

PARISH CALENDAR

- 3rd May:** Trivia Night On line
- 7th May:** Nicholls House Mass 12.15pm * PPC Meeting 5.30pm
- 8th May:** High Tea Committee Meeting 4:30pm (Upstairs) * Liturgy Committee Meeting 5pm
- 10th May:** Aged Care Liturgy 10am
- 12th May:** Mothers' Day
- 15th May:** Soup and Sandwiches 12:30pm (After Mass)
- 18th -19th May:** G'Day Weekend
- 21st May:** Finance Committee Meeting 5.00pm
- 22nd May:** Ladies Drinks Meeting Room 5.30pm

Fellow Parishioners,

As you may know, the finances of the Parish are tight. We, like many of you, are experiencing difficulty in being able to meet our regular financial commitments. The Parish Finance Team have identified our parish debt as a significant barrier to ensuring the financial viability of our Parish. Our current debt is \$328,324.62, resulting in an annual repayment of \$69,096.00 (\$1,328.77 per week). This debt is constraining our ability to meet the other financial commitments of the Parish. e.g., office staff wages (including priest stipend), insurance, gas, electricity and general maintenance on our assets.

I am, therefore, along with our Parish Senior Leadership Team and Finance Team, undertaking a 'Financial Appeal' that will hopefully see a significant reduction in our debt level and will ensure our financial future is secure. I am therefore asking those of us who can, to dig deep, very deep, and offer a once-off capital payment to our Parish. I appreciate this will be challenging for many of you to read, but I am asking, in essence, for 328 of you to make a \$1,000 donation to our Parish. Some of you may be able to give more, some of you less. Nonetheless, if I don't ask, the Parish faces a very challenging financial future.

I am also being supported by a number of parishioners who will be running periodical fundraisers for our Parish. We're endeavouring to hold diverse events across the next 12 months that will tap into various community members. Please do not feel compelled to support each event. The more that we can raise, the better our financial future looks. If you have an idea for a fundraiser, please let me know, and I will convey it to our fundraising team.

This has been a very difficult decision for me to write this letter advising of the need for an appeal. Please understand that it is not something I want to do, but I do not see an alternative at this point. A 'Goal Tracker' in the church, parish bulletin, website and school newsletters will update progress, keeping everyone informed. I appreciate your support of our St. Mary's community. The Parish's financial sustainability ensures an ongoing connection between the parish and school, enabling services to thrive in the future and fulfil our mission of celebrating the faith and serving the local community. For any donations, please deposit funds directly into the bank account below, or via the envelopes available at the back of the Church marked Parish Financial Appeal.

St Mary's Echuca

BSB: 083-543
Account Number: 45-782-9206

Please note that donations to this appeal are NOT tax deductible.



Kind regards,



Parish Financial Appeal

Fr. Novelito Lim
 Parish Priest

OLIVE PRESSING!

If you or a friend has olives ready for pressing and you would like to add them to our Parish collection please contact Cecilia on 0400863190 for further information. Our first pressing will be on May 5th and there will be a later one.

Reconciliation Week Sorry Day Afternoon Tea

St Mary's Social Justice Group invites you to enjoy a cuppa around the fire as we gather with local community elders to share stories and have a yarn. **2.30 Sunday 26th May 2024.** More details to come...

Welcome Back: Soup & Sandwiches

Soup & Sandwiches will commence on Wednesday May 15 following 12 noon Mass. S & S will be held on the third Wednesday of the month through to October. We look forward to seeing many parishioners enjoying the company of others around the table.

Hangabout Playgroup

9am - 10:15am Friday mornings during the school terms.
 St Mary's Parish 224 Anstruther St Echuca
 (enter via side gate).



St. Mary's Parish and the Filipino Community would like to invite all of you to our celebration of the

Santacruzán

Parish Fundraiser Event

2024

2nd June 2024, Sunday

9:30 am Parish Mass, all are welcome

Followed by Fellowship at the Parish Hall

Community Connect



ST MARY'S PARISH ECHUCA INVITES YOU TO A

High Tea

Your favourite cuppa with delicious sweet & savoury items.
Includes a welcome glass of bubbles.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

**Sunday, 30 June 2024
1:30PM - 4PM**

Raffles, Trading Table of Produce, Live Musical Entertainment and more!

TICKETS

\$35 p/seat or book by table (10 seats p/table)

ATTIRE

Your favourite Pink & Pearls

CONTACT

Jenny Morris
0418625731



A fundraiser for the Parish

This weekend (May 4th and 5th), a vendor will offer religious items including statues, rosaries, keychains, and holy images before and after Masses. For those unable to pay upfront, items can be taken with payment on installments. A portion of proceeds supports the church. Thank you."

Save the Date!

The parish will be hosting a Garage Sale in our parish hall on May 18th and 19th. We have a variety of items available, including furniture, tables, and chairs. Don't miss this opportunity to find some great deals and support our parish community. See you there!

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

4th & 5th May 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Chris Lee
Nick Lee, Carol Purdon

9.30am: Barb Green
Rod Chisholm, Kerry McLoughlan

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Dominic Karunanayke
9.30am: Kay Westblade, Catherine Lindner

Prayers of the Faithful: Noela Boyer

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 4th Elaine Roberts,
Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 4th Kate Bruty

Setting up the Church: 5th Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 7th Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: 6th John and Julie Moyle

Gardening: Doug Black, Ray Lewis

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

11th & 12th May 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Christine Sebire
Rose Quinn, Kajini Karunanayke

9.30am: Theresa Jacobs
Abilain Liwanag, Julie Moyle

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Allison McKiterick
9.30am: Erick Melad, Rob Morris

Prayers of the Faithful: Terry McKiterick

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 11th Cecilia Merrigan,
Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 11th Mary Atkins

Setting up the Church: 12th Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 14th Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: 13th Kym Bridges

Gardening: Doug Black, Ray Lewis

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: Julio and Nati Acebron, David Baker, Bruno Barbera, Monica Beckwith, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, John & Chloris Dignan, Caroline Farley, Bernadette McClelland, Fred Molluso, John Monigatti, Margaret Oman, Murray Perrett, Beatrice Phillips, Peter Phillips, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Patricia Vogele, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace, Colleen Bosse, Bruce Haines, Sue Dalton (Johnson), Maureen McKenner.

Anniversaries: Percy Colvin, Peter Lee, Peter Boyer, Tony Tyndall, Kay Christian, Margaret Musgrove, John Drakatos, Fran Beehag, Mary Farley.

Recently Deceased:

First Reading

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up', he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 1 John 4:11-16**A reading from the first letter of St John**

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another.

No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us. We can know that we are living in him and he is living in us because he lets us share his Spirit. We ourselves saw and we testify that the Father sent his Son as saviour of the world.

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God.

We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves.

God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.

Love will come to its perfection in us when we can face the day of Judgement without fear; because even in this world we have become as he is.

In love there can be no fear, but fear is driven out by perfect love: because to fear is to expect punishment, and anyone who is afraid is still imperfect in love.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-4

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **R.**

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia.

Gospel

John 15:9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next week: The Ascension of the Lord

11th & 12th May Year B

1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 46:2-3, 6-9

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20