



This Week's Readings

Acts 5:12-16
Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19
John 20:19-31

Next Week's Readings

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41
Apocalypse 5:11-14
John 21:1-19



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Readings

The Gospel for the Second Sunday of Easter is the same every year, A, B and C. It begins on that first Easter Sunday evening when Christ appears to the ten Apostles then leaps to the following Sunday when the risen Christ appears again but with the eleven. This time Thomas is present and makes the great acclamation of faith "My Lord and my God" He is Thomas the believer.

The first readings change from year to year. To a casual observer they many appear the same, each passage beginning with: "The whole community remained faithful ..." (Year A, Acts 2:42) to "The group of believer was united heart and soul ..." (Year B Acts 4:32) and then "The faithful would all meet by common consent ..." (Year C 5:12). Each portray the nascent church: Apostles and believers meeting in common sharing their 'Easter' faith in the Risen Lord. The emphasis in this year's reading is both the growing number or believers and the wonderful work and life they enjoy. A church may be growing or declining – but it cannot remain static. And while growth may be measured numerically, the real growth is most evident in the witness of faith, the works of love and the strength of their unity. People arrive, feel welcomed and at home and somewhat challenged in participation, communication and outreach.

Solemnity of Mary Mother of Good Counsel

Patroness of the Diocese of Sandhurst, Monday 28 April

There are two causes for moveable feasts. First by the variable date of Easter Sunday, it influences the dates of Ash Wednesday, Ascension, Pentecost Sunday, Trinity Sunday and a few others. Secondly the day of the week of Christmas (always the same date, 25 Dec) influences the dates for the beginning of Advent, the feasts of the Holy Family, Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. The feast of the Mother of Good Counsel, this year is a moveable feast being moved from 27 April to the next free day outside of Easter Week.

Easter Prayer for the Week

Without having seen we believe. Christ fulfills the promise.
Christ is truly risen. He is our rebirth.
The spirit of the Son witnesses to it, burning desire for the Father.
Alleluia, alleluia! Christ is our rebirth.
Christ is lifted from the dead and draws us into glory.
Christ is exalted in his flesh. He is our hope.
Why seek among the dead the living heart of the earth?
Alleluia, alleluia! Christ is our hope.
We feel this day rise like a shining sun.
Christ strikes fire in our hearts, the burning love of the Passover.
On our paths may we find the torch that dispels the night.
Alleluia, alleluia! The burning day of the Passover!



Liturgical Jottings Mass Offerings 1

We share in Christ's offering in at least three ways in Mass. Firstly, gifts of bread and wine – the elements necessary for the Eucharist – are brought up during the Presentation of the Gift, and, as the General Instruction to the Roman Missal (GIRM) says: "it is praiseworthy for the bread and wine to be presented by the faithful". In some places, it is still possible to follow the ancient practice of giving to the priest bread and wine actually produced locally by the faithful. This liturgical action, which has a very practical origin, is a sign of our participation in the self-gift of Christ. Moreover, as the Catechism notes: "The presentation of the offerings at the altar takes up the gesture of Melchizedek and commits the Creator's gifts into the hands of Christ who, in his sacrifice, brings to perfection all human attempts to offer sacrifices" (CCC §1350)."

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

JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES - Let's reflect and learn.

"When therefore it was evening, on that day" (v. 19a). This is Easter evening, the same day that the disciples saw the empty tomb and Mary saw Jesus. This is consistent with Luke's account, where Jesus encountered two disciples on the Emmaus road "that same day" (Luke 24:13), which was "the first day of the week" (Luke 24:1). Once the disciples recognized Jesus, "he vanished out of their sight" (Luke 24:31).

The disciples meet in a room in Jerusalem "locked...for fear of the Jews" (v. 19b). The locked doors reflect the fear of the disciples but will also demonstrate the power of the risen Christ, who can be contained neither by a rock tomb nor a locked door. Furthermore, the disciples are still traumatized by the crucifixion, and are frightened concerning what might happen next.

"Peace (eirene) be to you" (v. 19c). To these frightened disciples, Jesus gives his peace, even as he has promised (14:27). The disciples will have peace in spite of persecution by a world that will hate them even as it hates Jesus (15:18-25). While this text uses the Greek word for peace, eirene, the concept is the Jewish shalom – more than the absence of conflict – a wholeness that is the gift of God.

"When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side" (v. 20a). On one hand, Jesus enters through a closed door, suggesting that his body has assumed a different quality. On the other hand, his wounds confirm his bodily resurrection, and his body is clearly recognizable by the disciples. Luke tells of Jesus eating a meal with the disciples (Luke 24:43).

"The disciples therefore were glad when they saw the Lord" (v. 20b). Earlier, Jesus warned the disciples that they would weep and mourn and experience pain, but then he promised, "your sorrow will be turned into joy" (16:20) – a joy so profound that they would forget their former pain, even as a woman forgets the anguish of labour pains "for the joy that a human being is born into the world" (16:21). This visit of Jesus to the disciples, then, is the fulfillment (or at least the beginning of the fulfillment) of that promise. The disciples did, indeed, weep and mourn and experience pain when Jesus was arrested and crucified. But now their pain has turned into joy at seeing Jesus alive once again.

"Receive the Holy Spirit" (v. 22b). As far back as the first chapter of this Gospel, John the Baptist spoke of Jesus as "the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit" (1:33) – and Jesus spoke to Nicodemus of the necessity of being "born of the Spirit" (3:8).

"But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus (the twin), wasn't with them when Jesus came" (v. 24). Didymos is the Greek word for twin. We don't know why Thomas was absent, but we do know that he earlier thought that going to Bethany with Jesus would mean death for the disciples as well as Jesus (11:16). "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe" (v. 25b). Thomas does not believe the disciples, but neither did the disciples believe Mary. They were a despondent, defeated people until they saw Jesus with their own eyes. Thomas was not the sole doubter and will not remain a doubter. He doubts the witness of the other disciples and so cannot believe the resurrection. Once he sees what they have seen, he will manifest great faith.

"Reach here your finger and see my hands. Reach here your hand and put it into my side" (v. 27a). Jesus does not condemn Thomas for his failure to believe but gives him that which enables him to believe (v. 27). Thomas has demanded to see and touch the risen Lord, and Jesus allows him to do that. There is no indication that Thomas actually touches Jesus' wounds. Seeing the wounded, resurrected Christ is enough.

"My Lord and my God!" (v. 28). In response, Thomas makes this great confession of faith, which goes far beyond any titles or confessions found elsewhere in this Gospel. The greatest doubter has become the greatest believer.

"Blessed (makarios) are those who have not seen and have believed" (v. 29). Jesus doesn't deny Thomas a blessing. Thomas has been blessed by seeing the risen Lord and learning that his deepest fears were unfounded. But Jesus implies that those who believe in spite of not having seen will receive even greater blessings.

Prayer of the Heart

Loving Father, the risen Jesus brings peace to the frightened hearts and faith to the unbelieving.

May our easter celebration make us pilgrims of hope spreading the joy of Jesus' resurrection.

He who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen. – (FRM)



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THANK YOU!

Caritas Australia would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your incredible support of Project Compassion this Lent.

If you still have your Project Compassion box or donation envelope at home, please return them next week at Mass.

Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty.

Together, we are creating a better tomorrow, helping vulnerable communities build stronger futures for themselves and empowering them to break free from the cycle of poverty. Thank you for standing with us!



It's not too late to donate.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Please return your Caritas Project Compassion envelopes and boxes to the Church Narthex collection bowl, or the parish office no later than Sunday 4 May.
Thank you.

Thank you!

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who assisted in the planning and preparations of Holy Week at St. Mel's Parish. This was an enormous task, and we could not have done it without your dedication and support!

We have many more events and special liturgies coming up, and as the saying goes, "many hands make light work." If you are interested and able to lend a hand, we would love to have your help.

Upcoming events and liturgies include:

St. Anthony's Day – June
Memorial Mass - November
Christ the King – November
Misa de Gallo – December
Christmas - December
Sinulog Celebrations – January 2026

Please reach out if you'd like to *GET INVOLVED* and be part of the preparations. Your time and talent make a big difference!



The Divine Mercy 25th Jubilee
Mercy Sunday
27th April 2025

Come to the Feast of the Divine Mercy this Easter
Holy Mass Celebrated by Fr Joe Taylor

St Brendan's Catholic Church
121 Knight Street, Shepparton

2:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
Time for you to reflect with God
Music selected by Loretta Grace

3:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet – in song
Benediction

3:30pm Holy Mass
Celebrated by Fr Joe Taylor

4:30pm Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image

Enquiries: Parish Office 5821 2633 or Tom Melis 0431 706 296

Join us next Sunday!

On the first Sunday of each month our PPC members rotate to volunteer and have the urn boiling after 9:30am Mass.

Stay for a cuppa, biscuit, and chat with your fellow Parishioners.

All welcome!



Save the Date!

Safeguarding Training – Tuesday 20 May



All parish volunteers are required to complete safeguarding training, as mandated by the Diocese of Sandhurst. This training must be renewed every two years.

We will be completing the training together as a group on Tuesday 20 May in the evening. More information to come. If you are unable to attend, you will have the option to complete it independently at home.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping our parish a safe and welcoming place!



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)

3rd Sunday of the month

MARRIAGE

2 months-notice required

Parish Staff

Fr. Joe Taylor
Parish Administrator

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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(03) 5831 2194

Office Hours

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

It's back!
The second annual Sinulog preparations begin...

NOVENA MASSES IN PREPARATION FOR THE 2026 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
2nd May 2025 at 6:00pm.

18-22 Hamilton St. Shepparton VIC 3630

*We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of
Anniversaries: May & Joseph Ferguson, Cucettina Andronaco*

Commentators/Lectors/ Special Ministers

Sunday 4th
May

Commentators

9:30am Maureen Munro

5pm Elizabeth Holligan

Lectors

9:30am Trish Mathisen (L1) Sev Cortese (L2)

5pm Helen May (L1) Paul Bertolli (L2)

Special Ministers

9:30am Lucy Ciano & Sarah Maloney

5pm Cathy Cannatelli & Helen May

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Help fund our initiatives
to move from
maintenance to mission!

"Together we do more"

Use the QR Code to
access our Donations
Page.



\$14,438 April Target

\$
Week Four \$

\$
Week Three \$

\$5,696
Week Two \$2,569

\$3,127
Week One \$3,127

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WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

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MONTHLY GOAL

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TODAY!**

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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
or visit our website at www.smps.org.au