



WELCOME TO ST MARYS PARISH

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PH: 5825 2034

Parish Priest: Fr Ronald Masilang RCJ

Assistant Priest: Fr Addin Doe RCJ, Fr Ruel Desamparado RCJ, Fr John Paul Pasala

Parish Secretary: Laura Lawn

Email address: mooropna@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays: 9.30am — 3:30pm

The Living Word

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

23 August 2026

First Reading **Is 22:19-23**

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;

do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. *(R.)*
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and
love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. *(R.)*
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the
lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. *(R.)*

Second Reading **Rom 11:33-36**

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give

him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 16:18**

Alleluia, alleluia!

*You are Peter, the rock on which I will
build my Church;*

*the gates of hell will not hold out
against it.*

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 16:13-20**

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.



Reflection *by Fr Michael Tate*

Jesus had a sense of humour! Simon, son of Jonah, was far from being a rock solid supporter of Jesus. So Jesus gave him the nickname 'Rocky' which in the Greek is Petros.

Jesus puns with the nickname: 'You are Rocky and upon this rock I will build my church.' The natural personality of shifting sands was being transformed by the blessing just given (the only blessing bestowed upon an apostle by Jesus).

Notice that Jesus only makes promises about 'my church', not a church shaped by human imagination, e.g. modes of Roman Imperial rule or with a Eurocentric mindset.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Risen Lord showers the successor of St Peter with every blessing so that the Church of Jesus the Christ continues to prevail over the forces of death which threaten humanity.

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St Mary's Primary School

Grade 4 - 6: Sacrament of First Eucharist and Confirmation:

- Thursday 3rd September – Sacramental Lessons - Confirmation
- Thursday 17th September – Sacramental Lessons - Eucharist
- Friday 9th October - Sacramental Reflection Day for all Grade 4-6 students
- Sunday 11th October - Celebration of First Eucharist and Confirmation at Parish mass.

A letter from the Bishop

To the People of God of
St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton;
St Mel's Parish, Shepparton South
St Mary's Parish, Mooroopna;
St Mary's Parish, Dookie;

Many of you might be aware that at the 9:30am Mass at St Mel's Parish on Sunday, Fr Ronald Masilang RCJ, your Parish Priest and Administrator, announced that he will be finishing his duties across the parishes of Shepparton South, Shepparton, Mooroopna, Nagambie and Dookie at the end of the month. Fr Ronald had informed me of his intentions in the first week of August, and we agreed to announce this in due course, with proper context. He has since shared the news earlier than we had planned. It was my intention to inform you in a timely manner, so I am writing now to apprise you of the full picture.

Fr Ronald began as Parish Priest of St Mel's Shepparton South, St Mary's Mooroopna and St Malachy's Nagambie in June 2025, and became Administrator of St Brendan's Shepparton and St Mary's Dookie in October 2025. It was my original intention to offer him further support to continue in the Shepparton cluster, however he has chosen to return to the Philippines and I must respect his freedom in this decision. I thank him for his commitment and leadership in guiding you in worship and the sacraments over these months during his time in the diocese.

I acknowledge that the last several months have been an unsettled time for the five parishes. I wish to publicly recognise the extensive work undertaken by Fr Brian Boyle while Diocesan Administrator, who endeavoured to work through a number of challenging situations in the cluster.

I am currently working closely with the Rogationist fathers to appoint a new Administrator to the cluster. In the meantime, a supply priest from one of the Rogationist communities in Melbourne will come to help. Fr Ruel, Fr Addin and Fr John Paul will continue to support the parishes as before.

I ask for your patience, charity and understanding as we work together to address this current situation. As we come from the recent Solemnity of the Assumption, I entrust all of you, Fr Ronald, and all our clergy to the intercession of Our Lady.



With every blessing in Christ,
Most Rev René Ramirez, RCJ

ST MARY'S PARISH MOTTO

"Reaching out to each other
- growing together in love"

St Mary's Mooroopna acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Nation and the Aboriginal people who have walked this land for thousands of years

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm

Sunday 10.30am

RECONCILIATION

10:30am to 11:15am Saturday

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon 24/08	No Mass	
Tues 25/08	Holy Hour	5pm
Tues 25/08	Mass	6pm
Wed 26/08	Mass	6pm
Thurs 27/08	Mass	6pm
Fri 28/08	Mass	10am

EASY WORSHIP

Sat 22 Aug: Sarah Richards
Sun 23 Aug: Sarah Richards

Sat 29 Aug: Imelda
Sun 30 Aug: AM Carroll

St Mary's Baptism Dates 2026	Formation Meetings Dates for 2026
Sunday 20 September	• Tuesday 13 October from 7pm in the Church.
Sunday 18 October	
Sunday 15 November	

SAVE THE DATE

10th Anniversary of the
Annual Public Rosary

Saturday 10 October 2026 at 10:30am

St Brendan's Parish Gardens
More details to come
Maureen: 0403 876 578



52nd Marian Festival

Sunday 11 October 2025

Pray the Rosary for World Peace

Sacred Heart Cathedral
Bendigo



Expressions of Interest

Save the Date: Marian Festival at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo on Sunday 11 October 2026. More details to come.

To assist with booking a coach, we are seeking expressions of interest. If you would like to travel by coach, please contact Maureen by **Tues 1 Sept** on 0403 876 578.



SEASON OF CREATION GATHERING 2026

Listen • Reflect • Act

3-4 September 2026 (Online)

Register Today!

caritas.org.au/soc-gathering

Sunset Sessions Young Adults

Young adults aged 18-35 are invited to join us on Friday 28 August for a discussion in the Pastoral Centre (behind St Brendan's Church), followed by dinner together from 6pm to 8pm.

For more info please contact
shepparton.ym@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Mass in Filipino

Come and celebrate
mass in Filipino
in honour of
San Lorenzo Ruiz
(First Filipino Saint &
Martyr)



**Saturday 29 August at 6pm
at St Mel's Parish in Shepparton**

Every 4th Saturday of the month,
beginning in August.

Join us for coffee, tea &
snacks after mass.

Enquiries: 0431 578 370

**YOU'RE INVITED to
Sandhurst Celebration
to launch the
Season Of Creation**



Tuesday 1 September

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12



Mass celebrated by
Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ



Venue:
Huntly Streamside Reserve
Time: 11am



Followed by Picnic Lunch
Sausage sizzle provided

Men's Group

Saturday 22 August for breakfast at 7:30am
Pastoral Centre (behind St Brendan's Catholic Church)





Readings
for
this week:

Isaiah 22:19-23
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20

Readings
for
next week:

Jeremiah 20:7-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27

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YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Sick List: Graeme Weir, Dennis Corboy, Pat Hicks, John Raleigh, Josie Anderson, Rosemary Haig, Logan Clarke-Lines, Margaret Campbell, Nathan Campbell

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries:

ALTAR HELPERS Sat 22 Aug: Chris Flower & Faye Flower

Sat 29 Aug: not required

BINGO 29 August: Maree, Amelia Valoia, Vicki Emanuelli, Rob, Emma Difede, Maria Tripoli

22nd & 23rd Aug	COMMENTOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY
6:30 pm	Millicent Raymond	Mavis Murphy	Miriam Hogarty	Chris & Miriam Hogarty
10.30 am	Fiona Dowling	Helen Betson	Angela Iacono	TBA
29th & 30th August				
6:30 pm	Checca Richards	Cathie McMaster	Inez Raleigh	TBA
10.30 am	Brenda Pye	Sheila Griffin	Marg Lee	TBA