



This Week's Readings

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Next Week's Readings

Isaiah 35:1-6,10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Readings

From the readings we discover two objectives of conversion. John the Baptist (Gospel) cried out "*Prepare a way for the Lord,*" through a repentance that called for a change of heart and way of life. We cannot dwell on naming and shaming of sins but a turning away from them and turning to God. A true conversion, a real 180 degree U Turn! St Paul describes the next objective in conversion: that the Christian is able to give praise and glory to God. The "convert" sees creation anew, relates with others anew, sees the wonder, beauty, faith and love around and within and then prompted to give praise and thanks.

Therefore, our Advent response is to hear and act upon the call of John the Baptist, the teaching of St Paul and prepare for the coming of Christ anew.

Prayer of the Week

While repentance, conversion and change of heart focuses on our response and actions, we must not forget God's initiative expressed so comprehensively in the prayer:

Father, almighty and eternal God.
You are the source of mercy and compassion,
you desire to pardon sinners, not to punish.
In the human nature of your Son
you have refashioned our humanity
so that death might not henceforth blot out
your living likeness imprinted upon it.
From your own mercy you saved us,
and since through Adam's fall
death had entered the human race,
now in unfathomable love
you have restored that same humanity to
life eternal through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Quote for the Day

Nothing recommends and strengthens faithful and loyal disciples of the truth more than a persevering and untiring praise of God.
Pope St Leo the Great.
Homily 12. Advent 17 December 450



Liturgy Jottings

The ORDO III

The ORDO also includes *Pastoral Notes* on significant Calendar days.

These are the notes for Christmas:

After the annual celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Nativity of the Lord and of his first manifestations, and this takes place in Christmas Time.

Christmas Time starts from First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany or after 6 January. Priests may celebrate or concelebrate three Masses for Christmas day. Bishops and parish priests offer a Mass pro populo on Sundays and holy days of obligation. For pastoral reasons, the texts of the vigil need not be used at a evening Christmas Eve Mass: the midnight (during the night) texts may be used. The Christmas Mass formularies should be used at the correct time of day: this structure highlights the key theme of night giving way to day, light breaking through the darkness. *Ordo 2026 p21*

On The Lighter Side

The internet abounds with lists of the most favourite Christmas carols. Many include: O Holy Night, Silent Night, Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, Carol of the Bells, O Come, All Ye Faithful, and Joy to the World.

What is a mother's favourite Christmas carol? Silent night!

What is Australia's most popular carol? "How To Make Gravy" by Paul Kelly released 4/11/1996 by White Label Records.

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Parish Facebook Page

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<https://www.facebook.com/StMelsSandhurst>



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

Second Sunday of Advent – A - Let's reflect and learn.

Integral to the season of Advent is the person and ministry of John the Baptist. He was, in every way, a strange character. His clothing was made of animal hair. He ate locusts and wild honey for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. He spent much of his time in the wilderness, far from human company. When he came to town—that is, to where people lived—it was usually to scream at the top of his lungs, calling everyone to repentance in preparation for the coming of the Messiah.

No one was spared. He challenged the soldiers and the tax collectors. He called out the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Not even the commoners were exempt. While many of them were pious, some were not. And none were free from sin. John the Baptist was intolerant of sin and even less patient with hypocrites. His invitation to everyone was simple: produce fruits as evidence of righteousness.

We appreciate John the Baptist better when we understand his mission in relation to the ministry of the promised Messiah, whose coming he dedicated his entire life to heralding. John knew what the coming of the Messiah meant for his people, who at that time were languishing under an oppressive Roman regime. He was deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of injustice in the land, especially the suffering of the poor—those at the receiving end of military brutality, extortion, and all other forms of dehumanization. He was saddened that so many of his people had abandoned the path of righteousness and had succumbed to despair. Above all, he understood the urgency of his mission. He was preparing the way for the Messiah, the only true king of justice and prince of peace.

In this season of Advent, the church presents John the Baptist to us as a model. John teaches us that waiting for the coming of Christ is not merely a joyful expectation—it is also careful preparation. It requires a commitment to making the world more just for everyone. It involves fearlessly challenging the structures of sin and oppression. Often, it means standing courageously against abusive power, protesting if necessary. Most importantly, it demands that our lives, at every moment, embody the fullness of the gospel of Christ, especially its emphasis on love, justice, mercy, and peace.

John the Baptist's total commitment to his mission as the herald of the Messiah is therefore very instructive. Pope Francis reminds us, in his 2013 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) that, through our baptism, God has called us all to be missionary disciples. This means that, like John the Baptist, everything about us must point to the Christian message. It is not enough to proclaim the gospel with our lips; we must live it.

As in John the Baptist's time, our world today faces a myriad of challenges. Many parts of the world are experiencing violent crises: Nigeria, Sudan, Ukraine, Israel-Palestine. Numerous people continue to live under repressive regimes and inhuman conditions. We must never forget that we are the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus to a world desperately in need of peace, justice, and mercy.

The good news is not just the imminence of justice and peace, but that it is through our lives and ministry that the justice and peace of God will flourish.

William Orbih, Ph.D.

St Mel's Parish Sacramental Program – First Reconciliation

Last Thursday evening, our candidates journeying through the sacramental program participated in their First Reconciliation with Fr Adi, who was very impressed with their preparation and their understanding of the faith path they have chosen.

We extend our thanks to the Sacramental Team for their dedication in making this a special occasion for all involved.

Please keep our candidates and their families in your prayers throughout the holiday season as they prepare next year for Confirmation and First Eucharist.



ST. MEL'S PARISH
INVITES YOU TO COME
AND JOIN OUR

Misa De Gallo
**A CHRISTMAS
NOVENA MASS**

15-23 DECEMBER 2025
@7:00PM

"Come Lord Jesus, come!"

SEND O LORD HOLY APOSTLES INTO YOUR CHURCH

A kindly reminder to please collect your weekly and monthly Planned Giving Envelopes from the Narthex.
Thank you.



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

St. Malachy's 08:45 am

CONFESSIONS

St. Mel's: Every Thurs at 9:45 - 10:30 am

BAPTISMS (St Mel's & St Malachy's)
3rd Sunday of the month

MARRIAGE

2 months-notice required

Parish Staff

Fr. Ronaldo Masilang RCJ
Parish Priest

Fr. Ruel Desamparado RCJ
Assistant Priest

Fr. Damianus (Addin) Doe RCJ
Assistant Priest

Fr. Adi Indra
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



Cuppa after Mass is on this Sunday 7 December when urn will be boiling following the 9:30am Mass. Join us for a cuppa and biscuit, and chat with your fellow parishioners today.

An **additional Mass** for the **Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary** will be celebrated at St Mel's Parish on **Monday, 8 December, at 9:15am.**

NEW: There will be a cancellation of the Daily Mass on Tuesday 9 December.

There will be a **cancellation** of the **Daily Mass, Adoration & Confessions** on **Thursday 11 December.**

Parishioners are welcome to join St Anne's College for their End of Year whole school **Mass at 9:45am** on this day.

Daily Mass on **Friday 12 December** will **begin at the later of time of 9:30am.**

We will be joined by St Mel's Primary School as they celebrate the end of the year with us.

The next scheduled **Italian Mass** will be held on **Saturday 13 December at 9:15am.**

NEW: The 5pm Mass on Sunday 21 December will be replaced by the Misa De Gallo Mass at 7pm

Caritas Australia Christmas Appeal - Be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity this Christmas

Caritas is inviting Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. But with your support, we can bring hope to these families.

Our partner, Caritas Ukraine is on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/

2026 Columban Art Calendars

There are still a few 2026 Columban Art Calendars left for sale from the Parish Office.

These make an ideal gift for Christmas!

Come and collect one this week!!
Only \$10 each.



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.



Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

Sunday 14th December

Commentators

9:30am Mary Calandro
 5pm Tim Kelly

Lectors

9:30am Trish Mathisen (L1) Sev Cortese (L2)
 5pm Luisa Cassise (L1) Dom Poppa (L2)

Special Ministers

9:30am Lucy Ciancio & Trish Mathisen
 5pm Angie Knez & Dom Poppa

Advance Notice - Office Hours

The Parish Office will be open **only on Wednesdays** during the month of **January 2026**.

As our bulletins will be prepared in advance, we kindly ask that any items you would like included in the January bulletins be submitted to the office as soon as possible. This includes **names for anniversaries** occurring during that time. Thank you.

We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of

Recently Deceased: Virginia Gallace (in Italy),
 Nazzareno Conte

Anniversaries: Rosa Maria Zito, Kathleen Anderson,
 Ron Tanner, Marjorie Commerford



ST. MEL'S PARISH
 WOULD LIKE TO
 THANK OUR

CORPORATE SPONSORS

If your business would like to join our corporate sponsorship program for 2025-2026 please contact the parish office

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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