



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Readings

Again and again in salvation history there are unexpected turns and most surprising persons. Cyrus the king of Persia, a pagan, works to re-establish the people of God to their homeland, lost to the Babylonians and also to restore the temple that was destroyed. We read about Cyrus in the first reading from the second book of Chronicles – a collected history of the Hebrew people. Cyrus will raise up the people and their place of worship.

Jesus tells Nicodemus that he, Jesus, will be raised up but again in an unexpected way. He will be raised up on the cross. John's Gospel, a much later reflection on the life and teaching of Christ, has had the years to contemplate the mystery of Christ and recognise the cross not simply as an instrument of torture and death but as a symbol of the tree of victory over death.

St Paul's letter to the Ephesians sounds both like a Christian hymn and a treatise of theology in the love and grace of God. God's mercy rises up again and again in salvation history. When God resorts to punishment for sin it becomes a sign of his mercy to provoke conversion and for Him to be able to grant pardon and peace. Finally St Paul gives that great commendation: "We are God's work of art!"

Poem of the Week

If hope has made you walk
farther than fear,
you will raise your eyes.
Then you will be able to hold firm
until you reach the sun of God
J Akepsimas and M Scouarnec.

This Week's Readings

2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23
Ephesians 2:4-10
John 3:14-21

Prayer over the People

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord,
and sustain the weak;
give life by your unfailing light
to those who walk in the shadow of death,
and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil
to reach the highest good.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Roman Missal, 4th Sunday of Lent*)

On the Lighter Side

Saint Patrick would have never believed, how his memory would become perceived, in the Emerald Isle, they do it in style, with green outfits, green hats and green sleeves.



Liturgical Jottings

Lent - 4

Gospel Acclamations

During Lent the "Gloria" is not said or sung except on feast days, eg. St Patrick, St Joseph. However, during Lent in the Latin Rite the "Alleluia" is never sung or said at all. Its absence symbolises a penitential character of the season and within our lives.

Therefore the Verse before the Gospel is accompanied with other acclamations, namely:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!

Praise and honour to you, Lord
Jesus Christ!

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ!

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord
Jesus Christ!

The General Introduction to the Lectionary simply states: "During Lent one of the acclamations from those given in the order of readings may be used, depending on the occasion. This acclamation precedes and follows the verse before the Gospel. No. 91.

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 Joyfully Hope for Heaven

There are certain times in our lives when we are called upon to reflect, to look inward, and to consider the things that matter most. Lent is one of those times. It is a season of penitence, fasting, and reflection, a time when we are asked to examine our hearts and our lives.

But in the midst of this penitential season, there is a day of rejoicing - Laetare Sunday. It is a day when the Church invites us to remember that, even in the midst of our struggles, there is still cause for joy. The rose-colored vestments worn by priests on this day serve as a symbol of this rejoicing.

At first glance, it may seem odd to rejoice in the middle of Lent. After all, this is a time when we are supposed to be examining our sins and shortcomings, and seeking to make amends. But the reality is that Christian joy is not based on human motives. It is based on the love of God, which is thorough and powerful even in the midst of our misery.

God's love is a free gift, which we do not have to earn. It makes us citizens of heaven, even as we live here on earth. And with that gift, God gives us a promise - a promise of everlasting joy in heaven. If we live in friendship with Christ, we will have a fruitful and meaningful life here on earth and enter into the eternal adventure of life with God forever in heaven.

This promise is a reason for us to rejoice. It is a reminder that, even in the midst of our struggles, we are not alone. God is with us, and He loves us completely. When we accept God's gift of friendship with Christ, we can find meaning, purpose, and joy in our lives, no matter what challenges we may face.

Laetare Sunday is a day of rejoicing, a reminder that even in the midst of Lent, there is still cause for hope and joy. It is a time to remember that God's love is a free gift, which we do not have to earn. And it is a time to reflect on the promise of everlasting joy that is ours when we live in friendship with Christ.

St Anthony's Feast Day celebrations at St Mel's on Sunday 9th June 2024

The St. Anthony's Feast Day celebrations will be held again this year at St. Mel's Parish on Sunday, June 9th. We are seeking volunteers to join the organizing committee.

The more volunteers we have, the greater the success of the day. Please consider making yourself available to help with the running of the event by contacting Sev Cortese at 0417 229 038 or emailing him at sev.cortese@hotmail.com.

We aim to make this a special day for children and adults alike, especially for those who remember our previous successful events before COVID.

However, events like these require the participation of volunteers like you. Therefore, put your hand up to help us make this day a memorable one.



ALPHA happening at St. Brendan's



Fr Rene and Fr Ruel are inviting parishioners to join them for the ALPHA program at St. Brendan's. The program will start on Monday, March 18th, 2024, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The meeting kicks off with a light dinner, a video and some sharing. This will be a great opportunity to connect with each other and create meaningful relationships ahead of our own ALPHA meetings scheduled for next year.

2024 Synod Consultation

As the Church prepares for the Second Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2024, we have been invited to contribute our response to the question: *How can we be a synodal Church in mission?* Please join us on 14 March 2024 at 5.00 – 6.30 pm in St Mel's Parish Gathering Room, to take part in the discussion, consider how our own parish can be more synodal and help shape the communications provided to the Second Session of Synod in October.

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.



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

Fourth Sunday of Lent - 10 March

As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village. Please donate to Project Compassion. 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

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Office Hours

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

Commentators/Lectors/Special Ministers

Sunday 17 March

Commentators
9:30am Maureen Munro
5pm Elizabeth Holligan

Lectors
9:30am Chris Summers (L1) Jacqui Avard (L2)
5pm Anthony Holligan

Special Ministers
9:30am Pauline Pettigrew & Sarah Maloney
5pm Rosana Legalo & Angie Knez

Next Week's Readings

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

Up coming Parish Office Closures

Thursday 14 March the office will close early at 1pm for an offsite meeting

Good Friday 29 March - Public Holiday

From 9 April to 12 April inclusive - Annual Leave
(For bulletin notices to be included 14 April, including anniversaries, please send through to the office no later than Thursday 4 April 10am)

Thursday 25 April - Anzac Day Public Holiday

Outside of office hours, for all inquires, please send us an email to sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
Please note that your inquiry is more likely to be received and responded to via email opposed to leaving a voice message

We ask for your prayers for

Recently Deceased: Angela Michielin, Leticia Busa,
Francesco Bagnato (one month mind)

Eternal Repose: Jack Monaghan, Alma & Arthur Crawford



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Vincent Tassoni
Licensed Agent
& Auctioneer



**If your organisation
would like to join our
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please phone or
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 email: sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au or visit our website at www.smps.org.au



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