



This Week's Readings  
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8  
James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Next Week's Readings  
Isaiah 35:4-7  
James 2:1-5  
Mark 7:31-37



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

# St. Mel's Parish

## BULLETIN

### Focus on the Readings

Australians, it is said, have a different approach to rules and laws than other peoples arising from the time of the original British settlement consisting of convicts and their unruly guards. We have sayings like "you can bend the rules but not break them"; and "laws are more honoured in their breach rather than in their keeping". Yet the number of laws and rules are rapidly increasing in our society, for example in taxation, security, employment and sports. Moses encouraged obedience to laws and customs and emphasised their role to maintain right relationship with God and one another. God's laws, perhaps, more importantly defined their identity as a people and their collective wisdom.

But laws are very susceptible to human ways, whether the laxity found in Australian society, or the strictness found in Jesus' time and place. His words are encouraging people to regain right relationships and keep constant vigilance on interpretations and reviews of laws. Moreover our motivation for action must be from good intentions and loving hearts.

### The Letter of St James

For the five Sundays of September, we have a sequence of readings from the letter of St James. It called a catholic letter, for it is not written to a specific church community (Corinth or Romans) but for universal "catholic" audience. The letter is more of a manual for Christian life. The themes of social justice, peace and goodness are expressed through the Christian's right actions.

### Season of Creation 2024

This year's Season of Creation theme is "Hope and act with Creation" and our guiding inspiration is the symbol "The first fruits of hope", from Romans 8:19-25.

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration that calls us together each year to pray and respond jointly to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family from around the world comes together to listen to and care for our common home. The "Celebration" begins on 1st September, the Feast of Creation, and concludes on 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

### On the Lighter Side

The use of humour by judicial officers is subject to regulations. Inappropriate judicial humour may under-mine core judicial values of impartiality and neutrality, possibly leading to a loss of public confidence and legitimacy. Appropriate judicial humour can have a valuable role in the courtroom.

*Melbourne University Law Review Vol 38 pp 621-664*



### Liturgical Jottings Adaptions in the Liturgy 2

Adaptations are made to enhance the liturgy for local churches noting their culture, sensibilities and social standards. These adaptations may include colour of the vestments, the materials for sacred vessels, altar and other furnishings that are both distinctive and worthy. Gestures and bodily postures as in the sign of peace, times for kneeling, standing and sitting and signs of reverence in bows and genuflections are also adapted to national or regional customs. The presentation of the gifts in some cultures are accompanied by dance and rhythmic clapping. While the instruction in the order of funerals disallowed the placing of national flags on the coffin, several Bishops' conferences around the world have allowed the practice as a worthy expression of the person's life-story. The Prayers of the faithful are locally composed to express current and local intentions.

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

Living a Genuine Faith: Looking Beyond the Exterior

In the journey of faith, it's easy to get caught up in the external aspects of religious observance. We can attend religious services, refrain from outwardly sinful behaviors, and perform acts of piety for public approval. But as we strive to portray an exemplary image on the outside, it's crucial to examine the condition of our hearts.

Jesus emphasized the importance of inner transformation and genuine faith. He warned against the dangers of hypocrisy, pointing out that a divided life, where external appearances mask internal attitudes, cannot endure. The temptation to prioritize outward appearances over inward authenticity is a timeless struggle, as relevant today as it was in the time of the Pharisees.

True faith isn't about projecting a flawless image to the world while nurturing self-centered desires and questionable intentions within. The call to authentic faith challenges us to align our external actions with our internal convictions, to live in accordance with what we truly believe.

Genuine faith flows from the heart, the seat of our decisions and the wellspring of our relationship with God. Our outward expressions of piety should be a natural overflow of the internal transformation that takes place as a result of our encounter with Christ.

It's a sobering reminder that our relationship with God isn't just about following rituals or showcasing external piety; it's about the transformation of our inner selves. Our faith should shape not only our actions but also our thoughts and intentions. As the saying goes, "where our hearts are, there our treasure is." Our true commitment to Christ lies in the depths of our hearts, where we make choices that align with our conscience and God's will.

It's crucial to remember that our sincerity in faith is not for the sake of appearances or self-righteousness; it's about nurturing a genuine and heartfelt relationship with God. Let's strive to live in a way that reflects the love, grace, and compassion that God has shown us.

As we celebrate Father's Day, let's also take the time to appreciate and honor the fathers and father figures in our lives. Whether it's our biological fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, or mentors who have provided guidance and support, let's express our gratitude for their presence and influence. Happy Father's Day to all the fathers who continue to inspire us with their love and wisdom.

## Annual Financial Report

Dear Parishioners,

I am delighted to present our Parish Annual Report, offering a comprehensive overview of our financial standing. Your continued support is vital in addressing the economic challenges our parish is currently facing. Your generosity has a significant impact, and we are sincerely grateful for your contributions. If possible, we kindly encourage you to consider increasing your financial pledge to further enhance our services and address our pressing financial strains. A printed copy of the report will be available in the narthex for your review. We would also like to extend an invitation to join us and the Finance Committee for a casual gathering, a "Cuppa," on the 22nd of September after Mass at our Parish Gathering Room. This will provide an opportunity to discuss any questions or clarifications about the report. We genuinely appreciate your devotion and commitment to our parish.

Warm regards,  
Fr Rene Ramirez, RCJ



## Paris 2024 Paralympic Games August 28 - September 8

This year there seems to be increased focus and awareness of the 160 Aussie athletes who are chasing their dreams on the Paralympic stage. Australia will compete in 17 of the 22 sports in the program. Some athletes have changed sports since they competed in Tokyo.

Almost 40% of this team will make their Paralympic debut. Watch Ch. 9 for Col Pearse from Echuca district as he swims S10 butterfly (100m), SB9 backstroke (100m) and SM10 individual medley (200m) (different codes for different events/strokes). Athletes are grouped by the degree of activity limitation.

As we enjoy the Games, we can't help being inspired by athletes who face daily challenges as they train and compete. Every athlete has an extraordinary story to tell of courage, sacrifices and commitment that most of us will never understand.

Mary Pianta. Disability Contact Coordinator



## Priests Retirement Foundation Appeal for retired Priests of Sandhurst

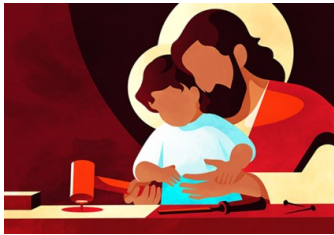
We have 12 retired Priests. Fundraising assists the provision of housing, annual recurrent and everyday expenses. The Foundation relies on the generosity of the priests and people of the Diocese. A special collection will be taken on the weekend 14/15 September and is the major fundraiser of the year. Your Donations (tax deductible) are essential. This day is an opportunity to thank God for their ministry and dedication; and to pray for our priests, active and retired. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Those requiring receipts of donations over \$10 are to please use the envelopes provided.

Thank you.

# Happy Father's Day!

## A Prayer for Father's Day

Dear Lord, Help me to love my dad in a way that would bring honor to You and him. Help me to see beyond the external differences and into His eternal realm. Help me to live out "Love never fails" with my dad. Amen.



**YOU'RE INVITED to**  
**Sandhurst Celebration of**  
**Season Of Creation on**  
**Friday 6th September**



**Venue:**  
**Huntly Streamside Reserve**  
(At Huntly, turn into Leans Rd then right at sign into Streamside Reserve)

Time: **Mass celebrated by Bishop Shane at 11am**  
BYO chair encouraged although some seating available

**Picnic Lunch** to follow  
Sausage sizzle provided  
(BYO lunch if preferred or dietary requirements preclude)  
BYO water bottles – water available on site  
BYO Hot / Cold beverages



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



**TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

## Greater Shepparton Winter Night Shelter (GSWNS)

**"Whatever you do for others, you do for me" (Matt 25:45)**

The GSWNS has officially finished for Winter. Thank you for your prayer and the support of many, who have been hungry or needed clothing. They are most grateful. Food donations are always welcome at the South Shepparton Community Centre. Contact Maree McKenna (0409 956 464).



## Coach to the Marian Festival Bendigo, Sunday 13 October

To book the coach to travel across to Bendigo for the Marion Festival, numbers are needed by September 7. Contact Maureen 0403 876 578.

## Men's Group

Our next men's group meeting will be on Saturday the 7th of September in the MPJC at 7.30am. We will meet to reflect on the Sunday Gospel, finding what message the scripture readings have for each of us. We often hear that the Gospels readings are living and active, meaning that the spirit of God inspires, guides and enlightens us, as we sit and ponder the sacred texts. Please come along and join us, 7.30 am for breakfast followed by our reflection, questions to Anthony 58212633 Tues, Thurs



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



## 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 8th  
September**

Commentators  
9:30am Trish Mathisen  
5pm Samoan Community

Lectors  
9:30am Sev Cortese (L1) David Sellwood (L2)  
5pm Samoan Community (L1) (L2)

Special Ministers  
9:30am Lucy Ciancio & Gita Kelleher  
5pm Rosana Legalo & Erin Tanner

The urn will be boiling after  
9:30am Mass this Sunday. Stay for  
a cuppa, biscuit, and chat with  
your fellow Parishioners.



In next week's bulletin...

A reflection and photos  
from Fr Ruel's 15th  
Priestly Anniversary  
Celebrations.



*We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of*  
**Anniversaries:** Sam Cocca, Nello Tassoni, Eugenio Calandro  
Vincenzo Rocco, Giuseppe Mamone

**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

**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.



**CORBETTS  
CHARTERED  
ACCOUNTANTS  
& ADVISORS**

60 High Street  
Shepparton VIC 3630  
Phone: 03 5820 1300  
www.corbetts.com.au

ST. MEL'S PARISH WOULD  
LIKE TO THANK OUR

**CORPORATE  
SPONSORS**

**Stockdale  
& Leggo**

Shepparton  
We see more than property.

**0417 347 105**



**Vincent Tassoni**  
Licensed Agent  
& Auctioneer



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



*Making your house a home!*  
Phone: 5831 5226



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, 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.smeps.org.au](http://www.smeps.org.au)