



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Readings

We hear a lot today about Treaties. A treaty is made between two nations or two parties that mutually design it and have respect and commitment to abide by its terms. A covenant is also a mutual agreement normally made by one and an individual or a group. The covenant expressed in the Sacred Scriptures is made by God to his people. The first readings on the Sundays of Lent continue with accounts of God's Covenant. This Sunday there is a significant shift. Jeremiah speaks of God establishing a *new covenant* with his people. This is the only time "new covenant" is mentioned in the Old Testament. And this covenant looks forward to the one established by Christ's death and resurrection. "New Covenant" is found in Luke's Gospel, St Paul's letters, and the letter to the Hebrews which quotes the entire first reading from Jeremiah (Hebr 8:8-12). New Covenant is expressed at every Mass in the Eucharistic Prayers.

The passage from the Letter to the Hebrews today, however, is not just about covenant but about suffering, death and salvation. Just in two sentences we have a great insight into the mind and heart of Jesus. He prayed, he cried, he was fearful but resolute, humble and obedient. Prayer leads to acceptance, acceptance gives him strength. May our prayers for healing, solutions to hardships, for peace bring us acceptance and salvation.

Palm Sunday

Next Sunday, 24 March is Passion Sunday, the day we read the Passion of the Lord. It is also known as Palm Sunday with the commemoration of The Lord's Entry into Jerusalem. Monday of Holy Week, 25 March, displaces the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord until the next liturgically free day, Monday 8 April.

Prayer over the People

Bless, O Lord, your people,
who long for the gift of your mercy,
and grant that what, at your prompting,
they desire
they may receive by your generous gift.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Roman Missal, 5th Sunday of Lent)

This Week's Readings

Jeremiah 3 1:31-34
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33

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On the Lighter Side

I grew up a Catholic in Victoria. Giving up alcohol was a common Lenten sacrifice. When I visited Chicago I was amused to hear that the Archbishop would give a dispensation from this Lenten sacrifice for St. Patrick's Day. Was that Lenten sacrifice simply too great to bear?



Liturgical Jottings Lent – 5 Lectionary

The Gospel of the first Sunday of Lent gives the account of Jesus in the wilderness from Matthew (in cycle A), Mark (B) and Luke (C). The Gospel for the second Sunday of Lent gives the account of the transfiguration, again from the three Gospels. For the other Sundays of Lent they differ. The Gospels in cycle A are baptismal in character. The Gospels in cycle C are penitential in character. Thereby relating to the double focus of Lent: preparing for Baptism for RCIA candidates and Penance for the initiated. Year B has two themes: the first reading recalls God's covenant established and re-established and the Gospel focuses on the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thereby preparing all for the Paschal mystery.

On Passion (Palm) Sunday we read Jesus entry into Jerusalem with Matthew (in cycle A), Mark or John (B) and Luke (C) and proclaim the Passion Narrative, again from Matthew (A),

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 True Source of Salvation

We live in a world that is driven by technology. From smartphones to social media, from artificial intelligence to automation, technology has become an integral part of our lives. There is nothing inherently wrong with this, of course. Technology can be a powerful tool that can help us solve material difficulties and improve our lives. However, there is a danger that we can become so focused on what we can achieve through technology that we forget what truly matters in life.

As Christians, we believe that what matters most is not what we can do for God or for ourselves, but what God has done and wants to do for us. Jesus is our Savior, not our consultant. This truth is evident in the readings for today's Mass.

In the first reading, we hear that God will make an everlasting covenant with us, plant the law of freedom and interior peace within our hearts, and forgive our evildoing and remember our sin no more. These promises are not dependent on what we can achieve through our own efforts. Rather, they are gifts that God freely gives us out of his infinite love and mercy.

The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus is the source of eternal salvation. We cannot reach everlasting happiness on our own, but through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are given the opportunity to be saved and to live in the light of God's love.

In the Gospel passage, Jesus himself explains that his total love and obedience, up to the point of his humiliating death on a cross, is the turning point of history. Through his self-sacrificial crucifixion, Christ's faithful love undoes Adam's original sin and conquers the devil's sinful rebellion, the source of evil in the world. Jesus willingly and freely fulfilled his Father's plan of salvation, showing us that what God has done for us matters more than anything we can possibly do for God.

As we go about our daily lives in this technology-centered world, let us not forget the true source of salvation. Let us remember that what matters most is not what we can achieve through our own efforts, but what God has done and wants to do for us. Let us open our hearts to receive the gifts of God's love and mercy, and let us strive to live in the light of Christ's self-sacrificial love. Only then will we find true happiness and fulfillment in this life and in the life to come.

A reminder to contact Sev Cortese if you are able to assist with the preparations for the St Anthony Day celebrations, 9 June 2024.

sev.cortese@hotmail.com 0417 229 038

St Mel's Parish 2024 Debutantes

Over the next two weeks, three groups of St Mel's Parish Debutantes will be presented. We congratulate the Debs and wish them and their partners all the best for a wonderful celebration. Thank you to all involved in the preparing the Debs for these evenings.

Friday 15 March

Zara Cuzens & Ben Sherlock, Hannah Wells & Ryan Ash, Brianna Turner & Anton Calandro, Maddi Tucker & Jack Garraway, Emily Archer & Max Hooper, Jaylah Meda & Blayne O'Brien, Remi Bruton & Liam Tuohey, Gabby Moore & Spencer Dickins, Jaidah Baldi & Ashton Young, Amy Lees & Will Clurey, Maddi Lees & Seth Cormick, Livinia Maffescioni & Rocci Luvara, Camiers Bolton & Justin Reynolds.

Saturday 16 March

Amani Issell & Lucca Pena, Charli Hicks & Zane Chalcraft, Claire Thomas & Rhys Carey, Britney Brand & Trent Stuart, Maddison Rowan & Grant Vallance, Georgia Hoornweg & Keelan Phillips, Savannah Trigila & Rory Duffy, Jessica Vo & Suel Cela, Victoria Martello & Charlie Prothero, Tess Somers & Jack Edwards, Mia Ludeman & Sam O'Brien, Amelia Mangan & Max Kiker, Makayla Dichiera & Darcy Smyth, Isabelle Maples & Owen Barbary.

Friday 22 March

Gracielle Iगत & Liam Kendall, Rose Cunningham & Baylan Ruska, Mia Ritchie & Archer Wallace, Montanna Burke & Riley Onley, Stella Trezise & Archer Mawson, Jessica Hyland & Damon Gooiker, Charlie Ratcliffe & Connor Mann, Angela Baxter & Sam Holland, Liliana Cirillo & Lewis Rachele, Jayda Kennedy & Jesse Minicozzi, Kiara Wilson & Max Elder, Charlotte Seddon & Rylan Farren, Olivia Jezewski & Will Skinner, Bridee Selman & Dante Sultana.

Sandhurst Diocese Chrism Mass and 150th Celebration

The Chrism Mass for 2024 will be at the Sacred Heart Cathedral on Tuesday, 26th March, at 11.00am. Diocese Parish representatives will present oils to be blessed by the Bishop for the Sacraments during the coming year. Oils will be supplied by the Cathedral; Parishes to bring their own bottles for collection of oils after Mass.

This year's Chrism Mass will also be an occasion to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese. To mark the occasion a commemorative Chrism cruet will be presented to each parish.

All parishioners of the Diocese are warmly invited to this very significant Mass for our Diocese. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided after the Mass on the Cathedral lawns. Please RSVP to your Parish Office by Thursday 21st March for catering purposes.

Parking around the Cathedral will be limited so please allow time to find a suitable park in the nearby streets.

Any interested people can come to St Mel's Parish Hall at 6pm to see the Debs prior to the ball, and they will perform a couple of dances.



Holy Week & Easter 2024

Saturday, 23 March

9:15am Weekday Mass

6:30 to 8pm Personal Confession

Palm Sunday, 24 March

9:30am & 5pm Masses

Tuesday, 26 March

No Weekday Mass

11am Chrism Mass - Bendigo Cathedral

Wednesday, 27 March

9:15am Weekday Mass

Holy Thursday, 28 March

6:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, 29 March

9:30am Stations of the Cross - St Anne's College, Kialla

3:00pm The Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, 30 March

7:00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, 31 March

9:30am Easter Sunday Mass

No evening Mass

St Mel's Parish - 18-22 Hamilton St, Shepparton

Fifth Sunday of Lent - 17 March

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities. Please donate to Project Compassion 2024. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Volunteer Canva Artist Needed

A Volunteer Canva artist is needed to support our parish website and bulletin. Must have Canva experience and a passion for design. Showcase your skills, gain experience, and make a positive impact. Contact us for details.



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
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

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

Commentators/Lectors/Special Ministers

Sunday 24 March - Palm Sunday

Commentators

9:30am Denis Muto

5pm Ainsley Yandall Etuale

Lectors

9:30am Mary Calandro (L1) Sev Cortese (L2)

5pm Luisa Cassise & Dom Poppa

Special Ministers

9:30am Maree McKenna & Trish Mathisen

5pm Sr Pam Barlow & Cathy Canatelli



Next Week's Readings

Entrance: Mark 11:1-10

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Passion of Mark 14:1-5:47

St Mel's Parish has been blessed over many years with the contributions of time, energy and talent from **Ainsley Etuale, Erin Tanner and Maree Walsh.**

These three generous women have now finished in the roles they so capably dedicated themselves to.

Ainsley recently ended her role as Administration Officer. During her time in the office, she willingly took on many additional tasks. She built warm relationships with others and is appreciated for her generosity and hard work.

Erin has been a member of the Parish Pastoral Council [PPC] for many years. She has undertaken a variety of tasks, and her service and commitment to the work of the PPC has been tireless and valued.

Maree has willingly used her talents to play the organ at St Mel's for Masses, funerals and other church services over many, many years. Her music has greatly enhanced the prayer life of the community of St Mel's.

Once again, thank you Maree, Erin and Ainsley. Your time, talents and thoughtful contributions have greatly benefitted the St Mel's Parish. May you three be blessed in all your future endeavours.

We ask for your prayers for
Recently Deceased: Angela Michielin
Eternal Repose: Rosario Pennisi, Felice Bevilacqua



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Vincent Tassoni
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email the office**



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](https://www.smps.org.au) email: sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au or visit our website at www.smps.org.au



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