



This Week's Readings

Genesis 3:9-15
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

Next Week's Readings

Ezekiel 17:22-24
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Focus on the Readings

Do you notice in the reading from Genesis today, there is blame and shame but no names? The "Man" blames the "Woman", the woman blames the "Serpent" and the man and woman are both shamed. Also, the serpent has no name. It is not called the Devil or Satan, that came as a much later interpretation given in the New Testament and spiritual writings. Satan is only mentioned in the books of Job (1:6) and Wisdom (2:25) of the Old Testament. In today's Gospel passage, it is named "Beelzebub" (lord of the flies) or "Beelzebul" (lord prince) and Satan. What these two passages present is the acknowledgement of sin and evil in the world as a rebellion against God and in fact against the innate goodness of humankind.

The man and woman were deceived and pride and greed overcame them. The scribes were also deceived, not recognising the goodness of God in the words and actions of Jesus. Even some of his own family were confused. We are asked to make good choices and become not only his family but his spiritual brothers and sisters, listening and doing the will of the Father. We are inspired by the words of the psalmist: "My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word and with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. (Ps 129, the responsorial psalm)

Declaration on Human Dignity 2

Every human person possesses an infinite dignity, inalienably grounded in his or her very being, which prevails in and beyond every circumstance, state, or situation the person may ever encounter. This principle, which is fully recognisable even by reason alone, underlies the primacy of the human person and the protection of human rights. ... From this truth, the Church draws the reasons for her commitment to the weak and those less endowed with power, always insisting on "the primacy of the human person and the defence of his or her dignity beyond every circumstance."

Dignitas Infinita 2024, parag. 1

Quotes of the Week

What cannot be changed cannot be blamed. *St. Jerome*

The best years of your life are the ones in which you decide your problems are your own. You do not blame them on your mother, the ecology, or the government. You realize that you control your own destiny. *Albert Ellis*

On the Lighter Side

Winter: the season when we try to keep the house as hot as it was in the summer, when we complained about the heat. Why set the thermostat to 24°C in winter and 18°C in summer?



Liturgical Jottings Creation and Liturgy 1

The word "Liturgy" comes from the Greek *leit-ourgia* – the work of the people or public service. It is where we also get the words laity and erg – a unit of work and energy. As a way of worship of God by the people, we celebrate God's gifts of creation, incarnation and salvation. Creation is mentioned 21 times in the prayers of our Roman Missal, mainly in the collects, prefaces and the Eucharistic Prayers. An Easter Vigil prayer praises God creation:

"Almighty ever-living God, who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works, may those you have redeemed understand that there exists nothing more marvellous than the world's creation in the beginning except that, at the end of the ages, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed." The prayer also refers to the "New Creation". We are both part of and participants in creation, and so: "the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God's creation."

{*Laudato Si' n. 9*}

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

Staying Focused on Mission: Finding Courage in Faith

The story of Jesus' unwavering dedication to his mission serves as a powerful reminder of the challenges and opposition one may face when pursuing a purpose-driven life. Jesus encountered rejection, misunderstanding, and even accusations of being an instrument of evil. Despite this, he persevered with unwavering focus and undeterred courage.

In today's world, many of us can relate to the experience of facing opposition, mockery, and misunderstanding when striving to fulfill our own missions in life. Just as Jesus found the strength to stay true to his identity and mission, we too can draw courage from our faith and relationship with the divine.

Like Jesus, we may encounter challenges that make it difficult to remain faithful to our callings. It's during these times that we can anchor our hearts in the enduring love of the divine, seeking the strength and endurance needed to stay focused on our missions.

As the Psalmist expresses, there is a deep longing for divine guidance and grace in our lives. Just as sentinels eagerly await daybreak, we too can seek the presence of the divine in our lives, allowing it to anchor our souls and empower us to persevere in the face of adversity.

Jesus' unwavering commitment to his mission serves as an inspiring example for all of us. By anchoring our hearts in divine love and finding courage in our faith, we can navigate the challenges that come our way and remain steadfast in fulfilling our own unique callings.

In essence, the timeless message of staying focused on mission and finding courage in faith resonates not only with the teachings of Jesus but also in the lives of the saints, especially St. Anthony of Padua, whose feast we celebrate today. As we encounter opposition and challenges, may we draw strength from the example of the life of St. Anthony so that our faith may remain steadfast in our pursuit of fulfilling our missions in life.



Welcome to all our Parishioners and Visitors as we celebrate the Feast of St Anthony of Padua



Today's Schedule:

10am Holy Mass

11am Procession and Distribution of the Bread of St Anthony

12 noon Community Lunch at St Mel's Parish Hall (at the Primary School)

Please note that while children receive free admission, we kindly request a \$5 donation from adults at the entrance to help cover expenses of the day.

Thank you for your kind generosity.

Reimagining Priesthood in the Church of the 21st Century

Our parish priest, Fr. Rene Ramirez, was one of the panelists for a recent panel discussion that delved into the topic of reimagining Priesthood in the Church of the 21st Century. The event took place on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at the Greg Craven Centre of the Australian Catholic University.



The priesthood plays a central role in Roman Catholic faith, with the Priesthood of Christ serving as the foundation for the priesthood of all believers through baptism, as well as the ministerial priesthood of the order of the presbyterate. These are essential elements of the Church's identity. However, there has been no significant study of the Catholic priesthood since the Second Vatican Council, resulting in the proliferation of weak, polarizing, and ideological interpretations of priesthood and the Church.

The event aims to initiate and facilitate a discussion on the ongoing work of a five-year research program seeking to address the fundamental questions, challenges, and theological gaps in Catholic understandings of priesthood. The objective is to conduct a comprehensive study of priesthood that anticipates genuine transformation of ecclesial culture, with a lasting impact on the formation of priests, as well as the structure of Catholic communities and forms of leadership in the future.

The other members of the panel were: Bishop Shane Mackinlay, Dr. Rosemary Canavan, Dr. Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer, and Rev. Dr. David Pascoe. The evening was facilitated by A/Prof. Maeve Louise Heaney.

Want to know what's happening around our Parish? Did you know there is a calendar on our website? Check it out! <https://smps.org.au/calendar>

Greater Shepparton Winter Night Shelter (GSWNS)

"I was hungry and you gave me food". Matt 25:35.

Due to a number of circumstances, the churches are taking a different format this year.



Each group already connected with the Winter Night Program will organise meals to be cooked, divided into the containers provided, labelled and frozen. If you wish to donate frozen meals, these will need to be delivered in a timely manner (so they remain frozen during transport) to the South Shepparton distribution point at the Shepparton South Community Hub during the hours of 10am to 3pm weekdays.

Please see Maree McKenna or Mel Domaschencz if you are able to help, or for further information call Maree on 0409 956 464. Thank you.

Free Activities and Supports for Unpaid Carers

The Victorian Government has funded Carers Victoria to provide a range of activities for unpaid carers. Events include, 'Mingles' high tea, lunches. Please see Flyer for full list of events. Contact Catherine Hyette at catherine.hyett@carersvictoria.org.au or the Carers Victoria Statewide Advisory Line on 1800 514 745.

FOR SHEPPARTON – Carers Victoria unpaid carers lunch Friday 21 June 12pm all welcome Registrations essential call Catherine Hyette at catherine.hyett@carersvictoria.org.au or the Carers Victoria Statewide Advisory Line on 1800 514 745.

The World's Worst Jackaroo

The Central Victorian Irish Association will be presenting "The World's Worst Jackaroo" in narrative, bush poetry and song. An inspiring story of how the Brigidine nuns in Echuca turned round a young exiled Dublin delinquent and useless jackaroo to eventually become a high British World War II Government Minister. Further information will appear in 'The Sandpiper' around 7th June. Performance date - Saturday 22nd June at 2.30 pm in the La Trobe Art Centre, View Street, Bendigo. Admission \$5 cash at the door.



St Mel's Parish would like to thank the many individuals and businesses who generously supported today's celebration:

- Sev Cortese, and the members of the St Anthony Feast Day committee, for their coordination roles of the events, food and piety stall
- Shepparton Food Services and Woolworths Marketplace bakery department for their donations of food, including the Bread of St Anthony
- All the wonderful volunteers who helped with set-up and decoration of the Church and Parish Hall, the Holy Mass, Procession, distribution of the Bread of St Anthony, Community Lunch and the clean up
- Those who brought food and flowers, or donated money, and to the entertainers including singers, musicians and dancers who brightened our day.



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)

3rd 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

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Office Hours

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

SUCCULENT SALE!

ST. MEL'S PARISH FUNDRAISER

2ND & 9TH JUNE

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS OUR PARISH MISSION.

9:00am - 11:30am



Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

Sunday 16th June

Commentators
9:30am Denis Muto

Lectors
9:30am Trish Mathisen (L1) David Sellwood (L2)
5pm Luisa Cassie (L1) Dom Poppa (L2)

Special Ministers
9:30am Elizabeth Holligan & Maree McKenna
5pm Angie Knez & Dom Poppa

Shepparton Men's Group

Our next Men's Group will be held at St Mary's Parish in Mooroopna in the Marian Center, on Saturday 15 June at 7:30am. Our group is made up of people from the local area, it is great when we can travel to meet in their home Parishes. Our parish communities are a living witness of faith, brought together by the support and love shared between its members. We are encouraged by Jesus to care for each other as we would care for ourselves, as we meet together, we check in with each other, share support and encouragement for those who are in need. Please reach out to Anthony if you need a ride or have any questions on 5821 2633 Tuesdays & Thursdays.

The Parish Office will be closed for two Fridays on 5 July and 12 July. Please have all Bulletin notices, including anniversaries in by the Wednesday prior.

OFFICE Closure

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.



We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of

Anniversaries: Simpson, Andreola & Facchin Families, Jarrod Reinking, Rosa Calandro, Adam Corazza, Len DiBella, Gaetano & Marianina Basile, Giovanna Basile, Giuseppina Peluso, Giovanna Sepe, Gary Anthony Basile, Matia & Giovanna Martello, Giuseppe & Concetta Basile, Antonino & Franca Scaffidi & Family, Rosa & Nino Faralla, Busiello Family, Milazzo Family, Cocca Family



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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](mailto:sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au) email: sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au or visit our website at www.smeps.org.au