



## 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

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.

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10th & 11th January 2026

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

##### Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

##### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (42:1-4, 6-7)

*Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased).*

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The Word of the Lord.

##### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 28)

**All: The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

**Reader:** O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court.

**All: The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

**Reader:** The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendor.

**All: The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

**Reader:** The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!' The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever.

**All: The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

##### SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34-38)

*(God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power).*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: '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.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of

# Parish News and Happenings

Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The Word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL:

**Matthew 3:13-17**

*(When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon him).*

## Communion Antiphon

Behold the One of whom John said:  
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

## **A vocation view**

Gratitude leads to praise. For what are you thankful? Share your gratitude. (Luke 17:11-19)

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

## 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**

## RECONCILIATION:

**Saturday :** 5:15pm – 5:45pm

**Every Wednesday : NOVENA to our Mother Mary,** 5 pm Rosary followed by Novena Prayers

**Bible Study : Resume in February 2026**

**Sunday School : Resume in February 2026**

## **BAPTISMS are open.**

**For Baptism Preparation** please contact **Maria D'souza** through email : **maria197114@gmail.com** or **Contact the parish office.**

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

## **READINGS FOR 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Year A : 17th & 18th January 2026**

**Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3;**

**Jn 1:29-34**

## Thank you Note:

*As we celebrate the joyous season of Christmas and welcome the New Year, I am filled with immense gratitude for the vibrant and faith-filled community that our parish has become, thanks to the dedicated efforts of so many individuals.*

*To our Parish Ministry volunteers, I offer my heartfelt thanks. Your time, talents, and commitment have been instrumental in shaping our parish into the spirited and caring community we cherish today.*

*I am also deeply grateful to all who have generously contributed throughout the year - whether financially or through your voluntary work. Your kindness and generosity have truly made a difference.*

*Thank you for being an integral part of our parish family. May the coming year bring you joy, fulfillment, and abundant blessings.*

**Fr. Bosco**

## Christmas Donations

Thank you for your wonderful support for our Parish:  
Dawn Masses Donation : **\$9,619.00**  
My Gift to Baby Jesus Donation : **\$1,995.00**  
Christmas Offering: **\$695.70**

Thank you all for your generosity. God Bless!

# Parish News and Happenings

## Baptism

Through the waters of Baptism,

**Theodore Sutanto,  
Austin Peter Santoso  
&  
Keona-Beatrice Buenaventura  
Pena**



Enter into the life of God the  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## Clergy Appointments

**Fr James Arblaster** is appointed as Assistant Priest at St Michael's Parish, Nowra.

**Fr Victor Vincent** is appointed as Assistant Priest at St Paul's Parish, Camden.

**Fr Darren McDowell** is appointed as Assistant Priest at St Michael's Parish, Nowra.

**Fr Sinh Le** is appointed as Assistant Priest to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Oran Park.

**Fr Joseph Vuong Nguyen** is appointed as Assistant Priest to St Therese Parish, West Wollongong.

## REFLECTION : *Identifying with sinners*

When leprosy broke out among the people of the Hawaiian Islands in the middle of the last century, the authorities responded by establishing a leper colony on the remote island of Molokai. The victims were snatched by force from their families and sent to this island to perish.

However, moved by their terrible plight, a young Belgian priest, Damien De Veuster, asked to be allowed to minister to them. Straightaway he realised that there was only one effective way to do this: that was to go and live among them.

Having got permission, he went to Molokai. At first, he tried to minister to them while maintaining a certain distance. But soon he realised that he had to live among them in order to gain their trust. As a result he contracted leprosy himself.

The reaction of the lepers was immediate and wholehearted. They embraced him and took him to their hearts. He was now one of them. There was no need, no point any more in keeping his distance. The lepers now had someone who could talk with authority about leprosy, about brokenness, about rejection and public shame.

The baptism of Jesus was a source of embarrassment to the early Christians. Even John the Baptist himself found it incongruous and, as we saw in the Gospel, tried to prevent it. Why was this? It was because John's baptism was a summons to repentance. It was for sinners who were conscious of their sinfulness. Now of one thing the early Christians were certain - Jesus was no sinner. He did not stand in need of repentance. What relevance could John's baptism have for him, and why did he submit himself to it?

It was a symbolic act. He wanted to show solidarity with the people he had come to help. For this reason it was important that he was baptised, and baptised publicly. In this way he was identifying with sinners. When he stepped into the waters of the Jordan he was in effect saying to them, 'I'm on your side.'

On the day of his baptism, Jesus joined the ranks of sinners. The Father approved of what he was doing, and set his seal on it by sending the Holy Spirit to anoint him with the oil of compassion for his mission.

What Jesus did that day at the Jordan was to serve as a model for his public ministry. He would not keep himself apart from sinners. He would not wait for them to come to him. He would seek them out and go among them. He would befriend them. He would welcome them. Jesus didn't stand apart or put himself above the sinners he came to save. He placed himself among them. He joined them where they were. So much so that he was treated as a criminal, and suffered the fate of the condemned criminal.

Though completely sinless, Jesus took our sinful condition on himself. He doesn't stand apart from us, but has placed himself beside us as an older Brother.

He reveals to us that we are God's precious children. He wants us to have life here and hereafter.

In this way he shows his love for us. And he also shows us what we have to do if we want to help those who are down.

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

# Parish News and Happenings

**Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:**

**Wedding Anniversary :**  
Amado & Teng Manubay

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

- |                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| * Jaypee Masangkay                 | * Carole Dimayuga   |
| * Aida Dayao                       | * Selda Dimayuga    |
| * Maria & Mr. Vu                   | * Nancie            |
| * Alan & Margaret Raisbeck         | * Charo Doctor      |
| * Mick Jones                       | * Lisapeta Kalasita |
| * Noelene Bartlet                  | * Nestor Henriques  |
| * Monique Yongching                | * Iya Gozum         |
| * Wally Skoczylas                  | * Olga Peric        |
| * Resty Perez                      | * John Vukovic      |
| * Andrea Tuazon                    | * Gerard Sullivan   |
| * Nelia Ambat                      | * Jovencio Gregori  |
| * Romulo Cabrera                   |                     |
| * Lydia, Jocelyn & Janice de Jesus |                     |
| * Logan Wall                       |                     |



**THIS WEEK MASSES HAVE BEEN OFFERED FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS & DEATH ANNIVERSARIES OF :**

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| ✠ Ednel Legarse          | ✠ Ada Bours            |
| ✠ Wal Glynn              | ✠ William Robert       |
| ✠ Mercedes Carlos        | ✠ Danica Vukovic       |
| ✠ Vincent Stenson        | ✠ Sonia Salazar        |
| ✠ Maria Samonte          | ✠ Sarah Dempsey        |
| ✠ Mary & Anthony Fowler  | ✠ Carl McCoy           |
| ✠ Alberto Nebrija        | ✠ William Lewis        |
| ✠ Mila De Guzman Katon   | ✠ Rufus Scheffer       |
| ✠ Anthony Fowler         | ✠ Colin Burns          |
| ✠ Dominic & Maria Dinh   | ✠ Wisan Kado           |
| ✠ Dominic Tran           | ✠ Mabel Artuz          |
| ✠ Anthony Dong           | ✠ Jesus de Rosario Sr, |
| ✠ Catherine Nguyen       | ✠ Rufino Artuz Jr      |
| ✠ Wicktor Grabowski      | ✠ Soledad del Rosario  |
| ✠ Mary & Tony Alphonso   | ✠ Delia Arellano       |
| ✠ Barry Lloyd            | ✠ Ghislain Pierre      |
| ✠ Christopher Harrison   | ✠ Pierre Clark         |
| ✠ Vincent Silvestre Jr   | ✠ Marcelle Fabian      |
| ✠ Charles Rivera         | ✠ James Read           |
| ✠ Dragica Lovic          | ✠ Ociliadore Torres    |
| ✠ Marino Dumas           | ✠ Rizalina Villa       |
| ✠ Jimmy O Neil           | ✠ Terry Touzell        |
| ✠ Raymunda Caleon        | ✠ Luz U. Lopez         |
| ✠ John Ahn               |                        |
| ✠ Teodora Grafilo        |                        |
| ✠ 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**

**Parish Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, we thank you for the loving and supportive environment in our Parish, where people of diverse backgrounds come together to encounter You in the Holy Eucharist and glorify Your name in prayer and song. We pray for all priests and parishioners who have given their time and service to You through ministries in the Parish and local community. We pray that through the wondrous gifts of the Holy Spirit we may continue to grow stronger in faith and spread your message of love and forgiveness. All of this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ through the intercession of His Mother Mary. Amen.*

**Roster for Next Week - 17th & 18th January 2026**

**(1) First Reading      (2) Second Reading**  
**(3) Ministers          (4) Altar Servers**

**17/01 - 6:00 pm Vigil Mass**

- |                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| (1) Jannet M                          | (2) Pierre R |
| (3) Jisha J/ Noel E/ Terry B / Noel S |              |
| (4) Rosy D                            |              |

**18/01- 8.00 am Mass**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| (1) Lucy N                              | (2) Robyn A |
| (3) Robyn A / Mimi C / Lucy N/ Emelia B |             |
| (4) Emmanuel S                          |             |

**18/01- 10.00 am Mass**

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| (1) Jaiden V  | (2) Ashley V            |
| (3) Carmen A / Threlly / Nancy K / Edyleen & Noel S/ Tina P | 4) Neejay S & Gabriel W |

**Church Cleaners (17/01)**

**Ruth**

Louise P/ Cynthia K & Marie / Maureen L  
Jeannette S