



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Focus on the Gospel

As a young person, there is nothing better than being in love! Sure, loving your family and being loved by them is pretty important, but to 'fall in love' with someone and have that love returned is something quite extraordinary. Love sets us on fire! To be loved by someone else makes all the tough times endurable; it makes us believe in ourselves because someone else sees something worthwhile within us. It's exciting and it's incredibly life-giving!

This is the message that Jesus conveys to his disciples in this week's gospel. He shares with them some understanding of the incredible joy he experiences through his relationship with the Father. And just as he is loved by the Father, so Jesus loves his disciples and so are they invited to share in the love of the Father. Jesus' actions towards the 'lesser ones' of the world was to demonstrate to them that they are not only worthy of love but were already loved. Jesus tells his disciples that all they have to do to constantly remain in his love is to keep his commandments and then he clarifies for them that his only commandment to them is to love one another as Jesus loved. To live in the love of Jesus and know the love of the Father, all we have to do is love one another. The challenge is that we are to love all people – even those who make our lives difficult and unpleasant. As we are told in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, 'If you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them!' (Lk 6:32; Mt 5:46). © Greg Sunter

Easter Poem

What matter language, race, what matter voice or face;
the just person living in love, the Lord will make His friend.
The Lord makes us His friends, He fills us with joy!
We cannot love God: He has loved us!
We cannot choose Christ: He has chosen us!
We cannot grasp the Spirit: He has seized us!
Le Livre d'Heures d'En-Calcat (Dourgne, 1980)

Quote of the Day

When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand.
Henri Nouwen

On the Lighter Side

What did St Peter say when he got out of the fishing boat and sat by the fire on the shore of the sea of Galilee after Jesus' resurrection? "I'm a warm again Christian."

This Week's Readings

Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17



Liturgical Jottings Easter Hymns

Each parish have their favourite hymns and songs for the Sunday Liturgy. Some of the old favourites for Easter are: "My Lord, He died for a Kingdom" (Easter Song, Sr Miriam Winter); "This is the Day the Lord Has Made" (The Easter Song, Ray Repp); "Alleluia No. 1" (Donald Fishel). Some of the newer ones are: "Christ Be Our Light" (B Farrell); "Sing to the Mountains" (R Dufford); "This is the Day" (M Mangan); "Happy Day" (T Hughes & B Cantelon). With computer and projector parishes are not limited to one or two hymn books. Our limitation now seems to have good resources and regular contact with networks of musicians.

Ascension & Pentecost

Popular hymns are "Hail Redeemer King Divine" (P Brennan); "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" (W Dix); "Hearts of Fire" (M Mangan); "Come, Holy Spirit" (several versions); "We are Many Parts" (M Haugen)

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 Essence of Love: A Reflection on Jesus' New Commandment

In today's world, we are bombarded with messages about what it means to love and be loved. From movies to social media, we are constantly exposed to different forms of love, some of which can be distorted or even harmful. In the midst of all this confusion, it's helpful to turn to Jesus and his New Commandment for guidance.

"Love one another as I have loved you." These words, spoken by Jesus to his disciples, summarize everything he taught about love. Love, according to Jesus, is not just a feeling or an emotion. It's an action, a self-giving that puts the needs of others before our own. And the ultimate expression of love, as Jesus showed us, is to lay down our lives for our friends.

This kind of love, self-sacrificing and generous, is not always easy to practice. It requires us to set aside our own desires and preferences and to focus on the good of others. It means being willing to suffer for the sake of someone else's happiness. It's a love that demands everything we have and asks for nothing in return.

But this is the kind of love that Jesus calls us to. And he didn't just talk about it - he lived it. He accepted rejection, persecution, and death on the cross, not because he was weak, but because he loved us so much that he was willing to pay the ultimate price for our salvation.

As we reflect on Jesus' New Commandment, we are invited to examine our own lives and ask ourselves: am I living a life of self-giving love? Do I put the needs of others before my own? Am I willing to suffer for the sake of someone else's happiness?

These are challenging questions, but they are essential if we want to follow Christ and experience the joy and meaning that only God can give. When we love as Jesus loved, we become his disciples, and we embody the very essence of what it means to be a Christian.

In a world that often reduces love to a fleeting feeling or a transactional exchange, Jesus' New Commandment is a powerful reminder that love is much more than that. It's a self-giving that transforms us and those around us, and it's the very heart of our faith.

Mass Attendance Counts - May 2024

The purpose of such counts is to attain an estimate of the number of people attending mass in the Diocese each weekend. The count is performed over 4 consecutive weekends 5, 12, 19 and 26 May. The count is not taken as a measure of 'success or failure' or parish performance, but will enable some consideration and planning for provision of support into the future. This has particular significance for the workload of our clergy and their ability to meet different communities' needs.

Sacraments of Initiation Confirmation and First Eucharist

Let us pray for our children (listed below) who are about to complete their Sacraments of Initiation. The celebration of their Confirmation and First Communion on the 19th of May 2024 is an important milestone in their spiritual journey. As parents and adults, it's our responsibility to guide them and help them grow in their faith. Let us all join together in prayer and ask for God's blessings to be upon them as they take this important step in their lives. May they be filled with the Holy Spirit and continue to grow in their faith, love, and service to others.



May Month of Mary

During the whole month of May, there will be flower offerings to the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary before the final blessing during all Masses. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their own flowers for this purpose.

We would like to invite you also to join the rosary following the weekday Masses.

*Connor Barbary
Jack Barbary
Logan Barbary
Stella Campi
Nyah Clarke
Archie Dainton
Janelle Etuale
Jazelle Etuale
Lara Garner
Toby Hawker
Carmelo Iaria
Oliver Kealy
Noah Kemp
Estelle Papallo
Angelina Tassone
Alessandro Turkovic*

Parishioners can view the Candidate's profiles in the Narthex and on the side walls of the Church. All are welcome to attend the Sacramental Mass at St Mel's Parish on Sunday 19 May at 11:30am.



<https://www.facebook.com/StMelsSandhurst>

NOVENA MASSES IN PREPARATION FOR THE 2025 FEAST OF SEÑOR STO. NIÑO

St. Mel's Parish, Shepparton

Join us for 9 first Friday Masses at St. Mel's Parish Church to honour the Infant Child Jesus starting on 3rd May 2024 at 6:00pm.

18 Hamilton St. Shepparton VIC 3630

TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL WOMEN YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR:

ST. MEL'S SCHOOL'S MOTHER'S DAY HIGH TEA

FRIDAY 10TH MAY, 2024 FROM 10.30AM TO 12.30PM

TO BE HELD AT ST MEL'S SCHOOL HALL
COST \$15 PER PERSON
R.S.V.P BY MONDAY 6th MAY
All welcome ~ Mums, Nans, Aunties, Special Friends

PLEASE RETURN TO THE OFFICE WITH MONEY

NAME _____

NO. OF PEOPLE _____ DIETARY REQ. _____

Becoming a Mission-Driven Parish

Are you looking for ways to make your parish more focused on making disciples? Consider becoming a mission-driven parish!

A mission-driven parish is one that understands its identity as a community and is united in its mission to make disciples. It has a culture that fosters and sustains the ongoing growth and transformation of individuals. To become a mission-driven parish, it's crucial to transmit the faith through a systematic offering of pre-evangelization, kerygma, and catechesis, creating a clear and simple path for individuals to become missionary disciples. The pathway to discipleship should be a priority, and all other experiences should flow from or lead to this path. It's essential to communicate the importance of this pathway to the community.

In conclusion, becoming a mission-driven parish is possible, and it can help individuals become missionary disciples. The pathway to discipleship should be a priority, and it should be clearly communicated to the community. Take this opportunity to think about a more intentional missionary focus and embrace Pope Francis's vision of transforming everything for the evangelization of today's world.



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

Office Address

18 Hamilton Street
Shepparton VIC 3530
sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
www.smps.org.au
(03) 5831 2194

Office Hours

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



Subscribe to Flocknote, to receive parish news & updates about upcoming events: Subscribe by using the QR Code.



Commentators/Lectors/Special Ministers

Sunday 12th May

Commentators

9:30am Gabrielle Barrette

5pm Samoan Community

Lectors

9:30am Pauline Pettigrew (L1) David Sellwood (L2)

5pm Samoan Community (L1) (L2)

Special Ministers

9:30am Sarah Maloney & Maree McKenna

5pm Rosana Legalo & Erin Tanner

Next Week's Readings

Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23
Mark 16:15-20

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

Recently Deceased: Bruce Welsh, Domenico Martino

Eternal Repose: Filippo Presti, Presti Family, Mobilia Family, Ong Eng Pia, Angie Seca, Vincenzo Cardillo, Vincenzo Martino, Soledad Lee



CORBETTS
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS
& ADVISORS

60 High Street
Shepparton VIC 3630
Phone: 03 5820 1300
www.corbetts.com.au

**ST. MEL'S PARISH
WOULD LIKE TO
THANK OUR**

**CORPORATE
SPONSORS**

**Stockdale
& Leggo**

Shepparton

We see more than property.

0417 347 105



Vincent Tassoni
Licensed Agent
& Auctioneer



**If your organisation
would like to join our
corporate sponsors,
please phone or
email the office**



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
or visit our website at **www.smps.org.au**
https://www.facebook.com/StMelsSandhurst

**Feast of
St. Anthony
of Padua**

9 JUNE 2024

10:00 AM
Holy Mass

11:00 AM
Procession and Distribution of the Bread of St. Anthony

12:00 NOON
Community Lunch at St. Mel's Hall at the Primary School

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

St. Anthony

St Mel's Parish
18 Hamilton Street
Shepparton VIC 3630

Come and join us!