



This Week's Readings

Proverbs 9:1-6  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
John 6:51-58

Next Week's Readings

Joshua 24:1-2,15-18  
Ephesians 5:21-32  
John 6:60-69



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

# St. Mel's Parish

## BULLETIN

### Focus on the Readings

From the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes Gospel passage that was read four weeks ago and the "I am the Bread of Life" (6:35,51) profession of Jesus last week, we now receive very explicit teaching on the Eucharist as the flesh and blood of Christ and real food and real drink (6:55) for eternal life (6:58).

The reality of Christ's flesh and his blood leaves no room for doubt both according to the Lord's teaching and our faith. We are speaking of true flesh and true blood when we receive and absorb these substances, they put us in Christ and Christ in us. Is this not the truth? ... What we are is in God. (St Hilary of Poitiers).

Strengthened by this food from heaven we shall make the most of our opportunities and whatever the difficulties of our journey, and walking at a brisk pace we shall arrive at this promised day of eternal life.

### Prayer for the Day

Happy those who come to light through the night of Jesus.  
Happy those who receive their selves from the hand of God.  
Happy those who find their lives in the death of Jesus.  
Happy those who owe their names only to the name of Jesus.  
Happy those who are happy with their God's happiness.  
Happy those who set their steps in the steps of Jesus.  
Victorious, they will eat from the tree of Life. (Didier Rimaud d 2002)

### Words of Pope Francis

The Eucharist is Jesus himself who gives himself entirely to us. Nourishing ourselves of Him and abiding in Him through Eucharistic Communion, if we do so with faith, transforms our life, transforms it into a gift to God and to our brothers and sisters. Nourishing ourselves of that "Bread of Life" means entering into harmony with the heart of Christ, assimilating his choices, his thoughts, his behaviour. It means entering into a dynamism of love and becoming people of peace, people of forgiveness, of reconciliation, of sharing in solidarity. The very things that Jesus did. *Angelus, St Peter's Square 16.08.15* .

### On the Lighter Side

Singing is a natural expression of joy and united harmony which has always occurred in Christianity from the very beginning, to express the joy and gratitude of Christians in the Lord. This instruction in the Letter to the Ephesians, today, only continues and encourages the tradition. So, the singing of hymns has a venerable tradition in Christianity.



### Liturgical Jottings Liturgy and Mission 3

As the work of Christ, liturgy is also an action of his Church. It makes the Church present and manifests her as the visible sign of the communion in Christ between God and humanity. It engages the faithful in the new life of the community and involves the "conscious, active, and fruitful participation of all." (*Constitution on the Liturgy, art 11*) The sacred liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church: it must be preceded by evangelisation, faith and conversion. It can then produce its fruits in the lives of the faithful: new life in the Spirit, involvement in the mission of the Church, and service to her unity. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, nn. 1071-72*  
"Instruct, O Lord, ... those you have endowed with the gifts of your Spirit and nourished by the Body of your Only Begotten Son, that they may constantly show to the world the freedom of your adopted children and, by the holiness of their lives, exercise the prophetic mission of your people. *Roman Missal, Prayer after Communion, Confirmation Mass*

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

The Eucharist: Christ's Fulfillment of Promise

The Feast of the Ascension celebrates Jesus Christ's ascension into Heaven forty days after his Resurrection. Before ascending, Jesus promised to remain with his Church "until the end of the age." One notable way he fulfils this promise is through the Holy Eucharist.

The Eucharist, celebrated during every Mass and received through Holy Communion, is the supernatural food that sustains our divine life received through baptism. Just as natural food sustains our human nature, the Eucharist nurtures our supernatural life as children of God.

During the consecration in the Mass, ordinary bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ through transubstantiation. This transformation signifies a sacramental presence of Christ's body, blood, soul, and divinity under the appearance of bread and wine.

The profound truth of the Eucharist reminds us of the real and tangible presence of Christ among us. It is a testament to the fulfilment of Christ's promise to remain with his Church. As we partake in the Eucharist, we are nourished by the very essence of Christ, strengthening our faith and our connection to God.

The Eucharist stands as a testament to the unwavering love and commitment of Christ to his Church, offering a profound source of spiritual nourishment and grace. It is a gift that unites us as a community and sustains us on our faith journey.

The next time we line up for Holy Communion, let us all be mindful of this great mystery of love and the fulfilment of a promise. Let us cultivate in ourselves a tender devotion and love for this great sacramental presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

## St Mel's Primary Whole School Mass

On Friday 16 August staff and students from St Mel's Primary School joined our Parishioners for the weekday 9:15am Mass. This Mass of Compassion included the Commissioning of the Year 6 Student Leadership and the blessing of their badges. We wish all the school leaders a successful and enjoyable time throughout the remainder of the year in your new roles. Look out for some photos in next week's bulletin.



## Magi Pilgrimages

Fr Ananda Maddineni would like to invite you for a 16-day pilgrimage, departing on 28th of October 2024. This pilgrimage features Fatima, Avila, Loyola, Lourdes, Rocamadour, Nevers, Paris, Medjugorje, Zagreb, for an all-inclusive price of \$8390+tips(30+pilgrims). The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides. For enquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561 or email us [pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au)

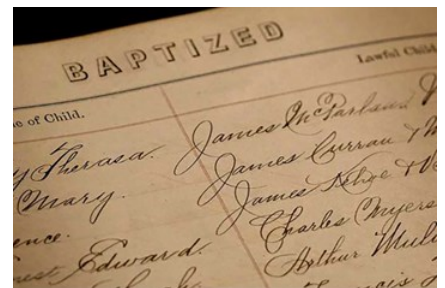
## Sandhurst Celebration of Season of Creation

You're all invited to come and celebrate our Care for Creation at Huntly Streamside Reserve on Friday 6th September, beginning with Mass at 11am celebrated by Bishop Shane followed by Picnic Lunch. BYO chairs encouraged although some seating available. Sausage sizzle provided or BYO lunch if preferred. BYO hot/cold drinks; BYO water bottles. EVERYONE is invited and encouraged to come along and celebrate in this beautiful bush setting. RSVP not essential but if you & friends are coming then letting us know by texting 0408 579 904 would be helpful.

## Volunteers Needed!



We are looking for volunteers to help us encode baptismal books into the computer as part of our migration to a new database system. If you have encoding skills and can spare some time, we would appreciate your help. Ideally, we would like volunteers to be available in our parish office every Tuesday to Friday from 9 AM to 12 noon. If you're able to assist with this important task, please get in touch with us. Your contribution will be greatly valued. Thank you!



Our church requires volunteers with sewing skills to assist in making altar cloths and other covers for our liturgical events. If you are experienced in sewing and willing to volunteer, please come forward and offer your support. Your contribution will be highly valued by the parish. Thank you for your consideration and willingness to help!



Please email or phone the office

Email: [sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)  
Phone: 5831 2194

For more information on these events, pick up a flyer in the Narthex

## 2024 - 2025 St Mel's Parish Sacramental Program

### Reconciliation – Confirmation – First Eucharist

An information night for the 2024 – 2025 St Mel's Parish Steps in Faith Sacramental Program 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.



## 2025 St Mel's Parish Debutante Ball

Registrations are now open for the 2025 St Mel's Parish Debutante Ball.

There will be two Debutante Balls held at the GV Hotel, Shepparton on:



**Friday 14th March 2025 and Saturday 15th March 2025**

Details of the ball and application to apply can be found by clicking the following link: [Application Form St Mel's Deb 2025](#)

You must have a Deb Partner prior to registering.

Registrations close Wednesday 4th September 2024.

If you have any queries, please email [st.mels.deb.committee@gmail.com](mailto:st.mels.deb.committee@gmail.com)

## Greater Shepparton Winter Night Shelter (GSWNS)

*"I was hungry and you gave me food" (Matt: 25 v 35).*  
Thank you to everyone who has donated frozen meals, fruit or non-perishable food items. The recipients are most grateful. Let us continue to pray for those families struggling for food every day and give whenever we can.  
Contact Maree McKenna (0409 956 464).



## Men's group

Our next men's group meeting is set for Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of August at 7.30am in the Parish center St Brendan's. We meet for breakfast and a faith topic for reflection.

At this meeting we will welcome Leading senior constable Leigh Johnson from Victoria Police, who is the Multicultural Liaison officer, helping to connect with schools and faith communities in a positive way. We can learn and grow so much by listening to the stories of others, Leigh I am sure will have much to share with us. I hope you can join us, If you have any questions call Anthony 58212633 Tues and Thurs.

This is a YouTube clip Leigh has done explaining his role, [Victoria Police Real Stories: Leading Senior Constable Leigh Johnson \(youtube.com\)](#)



The annual Giving Report and Statements for those enrolled in the Thanksgiving Program are now ready.

Please collect your envelope from the Narthex today.



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 25th August

## Commentators

9:30am Sev Cortese

5pm Filipino Community

## Lectors

9:30am David Sellwood (L1) Mick Hanlon (L2)

5pm Filipino Community (L1) (L2)

## Special Ministers

9:30am Trish Mathisen & Loretta Hanlon

5pm Lin Waite & Sr Pam Barlow

Celebrate with us  
our Asst. Priest's

15th Priestly  
Anniversary



Join us for a Sausage Sizzle & Bring a Plate Lunch on the 25th August at 11:30am in the Parish Gathering Room! It's going to be a fun day. Don't miss out!



The Parish office will be closed Tuesday 20 & Wednesday 21 August for the annual Sandhurst Diocese Parish Administrators Conference in Bendigo.



For any enquires during this time please email us [sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

## 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.



Caritas would like to acknowledge the generous contributions from within our Diocese. Thanks to the dedicated participation and enthusiasm of your community, we were able to raise \$421,414 in the Diocese of Sandhurst alone, with \$97,664 contributed by schools

and \$200,137 by parishes. This substantial contribution will significantly support our mission and bring about positive change in the lives of the many that Caritas serve.

*We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of*

**Recently Deceased:** Danila Grotto

**Anniversaries:** Christine Fenn, Tony Mallamaci, Denis McGurgan, Rocco Lustri, Manual D'Silva



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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 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)