



This Week's Readings

Exodus 24:3-8
Hebrews 9:11-15
Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Next Week's Readings

Genesis 3:9-15
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Focus on the Readings

This year the celebration of the Solemnity focusses on the second element of the feast: the Blood of Christ. The First and Second Readings and the Gospel explicitly mentions blood, in old and new contexts. The responsorial psalm alludes to blood in the words: "cup of sacrifice". The passage from Exodus, reminiscent of the blood of Passover night, bridges the understanding of the function of blood in Israel's history and in our sacramental system. Blood is an obvious symbol of life. Therefore, just as life belongs to God, so blood belongs to God. In Israel it symbolises also the covenant between God and his people. Moses' actions of reading from the "Book of the Covenant" and sprinkling the people with blood affirmed their identity, their way of life and their destiny.

The short passage from the Letter to the Hebrews comes from a longer section (Ch 8-9) on the Mediation of Christ the High Priest. He takes away sin by his perfect sacrifice. The Eucharist provides the means for us to receive what he promises. We wait for the time when the chalice may be once again offered from the altar to the communicants.

The double festivity of the Unleavened Bread and the Passover of the Lamb is recalled in the Gospel. It is at this ritual meal that Jesus inaugurates the new Covenant gives the church the Eucharist and points us to eternal union to God.

Declaration on Human Dignity 1

This document prepared by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith was authorised by Pope Francis on 25 March 2024 and published a week later. The preamble provides a rare insight into its preparation and its several drafts and various issues for revisions. In summary the Declaration strives to show that Human dignity is a universal truth that we are all called to recognise as a fundamental condition for our societies to be truly just, peaceful, healthy, and authentically human. Key points will be presented here over the next few weeks.

Quote for Week

The day before he was sacrificed for us on the altar of the cross, Our Lord Jesus Christ poured out the riches of his love upon humankind. By this the faith of believers is nourished, hope is fostered, charity is strengthened, and a pledge of eternal glory is received. *From the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Preface in the Redemptorists Sacramentary Supplement*

On the Lighter Side

What did the bread say to the baker?

"You knead me."

When do you run out of bread?

When you yeast expect it.



Liturgical Jottings Presiding Prayers

On today's Solemnity, the Collect and the Prayer after Communion are not addressed to God the Father, as normal, but to the Lord Jesus Christ. We read: "The Priest pronounces the ... "Collect" through which the character of the celebration finds expression. By an ancient tradition of the Church, the prayer is usually addressed to God the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, and is concluded with a Trinitarian ending ..." (GIRM 54).

Today's celebration, when the emphasis is on Christ's Body and Blood, it is most appropriate to address Christ directly. Two other collects are addressed to Christ, Friday of the third week of Advent and morning Mass on 24 December, expressing the urgency of Jesus coming among us. The only other times the presiding prayers are addressed to Christ are the prayer for peace after the Our Father, the Prayer after Communion today and on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 14 September.

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

A Covenant Sealed in Precious Blood

Today, as we celebrate the gift of the Eucharist, it's a moment to reflect on the profound significance of the covenant sealed through the Precious Blood of Our Lord. In the First Reading, we are reminded of the old covenant established with the people of Israel through the shedding and sprinkling of blood. This act represented a communion of life, maintained as long as the people followed the stipulated precepts.

The shedding of blood in the old covenant was a foreshadowing of the new and everlasting covenant to come. When God became man, He chose to become the ultimate sacrifice, shedding His blood to establish this new covenant. The Second Reading underscores the immeasurable spiritual benefit derived from the blood of Christ, who sacrificed Himself for the sins of the world.

The contrast between the old and new covenants is striking. While the old covenant relied on the sacrifice of animals and the shedding of their blood, the new covenant was sealed with the ultimate sacrifice—Jesus shedding His own blood. The level of sacrifice involved in the new covenant is unparalleled. It's not merely about making amends, but about offering oneself entirely.

In the Gospel, we witness the establishment of the Eucharist, where Jesus institutes a new and eternal covenant that would be sealed with His sacrifice on the Cross. The sacrament of the Eucharist allows us to partake of His body and blood sacramentally, signifying our communion with Him. This unbloody sacrifice, offered under the appearance of bread and wine, ensures that we can access the spiritual benefits of Christ's sacrifice without being hindered by physical limitations.

As we reflect on the significance of the Eucharist, we are called to remember that it is the Body and Blood of Christ, representing the one sacrifice that restores and maintains our communion with God. It serves as a powerful reminder that a sacrifice has been made once and for all for the forgiveness of our sins. Today, as we partake in the Eucharist, let us do so with a deep sense of gratitude and reverence, never forgetting the profound act of love and sacrifice that it represents.

Retain the Lord's Prayer in Legislative Council proceedings



In response to a push by some parliamentarians to end the recitation of prayer in the Victorian Parliament, Archbishop Comensoli, along with other religious leaders, has written a letter to all Members of Parliament emphasizing the fundamental and ongoing importance of prayer. The letter can be found at: www.bit.ly/parliamentaryprayer.

There are two simple ways you can support the continuation of prayer in parliament:

~ Sign this petition to the Legislative Council: www.bit.ly/petitionparlprayer

~ Write to your local state members of parliament to respectfully let them know your views. You can find out who your local MPs are at: findelectorate.parliament.vic.gov.au. Writing to both your Legislative Assembly member and to some or all of your five Legislative Council members is recommended.

**Feast of
St. Anthony
of Padua**

9 JUNE 2024

10:00 AM
Holy Mass

11:00 AM
Procession and Distribution of the
Bread of St. Anthony

12:00 NOON
Community Lunch at St. Mel's Hall at
the Primary School

Please note that while children receive free admission, we kindly request donations from adults at the entrance to help cover the expenses of the day.

St. Anthony

St Mel's Parish
18 Hamilton Street
Shepparton VIC 3630

Come and join us!



Sacramental Welcoming Masses

Today we welcome our recently Confirmed young people who are attending either the 9:30am or 5pm Mass and being presented with their certificates. We refer to these as Welcoming Masses, as we ask all our Parishioners to help these families feel they are a part of our Parish Community and encourage their ongoing participation.



Feast of St. Anthony of Padua to be Celebrated next Sunday

After a long hiatus, the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua is set to return this year, much to the delight of the local community. The celebration is scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 9th at 10:00am, and will include a special Mass, procession, and the distribution of the Bread of St. Anthony.

To accommodate those who will be traveling from other parishes to attend, the typical Sunday Mass will be postponed from 9:30am to 10:00am. The procession will take place around the parish grounds, and the Bread of St. Anthony will be distributed following the celebration. Attendees are then invited to gather at St. Mel's primary for a Community Shared Lunch.

The organizers of the event are still accepting donations to help defray the expenses associated with organizing the feast. They are especially looking for donations for the Bread of St. Anthony, which will be blessed and distributed during the celebration. They are also seeking families who would be willing to donate their specialty dishes for the Community Lunch at the Hall.

The organizers hope that by restarting this tradition, they can return to the parish's glory days when this great saint from Padova was celebrated in a grand way. They encourage anyone interested in learning more about the event or making a donation to contact the parish office or Sev Cortese and Lucy Ciancio for more information.

The Feast of St. Anthony of Padua is an important tradition for the local community, and its return promises to be a joyous occasion for all who attend.

Parish volunteers and Safeguarding

As part of our compliance in keeping up-to-date records, our current parish volunteers with expired WWCC and Crim Checks will be contacted shortly by our Safeguarding Officer regarding providing updated documents.

Want to know what's happening around our Parish? Did you know there is a calendar on our website? Check it out! <https://smps.org.au/calendar>

Parish Census



If you haven't already, please complete our Parish Census today by using the QR code or completing a hard copy from the Narthex. Existing Parishioners and those new to our Parish are encourage to do this.



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

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



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



SUCCULENT SALE!

ST. MEL'S PARISH FUNDRAISER

2ND & 9TH JUNE

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS OUR PARISH MISSION.

9:00am - 11:30am



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 9th June

Commentators

9:30am Maureen Munro
5pm Samoan Community

Lectors

9:30am Sev Cortese (L1) Jacqui Avard (L2)
5pm Samoan Community (L1) (L2)

Special Ministers

9:30am Gabrielle Barrette & Lucy Ciancio
5pm Rosana Legalo & Erin Tanner

We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of
Anniversaries: Saverina Mammone, Libero Maiolo,
Catena Cari

NOVENA MASSES IN PREPARATION
FOR THE 2025 FEAST OF

SEÑOR STO. NIÑO

St. Mel's Parish,
Shepparton



Join us for 9 first Friday Masses
at St. Mel's Parish Church to honour
the Infant Child Jesus starting on
3rd May 2024 at 6:00pm.

18 Hamilton St. Shepparton VIC 3630



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email the office



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,](https://www.smps.org.au)
[between 9:30am to 2:30 pm](mailto:sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au) email:

sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
or visit our website at www.smps.org.au