



## MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH PARISH

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**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: TO BE A LIGHT UNTO THE WORLD**

Parish Priest: Fr. Bosco Sangbok Son SVD

Assistant Priest : Fr. Gideon Awudi SVD

Parish Secretary: Veena Miranda

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

**Acknowledgement of Country :** We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, Elders and communities and the spirit that binds us in our dreams and aspirations on Dharawal country. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

### 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR - A

23rd & 24th September 2023

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

##### Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord, Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

##### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (55:6-9)

*(My thoughts are not your thoughts).*

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.

##### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 144)

**All: The Lord is near to all who call him.**

**Reader:** I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured.

**All: The Lord is near to all who call him.**

**Reader:** The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

**All: The Lord is near to all who call him.**

**Reader:** The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts.

**All: The Lord is near to all who call him.**

##### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians (1:20-24, 27)

*(For me to live is Christ).*

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

# Parish News and Happenings

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL:** **Matthew (20:1-16)**

*(Why are you jealous because I am generous?).*

### Communion Antiphon

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

**READINGS FOR 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
Year A : 30th Sept & 1st October 2023  
Ezek 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

**BAPTISMS are open. For Baptism Preparation** please contact **Maria D'souza** through email : [maria197114@gmail.com](mailto:maria197114@gmail.com) or **Contact the parish office.**

*BAPTISMS on 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11:30am*

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday : 6:00 pm.** (Vigil Mass)

**Sunday : 8:00 am & 10:00 am.**

#### Weekday Masses :

**Mon- Fridays at 9:00 am**

**Saturday : 8.30am**

**Every Wednesday : NOVENA to our Mother Mary,**  
6:30pm Rosary followed by Novena Prayers

**Bible Study :**Fortnightly on Sundays at 2.00pm in the Logos Centre.

**Notice:** There will be **NO** morning tea cuppa on the first weekend of October as it is the public holiday / long weekend. Thank You!

**RCIA:** We extend a warm welcome to the 6 newest members of our parish family, our RCIA candidates who have started their faith journey with us. Let us come together in prayer, asking for God's blessings on our RCIA candidates as they continue on this spiritual path. May their journey be filled with grace and enlightenment.

## Thank You!

**THE BISHOP 'S ANNUAL APPEAL TO SUPPORT THE RETIREMENT AND HEALTH OF CLERGY AND THE SOUND AND HOLISTIC FORMATION OF SEMINARIANS.**

Thank you for your generous support of this appeal last weekend. A gift of **\$1,862.85** has been forwarded to Bishop Brian as our response to his appeal. Thanks for your generosity.

Donations are still being gratefully received online via the Diocese of Wollongong 's website: [www.dow.org.au/giving](http://www.dow.org.au/giving) "I am very grateful for your support in helping me to ensure that we can provide for the retirement and health of clergy, and the sound and holistic formation of our young seminarians. God bless you."

**+ Bishop Brian Mascord**

## Around the Diocese:

### Called by Name:

Macarthur Young Adults Gathering  
Campbelltown Catholic Club, Saturday 28 October  
6:45pm - 9pm

We live in a chaotic world that often leaves us struggling to understand who we truly are, our purpose, and our calling in life. If you've found yourself contemplating these questions, you're not alone! We all crave a profound sense of purpose in our lives, and an understanding of "whose" we are and what we were created for.

We extend to you this personal invitation to engage with fellow young adults from 17—35 years old, guided by a panel who will openly share the stories and learnings from their own journeys, with an opportunity for Q&A throughout the discussion. This event is the beginning of a regional initiative connecting young adults in the Macarthur, though young adults from all throughout the Diocese are most welcome. Register now: [dow.sh/cbn23](http://dow.sh/cbn23)

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### Marriage Enrichment Weekend

An opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 27-29 October 2023 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, a stunning and tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or Email: [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au)

# Parish News and Happenings

## **Sunday School**

We are thrilled to announce the return of Sunday School to our parish community starting from **15th October during the 10am Mass** in the Logos Centre.

### **What to Expect:**

- Engaging lessons for about 30mins
- Full supervision provided for a safe and nurturing environment
- Children will rejoin the main congregation before the Communion service.
- Held exclusively during the School Term

We encourage all interested parents and guardians to bring their children to the 10am Mass so that they can attend the Sunday School. For any enquiries or to learn more about our Sunday School program, please contact the parish office or Edyleen Santos on 0414945451.

## **Caritas Australia's Emergency Appeals Morocco / Libya**

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died, and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water, and medical assistance. Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals. Donate at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

### **Reflection : : What God is like**

Some people think that Jesus' story is an unfair and unjust one. (I've heard this many times). This is a very serious accusation. Injustice is an ugly thing. All of us have some experience of it. Injustice leaves a wound that takes a long time to heal. Jesus' story is not about injustice, because no injustice is done in it.

Nor is his story about justice, thought it goes out of its way to state that justice is done. Justice is a great thing. It is one of the things that is stressed again and again in the Bible. But Jesus' story is not about justice.

What then is Jesus' story about? It is about generosity. 'Are you envious because I am generous? That is the key phrase in the story. The story is about generosity, but not ordinary generosity. It's about a generosity unlike anything we've ever known.

The eleventh-hour workers were not idlers who didn't want to work. They were people no respectable employer would hire. They were the left-overs, the rejects. The idea that any employer would take these people on at the eleventh hour, and pay them a full day's wage, was unthinkable. Yet this is exactly what the owner of the vineyard did. This is the strong point of the parable.

Jesus wasn't talking about human generosity but about the generosity of God. He was illustrating what the First Reading said, 'God's ways are not our ways, God's thoughts are not our thoughts'. God's generosity utterly transcends human generosity.

The parable was aimed at the Pharisees. They were critical of Jesus because he befriended sinners. Jesus gave them his answer in this parable. In it he showed them what God is like: God is generous and full of compassion for the poor and the outcast.

God deals with us in ways that are very different from the ways we normally deal with one another. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high is God's generosity above our generosity. The goodness of God is a great comfort to us. But it is also a great challenge, because we are called to imitate it; to make our ways of dealing with one another more like God's way of dealing with us.

A conversion is required before we can begin to act like God. Not an intellectual conversion, but a conversion of the heart.

One man who grasped this was Pope John XXIII, who launched the Second Vatican Council. He has rightly been called a genius. In what sense? He was a genius of the heart. His genius consisted in his generosity, his largeness of heart.

Faith is a call which above all is addressed to the heart. In essence it consists of a relationship of love with the God who first loved us. It is with the heart that we best grasp God. St John says: 'Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.'

Once God has touched our hearts, and warmed them with his love, we will begin to love in our turn. And then we will truly know what God is like. God is love.

***New Sunday & Holy Liturgies  
Flor McCarthy, SDB***

# Parish News and Happenings

## Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

**Birthday :** Tina Pineda / Maria Constant/  
Gina Jessica Gutianjo / Sandel Sabado /  
Jackson Padayon / Renato Sabado

**Thanksgiving :** Constant Family / Kamini/  
Joseph Quiah / Gavin Noronha

**Special Intentions :** Nancy & Dylan /  
Tess Valesini

## This week masses have been offered for the Sick and Special needs of :

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| * Fr. David Catterall           | * Julius Medvecky      |
| * TJ del Rio                    | * Dr Lydia de Jesus    |
| * Alan Raisbeck                 | * Dr Joycelyn de Jesus |
| * Fellie Duggan                 | * Leslie Reich         |
| * Resty Perez                   | * Noli Leyesa          |
| * Catherine Nguyen              | * Jaypee Masangkay     |
| * Cecily Kenny                  | * Jamie Masangkay      |
| * Cecilie Lacey                 | * Aida Dayao           |
| * Patrick Munslow               | * Eva Silang           |
| * Czeslawa Piela                | * Carole Dimayuga      |
| * Maria Hunkin                  | * Selda Dimayuga       |
| * Frances Thorncraft            | * Peter Hanh Tran      |
| * Joseph Domingo                | * Noeline Bartlet      |
| * Marija Soldo                  | * Nancie               |
| * Catherine & Abigael<br>Carlos | * Jun & Charo Doctors  |
| * Shirley Myers                 | * Vivian Martin        |
| * Angelica                      | * Romeo Angeles        |
| * Teresa Beattie                |                        |
| * Venancio Ibarra               |                        |
| * Noriel Rivela                 |                        |



## THIS WEEK MASSES HAVE BEEN OFFERED FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS & DEATH ANNIVERSARIES OF benefactors of:

- ✠ Ismael G Cruz
- ✠ Hazel & Thomas Miranda
- ✠ Terry Fernando
- ✠ Simon Nelson DeSilva
- ✠ Patrick Joseph Maher
- ✠ Danica Vukovic
- ✠ Mile Vukovic
- ✠ Deceased Catechists
- ✠ Abraham Duque
- ✠ Savidor Imeldaa Bonello
- ✠ All souls in Purgatory



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**SVD Prayer :** *“May the darkness of sin and night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word and the spirit of grace, and may the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all. Amen”* **Saint Arnold Janssen**

## Gloria

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise You, We bless You,  
We adore you, We glorify You,  
We give you thanks for your great glory.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
You take away the sins of the world, receive our  
prayer; You are seated at the right hand of the  
Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the  
holy one, You alone are the Lord, You alone are most  
high Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory  
of God the Father. Amen.*

## The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (all bow)  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius  
Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended into hell; on the third day he rose  
again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is  
seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there He will come to judge the living and the  
dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic  
Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of  
sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.  
Amen.*