



This Week's Readings

Isaiah 66:18-21
Hebrews 125-7, 11-13
Luke 13:22-30

Next Week's Readings

Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24
Luke 14:1, 7-14



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Reading

The response for the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 116): "Go out to all the world and tell the Good News" is sourced not from the psalm itself but from Mark 16:15. This response very concisely sums up the readings for today. I remember this line written in the visitors' book at the mission house at Kanabea, Gulf Province PNG. It was written by Cardinal James Knox then Archbishop of Melbourne over fifty years ago. I added my simple entry just below. But the words still ring loud and true. Isaiah prophesied that God's word would be carried by emissaries to far off lands so that peoples may give glory to God.

Jesus' journey to Jerusalem continues in the Gospel today. The journey started in Luke 9:51 (Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time). Jesus went through towns and villages teaching. Along the way he is meeting people who asks questions. His replies are challenging, inviting people to discipleship which entails some hard decisions to follow the narrow path, to knock at the right door, to enter the banquet hall. While the message goes out to the whole world, some choose to accept, some choose to reject. One pertinent question asked by a traveller: "Will only a few be saved?" is relevant today as it was then. We need to take to heart the real invitation to take up the cross, to follow Jesus along his path. Thirst for power, wealth and position has become obstacles on the path; yet the heavenly banquet has expandable space, there are many rooms in the Father's house.

Prayer for the Day

God of goodness and kindness, you invite all peoples to the banquet and offer them a feast beyond compare. Give us your saving grace to keep unstained the robe of our baptism until that day when you welcome us to heaven's joyful table. Amen.

Words of Pope Leo

St Peter is called to serve the faith of his brothers and sisters, and to walk alongside them, for all of us are "living stones" (1 Pet 2:5), called through our baptism to build God's house in fraternal communion, in the harmony of the Spirit, in the coexistence of diversity. In the words of St Augustine: "The Church consists of all those who are in harmony with their brothers and sisters and who love their neighbour" (Serm. 359,9).
Homily Pope Leo XIV, 18 May 2025

On the Lighter Side

There is no traffic congestion on the straight and narrow path. Thomas Dewar, 1st Baron Dewar.



Liturgical Jottings Liturgy and Charity II

The Faithful, form a holy people, should, moreover, take care to show this by their deep religious sense and their charity toward brothers and sisters who participate with them in the same celebration.

General Instructions of the Roman Missal (GIRM 95).

Charity is mentioned 10 times in the GIRM, 12 times in the rubrics and 195 times in the prayers of the Mass. The word charity is often preceded by various adjectives such as admirable, ardent, boundless, burning, divine, eternal, fervent, fraternal, fruitful, joyful, lasting, loving, outstanding, perfect, steadfast, true, wonderful, unailing and untiring.

This wonderful array of descriptors for charity provides insights on how to live the command of Christ: "To love God and your neighbour with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind. (Luke 10:27)

© 2025 Diocese of Sandhurst



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.

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:

STRIVE TO ENTER IN BY THE NARROW DOOR -Let's reflect and learn

"Strive (Greek: agonizesthe) to enter in by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will seek to enter in, and will not be able." Jesus begins his answer with two door metaphors. In the first one (v. 24), the door (to the kingdom or to salvation) is narrow, but allows admittance – at least to the spiritually fit. In the second one (v. 25), the door is shut. These are not mutually exclusive metaphors, because a narrow door can be open for a period of time and then be shut. However, the two different images – narrow and shut – require us to be careful lest our exposition be confusing.

"Strive (agonizesthe) to enter in by the narrow door" (v. 24). Elsewhere in the NT, Paul uses this word, agonizesthe, to speak of athletic competition (1 Cor. 9:25), training intensively in Godliness (1 Tim. 4:10), and fighting the good fight (1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7). While salvation is a gift of God, He expects us to cherish it as an athlete cherishes the victor's crown.

The door is narrow, and "many...will seek to enter in, and will not be able" (v. 24). Just as we cannot eat super-sized portions and expect to fit into last year's clothing, we cannot expect to be spiritually undisciplined and to make it through the narrow door. "Such restrictiveness would not surprise this Jewish audience, since it was already taught that Israel was God's elect nation.... The surprise in Jesus' reply is not that access may be limited, but who gains entry" (Bock, 245). In Matt. 7:13-14, Jesus contrasts the narrow gate that leads to life with a wide gate and easy road that leads to destruction. Like physical conditioning, spiritual conditioning requires discipline, and many people are unwilling to pay the price.

"When once the master of the house has risen up, and has shut the door" (v. 25). Note the similarity between vv. 25-27 and the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins in Matt. 25:1-13. The point is that God gives us a period of time when we can prepare for the kingdom, followed by a time of judgment. Once the door shuts, there is no longer room for preparation or negotiation. We are either ready or not ready. Suddenly, our fate rests in how we prepared yesterday. Our good intentions don't count.

"We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets" (v. 26). Such words are self-indicting. The person who shared table with Jesus and heard his teaching had every opportunity to become his disciple. In the previous chapter, Jesus warned, "To whomever much is given, of him will much be required; and to whom much was entrusted, of him more will be asked" (12:48).

"There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets, in the Kingdom of God, and yourselves being thrown outside." (v. 28). Jesus is speaking to sons of Abraham, but he warns that some of them will find themselves on the outside looking in at the great eschatological banquet. They will see the spiritual greats, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the prophets, but will not be able to sit at table or converse with them. That has to be even more difficult than never seeing them at all. To be so near and yet so far has to be heartbreaking.

Jesus' listeners would not be surprised to hear that some people of Israel will be among those excluded. There will be two surprises in the judgment: one is that some who consider themselves to be shoo-in's for salvation will instead find themselves on the outside looking in. If some of the holy men of Israel – scribes, Pharisees, and priests – are among those who will be badly surprised, we should not imagine that today's religious leaders will be immune. The second, as we shall learn in vv. 29-30, is that some unlikely candidates will crowd around the eschatological table – will enjoy full fellowship. For those on the outside looking in, that has to double the pain – being excluded while seeing unworthy people included.

"Behold, there are some who are last who will be first, and there are some who are first who will be last" (v. 30). Throughout his ministry, Jesus has been a friend of tax collectors and sinners and shared table fellowship with them (5:30; 7:34; 15:1) – a fact that sparked a good deal of criticism. Jesus, however, was signalling that God's love extends to these unlikely candidates – and was also signalling that the company at the eschatological table would be far different from that which the religious leaders envisioned.

Prayer of the Heart

Loving Father, grant us the grace to choose the narrow door that leads to you and so prepare ourselves for your coming. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen. - FRM

St Mel's Parish Sacramental Program

An information session for the 2025 – 2026 St Mel's Parish Steps in Faith Sacramental Program

Reconciliation – Confirmation – First Eucharist

Will be held on Thursday 4 September at 7pm in the St Mel's Parish House Gathering Room (behind the Church off the Hamilton St car park).

Parents wishing for their child/ren to journey through the program and receive the Sacraments of Initiation are encouraged to attend as expectations, dates and costs will be explained, any queries discussed, and enrolment packs distributed.

This program is suitable for children in Years 3 and above.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

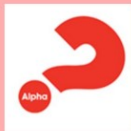
Are you searching for more peace in your life, do you feel something is missing in your life? The RCIA process leads people through what the Catholic church believes and teaches. Our focus is on how the church and our faith lead us to a relationship with Jesus, through joining a community of faith.

The RCIA process begins on Thursday the 9th of Oct at 7.30pm in the St Brendan's Pastoral centre, with an enquiry night.

The role of sharing our faith with others is central to our own faith, this sometimes happens through us asking a question or listening as others ask questions.

The RCIA team of MaryAnne Demase, Geoff Woodhouse, Sr Hartini and myself lead the process on behalf of Our Parish please keep us in your prayers and seek to be informed on what is happening in RCIA and who is involved.

Any questions can be directed to Anthony 58212633 Tues or Thursday.



THERE IS A SEAT FOR YOU

ALPHA AT ST MEL'S PARISH SHEPPARTON SOUTH

Alpha is a safe, welcoming, informal space, where you can explore the big questions about life, faith and meaning. Right now, a seat at the table is being prepared for you. No pressure, no cost. To be held at St Mel's Parish Hall commencing 6th September, 4-6pm

Book your seat at the table by calling Mel Shiels (Parish Secretary) Tuesday, Thursday or Friday on: (03) 5831 2194 or email: sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au with your contact details.



Alternatively pick up a form from the Church foyer and return to the slot next to the St Mel's Parish office door or scan the QR Code



Private Association of the Lay Faithful

TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM

Catechesis for Today's Catholic

Deepening our understanding of the Catholic Church
Weekly theology and catechesis for all adults, led by a local theology teacher

All welcome

Restarting

September 2025

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month
7.00-8.00pm

St Mel's Parish Gathering Room
18 HAMILTON STREET,
SHEPPARTON

For more information, contact Stef at 0437 943 495 or catechesisministrygv@gmail.com



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

Office Address

18 Hamilton Street
Shepparton VIC 3630
sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
www.smpps.org.au
(03) 5831 2194

Office Hours

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

YOU'RE INVITED to Sandhurst Celebration of Season Of Creation ON Friday 5th September



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 58:14-15

Venue: **Huntly Streamside Reserve**

(At Huntly, turn west into Leans Rd then right at sign into Streamside Reserve)



Time: Mass celebrated by Fr Joe Taylor VG at 11am

Picnic Lunch - Sausage sizzle provided

BYO lunch if preferred
BYO water bottles

Blessing & Distribution of native plants to schools & parishes of Sandhurst diocese



EVERYONE is invited and encouraged to come along and celebrate in this beautiful bush setting.



PEACE WITH CREATION
SEASON OF CREATION 2025



CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL SANDHURST

Pilgrims of Hope Renewal Day

Jeremiah 29:11-14

Come along for a time of Praise and Worship, fellowship, faith formation, understanding gifts of the Holy Spirit including

Charismatic Mass celebrated by

Fr Arun Korlakanti *Spiritual Chaplain CCR*

Saturday 6th September 2025

9.30 cuppa-3.00pm

St Brendan's

Knight St. Shepparton

at Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre

Lunch: Please bring a plate to share

All welcome

An offering will be taken up

Contact: Brigita Hore: 0412 042 196

Mary Zobec: 0427 190 282 Denise Illot: 0407 506 813

51st Marian Festival

Dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary



"Finally my Immaculate Heart will Triumph."

- Our Lady of Fatima, July 13, 1917

SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2025

at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.

Coach to the Marian Festival, Bendigo

To book the coach to travel across to Bendigo for the Marian Festival, we need numbers by September 10.

We depart from St Brendan's Parish Car Park, Shepparton at 8am.

Payment is required by 25 September.

Contact Maureen:
0403 876 578.



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



Celebrate with us
our Asst. Priest's

16th Priestly
Anniversary



Join us for a cuppa and some
togetherness next Sunday 24 August at
11:00am in the St Mel's Parish House
Gathering Room!
Tea and Coffee will be provided.
Please bring a plate of food to share.



We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of

Recently Deceased: Annette Cortese
Vincent Italia (one month mind)
Anniversaries: Cosimo Carè



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

Phone
(03) 58 312 194
Email

sheppartonsouth@san
dhurst.catholic.org.au

**Stockdale
& Leggo**

We see more than property.

0417 374 105

Vincent Tassoni
Licensed Estate Agent & Auctioneer



Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

**Sunday 31st
August**

Commentators

9:30am Dom Poppa
5pm Tim Kelly

Lectors

9:30am Anthony Butts (L1) David Sellwood (L2)
5pm Luisa Cassise (L1) Paul Bertoli (L2)

Special Ministers

9:30am Pauline Pettigrew & Sarah Maloney
5pm Angie Knez & Erin Tanner

UPDATED - Italian Masses at St Mel's

Starting in September, the Daily Mass at 9:15am on the
Second Saturday of every month will be celebrated in Italian.
All welcome!

Upcoming Italian Masses for 2025:

Saturday 13 September - 9:15am
Saturday 11 October - 9:15am
Saturday 8 November - 9:15am
Saturday 13 December - 9:15am

Little Red Skips



**Helping with all
your dirty needs**

Skip bins available in
2, 3, 5, 7+ metres

Hook bins available in
12, 20, 32, 37 metres

We also have equipment and people to help you clean up
Call Joey for a bin delivery / quote

0428 713 708
Rubbish@littleredskips.com.au



21 Watson Street, Shepparton VIC 3630
T 03 5821 9055 F 03 5831 3634 M 0408 055 748
www.sheppartonfoodservices.com.au
orders@sheppartonfoodservices.com.au



GV Live Well Support
Services

Offering Complex Care,
Community Connection +
Group Activities for
People with Disabilities in
the Greater Shepparton
Area.

Call Tim 0401 959 376
gvlivewell.com.au



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