



This Week's Readings

1 Kings 17:10-16  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

Next Week's Readings

Daniel 12:1-3  
Hebrews 10:11-14,18  
Mark 13:24-32



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

# St. Mel's Parish

## BULLETIN

### Focus on the Readings

The willingness to give all that one has is the central theme of today's readings. They offer us three models.

Jesus is the ultimate example of heroic generosity. He first offered himself as expiation for our sin. Now, as the eternal high priest, he stands before God as our mediator, pleading on our behalf, bringing salvation to those who eagerly await him.

It is interesting to note that the other two models of selfless giving are widows, individuals who are doubly disadvantaged by the patriarchal societies of which they are members. Their generosity is religiously inspired, and it comes from women who had the least material possessions to give. This kind of giving requires that we reach deep into ourselves and almost strip ourselves of our hold on life, and that we do this for religious reasons. The giving that is pictured in today's readings is nothing less than heroic generosity.

God will not be outdone in generosity. Sometimes we become the beneficiaries of obvious blessing, as was the case in the story in the first reading, the Zarephath woman who was granted a year's supply of flour and oil. At other times, we simply continue living life as usual, like the woman in the temple who was unaware of the commendation that Jesus had given her. The truly generous do not look for reward. They carry out their responsibilities and place the rest in God's hands.

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### Prayer for the Day

God, our provider, you are the orphan's hope and the widow's bread.  
Strengthen our faith, that with simplicity of heart  
we may come to trust in you alone  
and hold back nothing in serving you.

### Words to Ponder

It's interesting that we have traditionally read Jesus' comments about the widow's offering as praise and perhaps even some pride in her actions. Nothing in the words themselves give away Jesus' emotion. Try reading Jesus' words with a variety of different emotions: anger; sadness; joy; triumph; dismay. Was he angry with the lack of justice for the poor widow? Was he saddened by her plight? Does the emotion with which this passage change our understanding?

### On the Lighter Side

Why did the scone break up with the muffin?  
Because it found a butter half!  
What did the scone say to the cup of tea?  
'You're my perfect matcha!



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### Liturgy Jottings Liturgical Movement II

This twentieth century movement was supported by various popes who since 1910 initiated renewal in the worship and sacraments of the church. The chief goals of the movement—the reform of all the rites to facilitate full, conscious, and active participation within the assembly, each one according to his or her role; the rediscovery of the whole community as co-offerers; the promotion of liturgical education, in the first instance in seminaries—were adopted in the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican Council II. ... Yet future decades will continue to demand understanding and implementation of liturgical reforms, chiefly through catechesis of rites and their underlying theology. *New Dictionary of Catholic Spirituality* (1993) p 602.

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

### The Heart of Generosity

In our fast-paced and often materialistic world, the concept of generosity can sometimes become clouded by the act of giving alone, rather than the spirit behind it. When we reflect on the differences between the scribes and the poor widow, as highlighted in the text "God Prefers Generosity from the Heart," we're reminded that true generosity stems not from an overflow of resources, but from an overflow of love and trust in God.

The scribes, esteemed members of society, were knowledgeable and dedicated to the Law of Moses, and their contributions were undoubtedly significant. Yet, their approach to generosity was limited; it was measured in terms of status and possessions. This one-dimensional view is a trap many of us can fall into—believing our worth is tied to what we give externally, rather than understanding that what God truly desires is our hearts.

In contrast, the widow exhibited a profound sense of trust. By giving all she had—what some might refer to as a seemingly insignificant amount—she demonstrated an immense faith in God as her provider. Her act of generosity was not just about the coins she placed in the offering box; it was an expression of her entire being, a heartfelt recognition that her security and identity were found in her relationship with God, not in her possessions.

This brings us to a vital question: Are we giving out of obligation, seeking approval, or attempting to elevate our status in the eyes of others? Or are we, like the widow, stepping into a place of surrender, offering our hearts fully to God? Generosity in its highest form is indeed a willingness to share our very selves—not only our wealth or time, but our love, trust, and commitment.

Each act of generosity we offer—whether it be a financial contribution, a listening ear, or a helping hand—can serve as a reminder of our connection to something greater than ourselves. When we give from the heart, we acknowledge that everything we have is a gift from God, encouraging a spirit of gratitude that fosters deeper faith.

As we strive to cultivate a more generous spirit, let us remember that God cares more about our motivations than about the size of our gifts. The widow's offering teaches us that it's not about how much we give, but how much of ourselves we're willing to surrender. By embracing this true form of generosity, we align ourselves with God's desires, allowing us to grow spiritually, emotionally, and relationally.

Ultimately, as we reflect upon our own acts of generosity, let us ask ourselves: Are we giving our hearts, or simply our excess? In a world that often prioritizes the loud and impressive, may we embody the quiet, transformational power of heartfelt generosity that God truly desires.

# CHRIST THE KING

SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2024

St Mel's Parish invite you to join us  
in the celebration of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
Mass at 9:30am  
followed by a community BYO picnic on the Church lawn



## Celebrating Christ the King at St Mel's Parish

On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King. Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* ("In the first") to respond to growing secularism and atheism.

When we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and remind ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and of the entire universe.

This year we are inviting volunteers from all different nationalities to participate in the flag procession at the beginning of the 9:30am Mass on Sunday 24 November. The Parish has flags representing many countries. If you would like to be involved, please contact the Parish Office or arrive by 9:15am to prepare.

During the Mass, Parishioners will be encouraged to say the Lord's Prayer in their own language simultaneously.

Following the Mass, all are welcome to join the community in a Bring Your Own picnic style gathering on the Church lawn. You may wish to have a morning tea or an early lunch. The BBQ will be available for you to cook your own meat on, and we will have the urn boiling. Please bring with you a rug or chair and enjoy the company of your fellow Parishioners.



## Short Residential Retreats in Sandhurst

Take Time – to pray, to rest a while, to reconnect.

A short residential retreat may be just the thing. The Sandhurst Retreat and Accompaniment Team (formed by Spiritual Directors, Mary Murphy, Mark Needham, Paul White, and Fran Smullen) offers Retreats in our Diocese at a minimal cost to groups or individuals.

If interested contact: Sandhurst Retreat & Accompaniment Team.

E: [retreatteaminfo@gmail.com](mailto:retreatteaminfo@gmail.com)

## New Appointment as Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Melbourne



We are pleased to announce that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed Fr. Rene Ramirez RCJ, currently serving as our parish priest, as one of the Auxiliary Bishops of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. This unexpected appointment has filled us with a mix of joy and gratitude.

In a heartfelt reflection, Fr. Rene shared his surprise upon receiving the news. After receiving a call from the Nuncio, he visited the Blessed Sacrament, where he expressed his feelings, saying, "Now the joke is on me... why me, Lord?" Having recently transferred from the Diocese of Sandhurst, where he cherished his relationships with the local Bishop and clergy, this new journey brings both excitement and a sense of unworthiness.

Fr. Rene cited the biblical figure of Matthew during his prayerful contemplation, echoing the humility he feels in accepting this new role. "For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners," he remarked, emphasizing his commitment to serving the community with faith and trust in God's plan.

As he prepares for this transition back to Melbourne, he seeks the prayers and support of the faithful. Fr. Rene expressed particular sadness at the thought of leaving behind the parishes of Nagambie, Shepparton South, and Rushworth, where he has dedicated much of his time and care. He stressed that his priority will be to ensure a smooth transition for these communities as he works to find a suitable replacement from his Religious Congregation to continue the important work initiated alongside Fr. Ruel.

Please join us in expressing our heartfelt congratulations to Fr. Rene on his new appointment and offer our prayers for his upcoming ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. May God bless him abundantly as he embarks on this significant chapter of his service to the Church.

### A message from Bishop Shane Mackinlay

I am delighted to pass on the news that Pope Francis has appointed Fr Rene Ramirez RCJ as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. While Fr Rene's contribution will be sorely missed in the Parishes of Shepparton South, Nagambie and Rushworth, and more generally in our Diocese, I am very confident that his warmth, energy, imagination and deep faith will be the basis of a rich and fulfilling ministry as an Auxiliary Bishop in Melbourne.

We assure Fr Rene of our prayers and support in the months leading up to his episcopal ordination, which will take place on the morning of Saturday 1 February, along with that of Fr Think Nguyen, who has also been appointed as an Auxiliary Bishop for Melbourne.

More information and background is available on the Archdiocese's website: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/two-new-auxiliary-bishops-appointed-for-melbourne>

Yours sincerely,  
+Shane Mackinlay



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## 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)

3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
Shepparton VIC 3530  
sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au  
www.smps.org.au  
(03) 5831 2194

#### Office Hours

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

**Commentators/Lectors/  
Special Ministers**

**Sunday 17th  
November**

Commentators  
9:30am Mick Hanlon  
5pm Tim Kelly

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

Special Ministers  
9:30am Loretta Hanlon & Maree McKenna  
5pm Angie Knez & Dom Poppa

**OPEN FOR VIEWING**  
15-30 November 2024  
Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo  
Open Wed-Sat | 10am-4pm

**ONLINE**  
From Monday 18 November 2024  
[ceosand.catholic.edu.au/mae](https://ceosand.catholic.edu.au/mae)

**VOTE FOR PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS**  
until Sunday 1 December 2024  
[ceosand.catholic.edu.au/mae/peoples-choice](https://ceosand.catholic.edu.au/mae/peoples-choice)

**OPENING AND AWARDS CEREMONY**  
Friday 15 November 2024 | 6pm-8pm  
Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo

Booking: [forms.office.com/r/4U7dMf4beu](https://forms.office.com/r/4U7dMf4beu)  
(for scan QR code)

Livestream: [www.721.com.au/721](https://www.721.com.au/721)

**ENQUIRIES**  
Claire Spinelli  
Education Officer: The Arts  
E: [arts@ceosand.catholic.edu.au](mailto:arts@ceosand.catholic.edu.au)  
M: 0407 721 088

Regular Members, 2023, Oscar Bridgman, 11 & St Augustine's PS, Warragul - 2023 Holy Communion General, Upper Primary Art Award

**Support your  
Parish!**

Help fund our initiatives to move from maintenance to mission! **"Together we do more"**

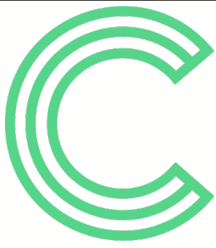
Use the QR Code to access our Donations Page and help us achieve our November Target.



*We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of*

**Recently Deceased:** Phyllis Thompson, Sebastiano Amodio (one month mind)

**Anniversaries:** Tony Cassise, Alesandro Cavallaro, Margaret Murdoch, Luke De Lai



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AGRICULTURAL & INDUSTRIAL



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](mailto:sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)  
or visit our website at [www.smps.org.au](http://www.smps.org.au)