



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Readings

Mark's account of the "testing in the wilderness" is very brief and does not contain the details found in Matthew and Luke: no three temptations no dialogue with Satan, no scripture quotations. It sounds like a situation at home when a parent asks: "Where have you been today? The teenage son or daughter replies without guile: "Out."

The second readings during Lent are rich fare for our nourishment during these days. Today, from the first letter of St Peter we are taken on a journey from the time of Noah and the flood, (first reading) to Christ's death and resurrection and then to our own baptism. The journey also entails a movement from physical flood and washing with water to the spiritual aspects of water baptism: dying to sin, rising to new life and going forward in mission and ministry of Christ. Christ's victory in the wilderness and on the cross reaches out to everyone: those imprisoned and the free.

Poem of the Day

In what land of solitude,
forty days and forty nights,
will you go driven by the Spirit?
May it test you and strip you!
See, the times are fulfilled,
and God invites you to forget
your ancient servitudes.

Didier Rimaud. "Les arbres dans la mer"

This Week's Readings

Genesis 9:8-15
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

Prayer over the People

*May bountiful blessing,
O Lord, we pray,
come down upon your people,
that hope may grow in tribulation,
virtue be strengthened in temptation,
and eternal redemption be assured.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Roman Missal, First Sunday of Lent)*



Liturgical Jottings

Lent - 2

Prayer over the People

During Lent, the historic **Prayers over the People** have been restored to the Roman Missal after an absence of 40 years. Its roots go as far back as the third century. The 2010 missal restores a distinct one for each day of Lent. On weekdays of Lent there is a rubric that says that the **Prayer over the People** is optional. On Sundays the prayer is there but lacks the rubric "for optional use."

The Prayer is mostly addressed directly to God for the faithful, as "your people," "your servants," and "those who call upon you." A further characteristic is that the spiritual graces implored for the indefinite future with phrases such as always, constantly, perpetual protection, etc. After the prayer, the priest gives the blessing:

"And may almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Response: Amen."

On the Lighter Side

Father and son were discussing what to give up for Lent. The Dad decided to give up liquor, then while watching cricket he opened a stubbie. His son objected, "Hey, I thought you were giving up liquor!" His dad answered, "Hard liquor, son. I'm giving up hard liquor. This is just a beer." To which the boy replied, "Well then, I'm giving up hard lollies."

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

We Live in the "Time of Fulfillment"

Jesus begins the Gospel of Mark with a cryptic statement: "This is the time of fulfillment." It is an all-encompassing statement that encapsulates the entire history of humanity, with the turning point being his own passion, death, and resurrection, as St Peter reminds us in the Second Reading. With these words, Jesus inaugurates the third and final era of human history.

The first era was the age of creation, when humanity lived in uninterrupted communion with God. This era ended with the original sin, which banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden and into a fallen human nature.

The second era was the age of the promise, during which God promised Adam and Eve that he would send a savior, a holy king, to free humanity from the devil's dominion caused by their sin. God gradually prepared the world, through the education of his chosen people Israel, for the arrival of that savior and king, Jesus Christ. When Christ finally arrived, it was the "time of fulfillment," the realization of God's promise to send that savior.

In this third and final era of human history, God enters into time and space to rescue it from sin and destruction through his incarnation, which is extended through all time and space through the life of his Church. The end of this third era will give rise to the new heavens and the new earth, the end of the Kingdom's beginning, and the beginning of its maturity.

Lent is an opportunity to concentrate on the essentials, and nothing is more essential, in a world preoccupied with stock markets, political polls, and movie stars, than recalling where we came from and where we are going.

St Anne's College Opening of School Mass

On Tuesday, February 6, Fr Ruel Desamparado RCJ and Fr Rene Ramirez RCJ, led us in the celebration of Mass and assembly marking the start of our school year. Our students and staff were joined by members of the wider St Anne's community and members of St Mel's Parish at Christ the King Church.



A joyous occasion where students and staff participated as lectors, general intercessions, Altar Servers, gift bearers, AV assistance and, as has become a tradition, with our Year 1 and 2 students leading us all in song. Our College Captains acted as the MC's for the occasion, their first official public event this year. As we looked around the Church, the growth of the school was obvious. 2024 is our first year with year 12 students so we now have all year levels from Foundation to Year 12 with the exception of Year 6. There were no spare seats. A wonderful start to an amazing and blessed year.

St. Mel's Feast Day at St. Mel's Primary School

By Danae Napier - Happy St. Mel's Feast Day! What a beautiful day celebrating with our School Community. The smiles on the children's faces showed the joy that was had throughout the day.

Today we focussed on ~ How can we be a 'St. Mel's' Community Member? 'Do our Best', 'Help others Succeed', 'Respect our School'. With our diocesan theme of 'Behold I make all things new'.

Our theme for our school year is from the book of Revelations ~ Behold, I make All things New. St. Mel was instrumental in helping St. Patrick to bring Jesus Christ ~ Christianity to the people of Ireland. God was guiding both these saints in 'Making things anew' and bringing hope and renewal to the community of Ireland.

God of new beginnings, new ideas, new creations and new hopes, We come to you at the beginning of this year with many feelings, expectations, hopes and dreams.

Help us to recognise that we are given NEW opportunities to hope, to create, to think and to begin again each and every day like St. Mel & St. Patrick.

Help us to accept these opportunities as ways for us to grow as an individual, as a student and a learner, as a friend, as a community member, as a follower of Jesus. AMEN.

Our students made and used the symbol of the 'dove' to represent our theme 'Behold I make all things New', during our Feast Day Liturgy. As the dove symbolises peace, spirituality, hope, renewal, transformation, love & new beginnings. The symbol of the dove is seen many times in the bible.



To read this full story and more, visit our website <https://smpls.org.au/>

During Lent, the Parish Bulletin will be printed in black and white.
For a full colour copy, subscribe to Flocknote.

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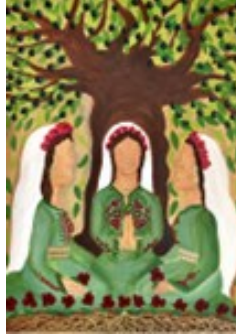
**St Brendan's Parish House
121 Knight Street, Shepparton
Casual (8hrs/week)**

**Position Description can be obtained
at the Parish Office on 5821 2633
or by Emailing shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
CLOSES 4th March 2024**

**Note: possibility of a further 4hrs/week at
St Mel's Parish House**

World Day of Prayer 2024

A World Day of Prayer celebration will be held at the Shepparton Baptist Church, located at 600 Wyndham Street, on Friday, March 1 commencing at 10am. There will be a guest speaker and a morning tea to follow. ALL WELCOME. For more details, please contact Helen on 0409 033 789.



First Sunday of Lent - 18 February

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations. Meet Ronita from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children. Meet Leaia from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions. Meet Memory from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village. Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations. Please donate to Project Compassion. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413. Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



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**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
St. Mary's 11:00 am

*2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays
Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

CONFESSIONS

St. Mel's: Every Thursday at 8am - 9am
St. Malachy's: 30min before Mass

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
Pastoral Associate

Mel Shiels
Asst Administrative Officer
Sacramental Program Coordinator

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

Commentators/Lectors/Special Ministers

Sunday, February 25th

Commentators

9:30am Maureen Munro

5pm Elizabeth Holligan

Lectors

9:30am Xavier Tanner (L1) Sev Cortese (L2)

5pm Dom Poppa

Special Ministers

9:30am Sarah Maloney & Maree McKenna

5pm Anthony Holligan & Angie Knez

Next Week's Readings

Genesis 22:1-2,9-18

Romans 8:31-34

Mark 9:2-10

Commentators and Lectors

Those currently on our liturgical roster, and any Parishioners interested in joining us, are asked to attend a meeting on **Tuesday, 5 March at 7pm** in the Parish House Gathering Room.

The meeting will run for approximately one hour.

Please RSVP to the office

sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Please note that there will be a **temporary suspension** of Holy Mass at St Mel's Church this week from **Tuesday, 20 February until Thursday, 22 February**

We ask for your prayers for

Recently Deceased: Lucy Scott

Eternal Repose: Maria DeGrazia, Faustina Baquial, Giuseppe Rachele, Antonino Andronaco, Matt Guerra, Catena Cari, Rosina Rocisano, Giovanni Cari



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We are a child Safe Community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

To find out more ways on how you can help improve our Parochial Community please contact Ainsley or 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.smeps.org.au



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