



**This Week's Readings**

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15  
 Ephesians 4:17,20-24  
 John 6:24-35

**Next Week's Readings**

1 Kings 19:4-8  
 Ephesians 4:30-5:2  
 John 6:41-50



**Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!**

# St. Mel's Parish

## BULLETIN

### Focus on the Readings

Physical hunger causes pain and exhaustion. For the Israelites in the exodus through the desert hunger also prompted regret in escaping slavery from Egypt and complaints to Moses, their leader. God provided food in the form of manna (bread from heaven) in today's first reading (Exod 16:15) and later water from a rock, (Exod 7:1-7; 3<sup>rd</sup> Lent, A). The Gospel (John chapter six) moves from physical hunger to spiritual hunger; from bread and fish to spiritual bread; earthly food that cannot last to heavenly food that gives life to the world. Jesus responds to the people's enquiries by stating: "I am the Bread of Life".

The crowd that ate the loaves and fishes, seeks Jesus out in Capernaum. They face an ambiguity in understanding physical food and spiritual food. These readings give each of us, individually and collectively, the opportunity to consider for ourselves what do we really hunger after. What do we seek in order to give us life? We discover that path to follow is Jesus and his Word. Jesus, Our Lord, is the bread of life: his word, his teaching and his way provide nourishment for eternal life. In the Gospel passages these next three Sundays he elaborates further on the Bread of Life. His teaching is a stumbling block for some and enrichment for others.

We continue reading St Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Chapter 4 contains a "Charter" for Christian Life, emphasising the need for unity among the baptised who have taken up a new way of life. May this give us a new outlook in our dealings with the world.

### Prayer for Feast of St Mary of the Cross

We give you thanks, Lord, God for by your grace, Saint Mary was bold in going forth to serve the neglected parts of your vineyard. Eager even in the face of rejection, yet humbly patient in doing your will, she stood by the Cross she embraced, a shining witness to the Resurrection of Christ, your Son.

*Preface (Australian) National Liturgical Commission, ACBC 2021.*

### Quote from St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them bravely, remembering Whom you are trying to follow. Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you all your life. God will reward you as only He can.

### On the Lighter Side

Three years ago I made barley loaves to distribute after the family Mass in recognition of the miracle of the five barley loaves and the two fish. The loaves came out rock hard, only to be broken up and given to the birds. I referred to two recipe books, both advising three cups of barley flour, one cup of wheat flour. It worked fine and we enjoyed!



### Liturgical Jottings Liturgy and Mission 1

Liturgy is at the front line of the Church's mission of evangelisation. In Australia, many baptised Catholics do not participate regularly in Sunday Mass. However, the liturgy offers unique moments for evangelisation. Very many of these people will have occasion to be present in the church at Christmas and Easter, for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

This is not just an opportunity for them to hear the liturgical prayers offered and the Scriptures proclaimed and explained. It can be a profound involvement in the action of the Church and an exposure to the saving work of Christ. Since they are baptised, the liturgy can draw them into the sacramental moment when, with the Church as a whole, they are offered an intimate relationship with Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit, and touched by the saving love of the Father.

*From: A sacred action surpassing all others Australian Bishops Commission for Liturgy, 4 December 2013*

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

### Christians Work for "A Life" not just for "A Living"

In today's fast-paced and materialistic world, it's easy to get caught up in the pursuit of worldly success and the accumulation of wealth. We often find ourselves working tirelessly to secure a comfortable living, striving for promotions, and chasing after financial stability. However, the fundamental message conveyed in the teachings of Jesus challenges us to reconsider our priorities.

The story of Jesus and the multiplication of the loaves presents a powerful lesson on what it means to work for "a life" rather than just "a living." The crowd that witnessed this extraordinary miracle was eager to crown Jesus as their king, hoping for a leader who would deliver them from political oppression and bring about worldly prosperity. However, Jesus had a different purpose in mind. He emphasized the importance of striving for the nourishment that endures for eternal life, rather than merely focusing on temporary sustenance.

This thought-provoking narrative prompts us to reflect on our own pursuits and motivations. Are we solely driven by the desire for earthly success and material wealth, or are we also seeking spiritual fulfillment and living a purpose-driven life? Jesus's teachings urge us to prioritize our spiritual well-being and to seek the Kingdom of God above all else.

The admonition to "seek first the Kingdom of God" resonates profoundly, highlighting the significance of aligning our priorities with spiritual principles. It serves as a timeless reminder that our ultimate purpose transcends the temporal pursuits of this world. The profound question posed in the Gospel of Matthew—"what does a man gain if he wins the whole world but loses his soul?"—compels us to contemplate the true value of our endeavors and the legacy we leave behind.

As Christians, we are called to embrace a different perspective on life—one that encompasses spiritual richness, humility, and selflessness. The message to "Blessed are the poor in spirit" underscores the intrinsic worth of humility and spiritual wealth, which contrasts with the fleeting allure of material possessions.

In essence, the story of Jesus and the crowd's clamor for a political revolution serves as a poignant reminder that our existence extends beyond the confines of this transient world. Our labor and pursuits should be directed towards a higher purpose—one that transcends the temporal and resonates with the eternal.

Ultimately, as the Letter to the Hebrews articulates, our earthly journey is a preparation for something greater, and our true citizenship resides in heaven. We are encouraged to recognize that the pursuit of "a life" encompasses a spiritual richness that surpasses the fleeting rewards of "a living" here on earth. This profound truth challenges us to realign our priorities and seek fulfillment in the eternal significance of our actions and decisions.

## Rogationist Community in Shepparton welcomes a new member

The Rogationist Community in the Diocese of Sandhurst is pleased to welcome Father Damianus Doe, affectionately known as "Addin," as a new addition to their community. Father Addin was born on the 19th of July 1988 in Detusoko, Ende, Indonesia. He has pursued an inspiring journey of faith and service, embodying dedication and passion in his vocation.



Father Addin's early education includes graduating from the minor seminary of St. Francis of Assisi in Sumba, NTT, Indonesia, before entering the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus Seminary in Maumere, Flores, NTT. He furthered his studies in Philosophy at the Congregation of Societas Verbi Divini in Ledalero, Maumere, Indonesia, and completed his Postulancy and Novitiate in Silang, Cavite, Philippines.

Following his First Profession, Father Addin served as a brother assistant in the Rogationist Seminary Maumere, and later pursued his studies in Sacred Theology at Don Bosco School of Theology in Better Living, Parañaque, Philippines. His journey culminated in his ordination as a deacon and later as a priest, where he was entrusted with the responsibility of Treasurer in Maumere, Indonesia.

In addition to his dedication to his vocation, Father Addin enjoys staying active by playing football, going for jogs, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. He has a fondness for fruits, spicy food, and occasionally channels his culinary skills in the kitchen.

Father Addin's life and ministry inspire those around him, and we are blessed to have him as part of our community. Fr. Addin arrived in Australia on the 31st of July and will spend some days in the two Rogationist Communities in Maidstone and Melton South. He'll be arriving in Shepparton on the 12th of August 2024.

## St. Anne's College Feast Day Mass

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July was a very special day in the St Anne's College annual calendar as they celebrated the Feast Day of St. Anne and St. Joachim. St. Anne is our College Patron Saint as well as the Patron Saint of Grandparents.

A beautiful mass was held to commemorate the occasion and the College and Parish community was invited to be a part of this. While conducting the Homily, Fr Ruel said some incredible words about grandparents and the important role they play in our lives - showcasing so much love to the students. "When there's love, there is the presence of God in our lives", Fr Ruel said to the congregation.



2023 - 2024 Planned Giving Statements are ready for collection from the Narthex



## Greater Shepparton Winter Night Shelter (GSWNS)

*"Whatever you do for another, you do for me" (Matt 25:40)*

As well as donations of prepared frozen meals, we (at South Shepparton Community Hub) are hoping for the following donations: non-perishable food items e.g. tins of food, long-life milk, cereal, tea, coffee, sugar. Please contact Maree McKenna (0409 956 464) if you can help or drop off cooked meals at the South Shepparton Community Hub between 10-3pm weekdays.

### Men's group

Our men's group will meet again on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of August in the MPJC at 7.30am. Fr Joe has recently returned from a trip to Northern Australia, where he spent some time in Aboriginal missions around Darwin as part of his sabbatical leave. At our next meeting, Fr Joe will share with us some of the experiences and insights he gained from this time. If you have any questions please call Anthony 58212633 or email [Shepparton.pastoral@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:Shepparton.pastoral@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

### KSC Membership Drive

The Knights of the Southern Cross Bendigo Branch is promoting a membership drive at Masses throughout the month of August. New members are urgently required to continue the work in supporting Bishop Shane, our priests, our seminarians, parishioners, schools and local community. For further information please contact Kevin on 0458485223

### International Assistance Dog Week – 4-10 August

Assistance Dogs are an effective form of therapy as they support people living with a disability. They also give more freedom and independence while providing companionship. A special bond develops between dog and client as the instructors train them together. The training program costs \$60,000 and takes two years for an Assistance Dog to be fully qualified and ready to make a difference in someone's life. Assistance Dogs come free of charge and can work with their clients for 8-10 years before they retire. Retirement means a loving home, often staying with family members or a friend of the client. Estimated waiting time is about two years, partly because there has been a shortage of qualified trainers and mobility instructors. In Australia, these dogs are no longer called 'service' dogs. Mary Pianta. Disability Contact Coordinator. Diocese of Sandhurst.

### Catholic Earthcare is hosting a Season of Creation Convocation

Over 3 days from Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September. The first 2 days are online and the Saturday is either online or at the Diocesan Hub which, in our case, is the Chancery. For more information and to register, head to <https://www.caritas.org.au/soc-convocation> Registrations close August 12. Note: Cost for the 3 days is \$100 BUT if you register a group of 4 or more you get 50% discount! You can also register for just 1 or 2 days and the same discount applies for 4 or more. The Diocesan Hub experience (at Sandhurst Chancery) includes Morning Tea & Lunch. If you don't have a group of 4, text your name & email address to Kerry Stone 0408 579904 or Marie Bonne 0438 889834 and we'll register you in a group if possible. Any questions to Marie or Kerry.



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

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[www.smps.org.au](http://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 11th August**

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



Commentators  
9:30am Mary Calandro  
5pm Samoan Community

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

Special Ministers  
9:30am Jacqui Avard & Lucy Ciancio  
5pm Rosana Legalo & Erin Tanner

The annual Giving Report and Statements for those enrolled in the Thanksgiving Program are now ready. Please collect your envelope from the Narthex today.

**St Mel's Parish Sacramental Program**

An information night for the 2024 – 2025 St Mel's Parish Steps in Faith Sacramental Program **Reconciliation – Confirmation – First Eucharist** Will be held on Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> 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.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
Friday 6th September  
**Celebration of the Season of Creation**  
Following last year's very successful event, Sandhurst Diocese will mark the **Season of Creation 2024** with an outdoor Mass at 11am, celebrated by Bishop Shane, at Huntly Streamside Reserve, followed by a Picnic Lunch. **All parishioners are invited and encouraged to come along.**

**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: Vincenzo Martino, Annunziata, Vincenzo & Grazia Cardillo**



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**BERTOLIS**  
AGRICULTURAL & INDUSTRIAL




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

We are committed to the  
NATIONAL CATHOLIC  
SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

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)