



This Week's Readings

Genesis 18:20-32
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

Next Week's Readings

Ecclesiastes 1:2,2:21-23
Colossians 3:1-5,9-11
Luke 12:13-21



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Readings

It is interesting how the Lectionary places the first reading with the Gospel for this week. In the former Abraham is bartering with God. It seems to be with some humour or even relish reminiscence of an oriental marketplace. In the Gospel the disciples ask Jesus how to pray. Does prayer imply a degree of bartering with God? Yet another aspect of prayer is evident in the first reading and the Gospel, that is persistence. Abraham persisted in seeking to spare destruction on the city. Abraham approached God boldly but he spoke as speaking to a friend. In the Gospel another friend persisted in knocking on the door and asking for bread. In the Lord's Prayer Jesus invites us to call God "Father". This familiar term is deeply embedded in the relationship between God and Jesus, and we can observe this relationship between God and Abraham. The attributes of prayer that we glean from the readings are a sense of dialogue with God, confidence in questioning and bartering with God, a large degree of persistence, readiness to search, trustfulness and faithfulness. But with Christ, St Paul, St Therese and many others, they teach us that love is above all. Prayer both requires and generates a loving relationship with God and one another.

Prayer for the Day

Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me. *Psalm response*

The Lord's Prayer

This prayer is truly the pre-eminent symbol of prayer. Many of the early church fathers preached and wrote commentaries on the Our Father. From the earliest centuries we have the practice of handing this prayer to the Catechumens. This practise continues today for the catechumens and for children preparing for the sacraments. The Our Father is included in the celebrations of the Mass, of the sacraments and the Liturgy of the Hours in morning and evening prayer. Devotionally we pray this pray in the rosary, classroom prayer-time, prayer at parish meetings and the like.

Calendar Additions

In 2021 Pope Francis has added the memorial of Sts Mary, Martha and Lazarus to the General Roman Calendar, giving the siblings the combined feast day of 29 July.

On the Lighter Side

In the RCIC workbook a question is posed. "Because we call God: "Our Father", what do we call one another? Responses include siblings, family, brother and sisters,



Liturgical Jottings Liturgical Hospitality II

While some parishes may have designated ministers of hospitality (welcomers, ushers and greeters), the responsibility for creating a welcoming atmosphere belongs to everyone in the assembly. Everyone can contribute to the feeling of welcome and inclusion.

Key aspects of liturgical hospitality include: Welcoming attitude, Generosity, Inclusivity, Creating a sense of community, Offering practical assistance, Serving as a visible expression of God's love.

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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: LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY -Let's reflect and learn

"Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples" Jesus gives them a set prayer, which also serves as a model for extemporaneous prayer – and also teaches them about the one to whom they pray, portraying God as a loving Father whom they can trust.

"When you pray, say: our Father in heaven..." This prayer has five petitions. The first two (v. 2) have to do with God. The last three (vv. 3-4) have to do with the fulfillment of our needs. Each of those three is plural ("give us – forgive us – bring us"), emphasizing the community of faith of which we are part rather than our individual needs.

"Father" (pater) (v. 2a). In Aramaic, Jesus' language, the word for father is abba – but Luke uses the Greek word, pater, which his predominately Gentile audience would better understand. Both are a far remove from the usual Jewish treatment of God's name, which is YHWH or Yahweh. Jewish people are so concerned about possibly profaning God's name that they instead use the word adonai, which means "my Lord". The idea of God as Father has Old Testament roots. God instructed Nathan to tell David, "I will be his father, and he shall be my son" (2 Samuel 7:14). In a prayer, Isaiah said, "For you are our Father" (Isaiah 63:16). Through Jeremiah, God said to Israel, "You shall call me 'My Father,' and shall not turn away from following me" (Jeremiah 3:19) and "for I am a father to Israel" (Jeremiah 31:9). Malachi said, "Don't we all have one father? Hasn't one God created us?" (Malachi 2:10).

"may your name be kept holy" (v. 2b). One of the Ten Commandments prohibits the wrongful use of God's name (Exodus 20:7). Torah law prohibits swearing falsely by God's name (Leviticus 19:12) or profaning God's holy name (Leviticus 21:6; 22:2; 22:32). The Psalms include references to God's holy name (30:4; 33:21; 97:12; 103:1; etc.) – God's great and awesome name (99:3) – exalting God's name (138:2) – and blessing God's holy name (145:1, 21). Jesus teaches us to pray that God's name be kept holy – that it be honoured and unblemished.

"May your kingdom come" (v. 2c). This petition is closely tied to "may your name be kept holy." God's kingdom is the place where God's name is revered and kept holy. When we allow God to be king in our lives, we revere God's name and keep it holy. When we allow God to be king in our lives, we also make it possible for his kingdom to come within our own lives.

"Give us day by day our daily bread" (v. 3). The petition for daily bread is reminiscent of manna, which God gave daily and which could not be stored except for the Sabbath (Exodus 16). Manna reminded the Israelites of their daily dependence on God for the basic stuff of life, and bread serves the same function in a primitive, agricultural society, where hunger is never far removed. Daily bread, in this prayer, represents what is essential for life. God is the source of life and everything that sustains life.

"Forgive us our sins" (v. 4a). In Luke, Jesus teaches the disciples to pray, "forgive us our sins" (hamartias). "Sins are acts of rebellion against the authority of God over us. It is saying 'no' to God. The wrongdoings of person against person are not in the same class. They are in the class of debts". Jesus speaks of "sins" to talk about the ways that we offend God, but changes to "debts" to talk about offenses that we experience in relationship to other people (v. 4b).

"for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted (opheilonti) to us" (v. 4b). Jewish people know about forgiving debts. While the law prescribes an "eye for eye" Exodus 21:23-24; Leviticus 24:19-20), it also requires debt forgiveness in the sabbatical and jubilee years (Leviticus 25:23-28; Deuteronomy 15:1-5). A faithful child reflects the image and values of the father, so Jesus expects us to reflect the forgiving nature of God. How can the world learn of God's forgiveness unless we manifest forgiveness in our lives? Jesus links the giving and receiving of forgiveness – if we expect God to forgive us, we must forgive one another.

"Bring us not into temptation" (v. 4c). Christians frequently undergo trials. As he is writing this Gospel, Luke's church is encountering persecution. Today, Christians are being persecuted and martyred for their faith in many parts of the world. We would do well to pray that God would spare us the trial. We need God's protection from the evil that would destroy us. It is quite appropriate for us to pray for deliverance from evil for our loved ones, our community, our nation, our world, and ourselves.

Prayer of the Heart

Loving Father, may we truly keep your name holy by obeying your will.

Give us a heart that is forgiving and generous especially to those in need.

This we ask through Christ our Lord.
Amen. – FRM



The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated for the fifth time in 2025 on 27 July - the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Grandparents of Jesus. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's celebration is:

"Blessed are those who have not lost hope" (cf. Sir 14:2)



Take home a flyer from the Narthex with the many ways you could help support our Bake Sale!



25 July 2025

St Mary's Parish Dookie
St Mary's Parish Mooropna
St Malachy's Parish Nagambie
St Brendan's Parish Shepparton
St Mel's Parish, Shepparton South

Dear Parishioners,

As you are aware, at the end of September Father Joe Taylor will retire as Parish Priest of St Brendan's, Shepparton, after 51 years of faithful service in parishes here and in Papua New Guinea, including the last thirteen years at St Brendan's.

Over recent years, there has been increasing collaboration between various parishes in the Shepparton area, including through sharing of priestly ministry and some administrative functions. There is also a great degree of interaction between those who live in these parishes for schooling and other community activities. Since November 2023, two priests from the Rogationist congregation have been resident in St Mel's, ministering in Shepparton South and Nagambie parishes. In August 2024, a third Rogationist priest commenced ministry in Mooropna parish, though it was not possible for the three members of the community to live together.

I have discussed various possibilities for future ministry in the Shepparton area with the priests currently serving there and the College of Consultors, and have decided that after Father Joe's retirement, the priestly ministry for all five parishes will be undertaken jointly by the four priests who will be continuing in them:

- Fr Ronaldo Masilang RCJ
- Fr Ruel Desamparado RCJ
- Fr Addin Doe RCJ
- Fr Adi Indra

The three Rogationist priests will reside together as a community at St Brendan's and Fr Adi will reside at St Mel's. All four priests will work together over time to explore possibilities for building up further collaboration between the parishes, while respecting the distinct character of each of the communities.

Fr Saji Thomas MST, the Chaplain of St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Mission in Shepparton, will take up residence at St Mary's Presbytery, Mooropna. The current arrangements for celebrating Syro-Malabar liturgies will continue at St Brendan's Church, Shepparton.

As no further parish priest appointments can be made until a new bishop takes office, for the time being Fr Ronaldo will be appointed as Administrator of Shepparton and Dookie parishes, in addition to his current appointments as Parish Priest of Shepparton South, Mooropna and Nagambie parishes. The next bishop will have the opportunity to review this arrangement before making a decision about appointing a parish priest for Shepparton and Dookie parishes.

I pray that this arrangement opens new possibilities for enhancing the existing strengths and vitality of these five parishes, as well as supporting and encouraging the priests who are committed to serving them.

Yours sincerely,

MOST REV. SHANE MACKINLAY
BISHOP OF SANDHURST



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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 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

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

Dates to Save in your calendar!

Friday 5 September - Sandhurst Diocese's Celebration of the Season of Creation.

Outdoor Mass at 11:00am, followed by a Picnic Lunch (either BYO or enjoy provided Sausage Sizzle)

Sunday 7 September - Thanksgiving Mass for Bishop Shane Mackinlay.

Mass at 11:00am, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.

This celebration marks Bishop Shane's farewell before he begins his new role in Brisbane.

Sunday 28 September - Farewell Mass for Fr Joe Taylor.

Mass at 11am, St Brendan's Church, Shepparton.

The Mass will be followed by a lunch in Sacred Heart Hall (formerly known as Mons Bones Hall).

Thursday, 16th October - St Mel's Majellan Club -60 Years.

Mass at 11am in St Mel's Parish Church.

The Mass will be followed by a celebratory lunch.

To register your interest in attending, please contact:

Lorraine Corrish - 0412 848 548

Maree McKenna - 0409 956 464

More details will be shared closer to the dates.

Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

**Sunday 3rd
August**

Commentators

9:30am Dom Poppa

5pm Luisa Cassise

Lectors

9:30am Pauline Pettigrew (L1) David Sellwood (L2)

5pm Paul Bertoli (L1) (L2)

Special Ministers

9:30am Anthony Butts & Maree McKenna

5pm Cathy Cannatelli &

Join us next week!

Following the 9:30am Mass on Sunday 3 August the urn will be boiling. Stay for a cuppa, biscuit, and chat with your fellow Parishioners and purchase a sweet treat from the St Mel's Parish Bake Sale.

All welcome!

We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of

Recently Deceased:

Brendan Kelly

Anniversaries:

Raymond & Marie Barwick, Maria Maruzza, Guiseppe Iaria, Antonino Andronaco, Vincenzo Martino, Vincenzo, Gracia & Nunziata Cardillo



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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