by using the QR Code.



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.



Working Bee Days

We invite all those available to assist with a working bee at St. Mel's Parish to join us on:

Wednesday, 5th February, at 10:00 am

Saturday, 8th February, at 10:00 am

A list of tasks will be provided, with jobs ranging from light to heavy work. Please bring along gloves and any tools you think may be useful.

Your help and support will be greatly appreciated as we come together to care for our parish ahead of the Thanksgiving Mass!



*We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of
Anniversaries: Ellen McManus*

Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

**Sunday 9th
February**

Commentators
9:30am Sev Cortese
5pm Trish Mathisen

Lectors
9:30am Sr Pam Barlow (L1) (L2)
5pm Steve Hicks (L1) Anthony Butts (L2)

Special Ministers
9:30am Lucy Ciancio & Maree McKenna
5pm N/A

**Sunday 9
February 2025
Mass - 5pm**

St Mel's Parish Church
18-22 Hamilton St Shepparton

Thanksgiving Mass

for Fr Rene Ramirez RCJ

Please join us in farewelling Fr Rene as he returns to St Mel's Parish as Bishop Rene, accompanied by Bishop Shane Mackinlay and Priests from the Sandhurst Diocese and the Congregation of the Rogationists.

Following the Holy Mass you are welcome to stay for a picnic style BYO dinner on the Church lawn or order from the food trucks on site.



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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