



# WELCOME TO ST MARYS PARISH

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Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays: 9.30am —3:30pm

# The Living Word

**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

**26 July 2026**

## First Reading 1 Kgs 3:5-7-12

*You have asked for wisdom.*

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97**

**(R.) Lord, I love your commands.**

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.  
The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. (R.)
2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant.  
Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. (R.)
3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold.  
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:  
I hate false ways. (R.)
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.  
The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. (R.)

## Second Reading Rom 8:28-30

*He predestined us to become true images of his Son.*

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to

become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

## Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Blessed are you, Father,**

**Lord of heaven and earth;**

**you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mt 13:44-52

**(or shorter form Mt 13:44-46)**

*He sells everything he owns and buys the field.*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is St John Henry Newman's image of Hell.

Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There would be lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell.

That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a lifetime.

So, our lifetime project is to 'learn the language of heaven'. We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God.

We could pause for a moment to move from incommunicado to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven.

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# SANDPIPER

e-NEWS



The most recent edition of the Sandpiper e-News features a terrific story about a familiar face to many in the Goulburn Valley, **Dale Wright OAM**. Today, he sees a thread running through every chapter of his life, from the little boy at the piano, to the photographer searching for the person behind the portrait, to the man who emerged from his own darkness determined to help others find hope. God, he believes, had a plan all along.

PS: *Fr Joe Taylor recalls a time many years ago when he accompanied Dale to Benalla to deliver portraits of war hero and surgeon, Sir Edward (Weary) Dunlop, which Dale was donating for an exhibition. Dale had taken a portrait of Sir Dunlop and the two of them had become good friends. When asked if Weary Dunlop, who was known for his humanity and assistance to young men in War, had been an inspiration to Dale, Fr Joe laughed, "Dale was an inspiration to Weary Dunlop!"*

## St Mary's Primary School 90th Anniversary

In Week 2, St Mary's PS were delighted to welcome long-time St Mary's community member Maree Williams as part of our 90th anniversary celebrations. Maree shared memories of beginning as a parish volunteer before joining the school office in 1985, recalling a very different era when accounts were handwritten, staff were paid by cheque, and there were no computers or mobile phones. During her 24 years in the office, she worked alongside five principals and witnessed enormous changes in technology, student support and school facilities.

In 2009, Maree transitioned to a classroom aide role, where she particularly enjoyed supporting students through the Rainbow Reading program and assisting with camps and classroom learning. Today, she continues to generously volunteer through the Breakfast Program, After School Program, library activities and the Book Fair. Maree's reflections were a wonderful reminder of the dedication and generosity that have helped shape St Mary's over the past 90 years.

## ST MARY'S PARISH MOTTO

"Reaching out to each other  
- growing together in love"

St Mary's Mooroopna acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Nation and the Aboriginal people who have walked this land for thousands of years

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm

Sunday 10.30am

### RECONCILIATION

10:30am to 11:15am Saturday

### WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

|            |           |      |
|------------|-----------|------|
| Mon 27/7   | No Mass   |      |
| Tues 28/7  | Holy Hour | 5pm  |
| Tues 28/7  | Mass      | 6pm  |
| Wed 29/7   | Mass      | 6pm  |
| Thurs 30/7 | Mass      | 6pm  |
| Fri 31/7   | Mass      | 10am |

### EASY WORSHIP

Sat 25 July: Sarah Richards  
Sun 26 July: AM Carroll

Sat 1 Aug: Liz Donnelly  
Sun 2 Aug: Imelda

#### St Mary's Baptism Dates 2026

Sunday 16 August

Sunday 20 September

Sunday 18 October

Sunday 15 November

#### Formation Meetings Dates for 2026

- Tuesday 13 October from 7pm in the Church.

## St Mary's Primary School

### IMPORTANT DATES

Grade 4 - 6: Sacrament of First  
Eucharist and Confirmation

Sunday 16th August – Candidates presented at Sunday Mass

Sunday 11th October -  
Celebration of First Eucharist and Confirmation at mass.

# ST MARY'S DEBS 2027

If you, or someone you know,  
is interested in making their  
Deb in 2027 with  
**St Mary's Deb Ball**,  
please contact Maree on  
**0438 084 364**  
for more information.

The St Mary's Deb Ball  
will be held at  
*The Woolshed*,  
Emerald Bank,  
Shepparton.

## Parish Visitation Program

On **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August**, after the 10.30am mass some members of the Parish Finance Committee and Pastoral Council will be available in the Marian Centre if anyone has anything they would like to contribute.

## World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly



This Sunday the Church celebrates the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Established by Pope Francis in 2021, the day is an opportunity to reflect on how the presence of grandparents and the elderly can become a sign of hope in every family and church community.

The 2026 theme, "I will never forget you" (Isaiah 49:15), is both a message of hope for older people and a reminder to families and faith communities to recognise them as a precious presence and a blessing.

On Friday 24 July, St Mary's PS held a Grandparents & Special Friends Day. They opened their classrooms to the grandparents in the school community and presented a fantastic concert in the Marian Centre.

## Pope Leo on Grandparents and the Elderly:

The life of the Church and the world can only be understood in light of the passage of generations. Embracing the elderly helps us to understand that life is more than just the present moment, and should not be wasted in superficial encounters and fleeting relationships. Instead, life is constantly pointing us toward the future. In the book of Genesis, we find the moving episode of the blessing given by the aged Jacob to his grandchildren, the sons of Joseph; his words are an appeal to look to the future with hope, as the time when God's promises will be fulfilled.

## SOLEMN MASS of INSTALLATION

Most Reverend René Ramirez RCJ  
NINTH BISHOP OF SANDHURST



11 am  
30 July  
Sacred Heart Cathedral  
Bendigo

[Sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://Sandhurst.catholic.org.au)



**SATURDAY, 1ST AUGUST 2026**

10.00 A.M. MASS  
**TATURA SACRED HEART CHURCH**

11.30 A.M. DOORS OPEN  
**TATURA ITALIAN SOCIAL CLUB**

LUNCH 4 COURSE MEAL

ADULTS \$65 - YOUTH \$25 (5-12 YEARS)

CASH PAYMENTS AT DOOR

**ENTERTAINMENT BY RICK BRUN**  
GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES/AUCTIONS!

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR LUNCH**  
**RSVP 21st July by phoning:**

Pino Lagozzino 0427 677 943

Mary Zobec 0427 190 282

Frank De Palma 0427 552 686

Joe Gagliardi 0438 579 989

**All names required for Group Bookings!**





Readings  
for  
this week:

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12  
Romans 8:28-30  
Matthew 13:44-5

Readings  
for  
next week:

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 2  
Peter 1:16-19  
Matthew 17:1-

## Paul Wickham

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### YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR .....

**Sick List:** Graeme Weir, Dennis Corboy, Pat Hicks, John Raleigh, Josie Anderson, Rosemary Haig, Logan Clarke-Lines, Margaret Campbell, Leo Pye

**Recently Deceased:** Gwen Ransom

**Anniversaries:** Lucy Brock

**ALTAR HELPERS** Sat 25 July: TBC Sat 1 Aug: TBC

**BINGO** 1 August: Maree Williams, Vicki, Chris Hogarty, Miriam Hogarty, Emma Difiede

| 25th & 26th July            | COMMENTOR    | READER          | SPECIAL MINISTER | OFFERTORY           |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 6:30 pm                     | Liz Donnelly | Cathie McMaster | Mavis Murphy     | Angelina Vigliaturo |
| 10.30 am                    | Inez Raleigh | TBA             | Maree Williams   | TBA                 |
| <b>1st &amp; 2nd August</b> |              |                 |                  |                     |
| 6:30 pm                     | TBA          | TBA             | Sarah Richards   | TBA                 |
| 10.30 am                    | TBA          | TBA             | Elaine Vertriest | TBA                 |