



MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH PARISH

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PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: TO BE A LIGHT UNTO THE WORLD

Parish Priest : Fr. Iosefo Asaeli Rass SVD - 0429 378 073

Assistant Priest: Fr. Peter Wang SVD - 0478 898 580

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.

*16th Sunday in Ordinary Year
Year A - 18th & 19th July 2026*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom
(12:13, 16-19)

(In the place of sin, you give repentance).

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 85)

All: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Reader: O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice.

All: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Reader: All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvelous deeds, you who alone are God.

All: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Reader: But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me.

All: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans
(8:26-27)

(The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words).

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Parish News and Happenings

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew (13:24-43)

(Let them grow together until the harvest).

Communion Antiphon

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

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 11:00am

Going to World Youth Day 2027?

If you're aged 16–25 and planning to attend World Youth Day in Seoul, you're invited to connect with other parish pilgrims as we take part in fundraising opportunities this year and prepare together through formation events in the lead-up to WYD27. If you're interested, please contact Jaiden at 0468 638 087 or the parish office.

"Searching For Love" – An MMOC Youth Group Event

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."
- St. Augustine of Hippo

Save the date and join us at our first ever youth-led testimonial event, where we'll be exploring our innate longing for love and what that means for us as followers of Christ.

Join us every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month in the Logos Centre from 6:30-9:00pm to encounter a space where faith and friendship meet. Ages 16-25 welcome!

For more, follow @mmoc.youthgroup on Instagram

Parish Volunteers Needed

Our parish is seeking **volunteers** to serve in the following ministries:

♦ **Parish Finance Team**

We are seeking for **two** volunteers to join our current Parish Finance Team. We are looking for parishioners who are trustworthy, reliable, collaborative, and committed to serving the parish community. Experience in finance, accounting, bookkeeping, administration, real estate, investment, property development or business is helpful but not essential. Most importantly, we are seeking people with integrity, good judgement, attention to detail, and a willingness to support the stewardship of our parish resources.

♦ **Parish Safeguarding Support Officers (PSSO)**

We are searching for **two** part-time PSSO. It is a volunteer role that supports and assists the Parish Priest in his safeguarding responsibilities to ensure our parish policies and protocols are established and maintained to create child safe environments in the Diocese of Wollongong. This role is to support the Parish Priest and parish community in implementing preventative Safeguarding strategies.

♦ **Parish Work Health & Safety Officers**

A Parish Work Health and Safety (WHS) Officer ensures the church and its facilities comply with safety legislation. Responsibilities include identifying hazards, conducting risk assessments, managing emergency procedures, overseeing volunteer safety. The parish needs **two** part-time volunteers to undertake this important ministry.

♦ **Parish Weekday Sacristan**

The parish needs a weekday sacristan (Monday-Friday). He or she is a vital behind-the-scenes "liturgical officer" responsible for the care of the sacristy, the sanctuary, and all the sacred vessels, vestments, and liturgical books used in church services. They ensure that everything necessary for Mass and the sacraments is properly arranged and reverently maintained prior to the Mass.

If you feel called to share your time and talents in these important ministries, please speak with Fr Rass, PPC Chair or contact the Parish Office for more information.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others." — 1 Peter 4:10

Reminder: All Garden Group members and anyone interested in helping are warmly invited to our next Garden Working Bee.

Date: Saturday, 25 July; **Time:** 9:30 – 11:30 am
(unless raining)

Main tasks - weeding, mulching, and some trimming. Any assistance, whether for the whole morning or just part of the time, would be greatly appreciated. **Our Parish, Our Concern.** - Alla B

Parish News and Happenings

MULTICULTURAL DAY RAFFLE

We still have many raffle ticket books available for sale. If you would like to help, please see **Lina** to collect a book. If you have already sold your raffle tickets, please return the **money and ticket stubs** to Lina as soon as possible.

1st Prize : \$500 ; 2nd Prize : \$300 ;

3rd Prize : \$200

Plus 5 Consolation Prizes

Ticket price : \$5/ticket

Draw : 13th September 2026

St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal:

St Vincent de Paul Members seek your financial support for our Winter Appeal. Please give to this appeal and help us to provide support for those in our community who need it the most.

Our parish will hold the Vinnies Winter Appeal at all Masses on the weekend of 25 - 26 July. A third collection will be taken up in support of this appeal. We invite you to come prepared to give generously. Thank you.

Parish Multicultural Day Celebration

Join us for a vibrant celebration of our diverse community on **Sunday, September 13, 2026** following the 9:00 AM Mass, which will be the only Mass of the day.

Ways to Participate:

- **Donate Boxed Items:** Contribute boxed items for our white elephant stall.
- **Organize a Food Stall:** Showcase flavors from your country by setting up a food stall. Contact Tina Pineda - 0408785626 to reserve your stall space.
- **Solo or Group Performance:** Share your talents with the community through a cultural performance. Register your act in advance by contacting Jessica Parsons - jessmp1997@live.com
- **Invite Friends and Family:** Extend the celebration by inviting loved ones to join us for this special day.
- **Wear a Costume:** Embrace your heritage by dressing in traditional attire from your country.
- Help to clean up.

Let's come together to celebrate our diversity and unity as a parish community!



If you have any queries, would like to participate, or are interested in volunteering, please contact the Parish Office or Eric D'Silva on 0434 869 426. Alternatively, you can leave your name and contact number on the sign-up sheet located in the church foyer. Thank you for your support.

Reflection : Growing the Wheat: Living the Kingdom in the Midst of Life

The Gospel today (Matthew 13:24-43) reminds us that God's Kingdom grows amid a world where good and evil exist side by side. Jesus' parable of the wheat and the weeds challenge our natural desire to separate the "good" from the "bad" as quickly as possible. Instead, He calls us to patience, wisdom and trust in God's final judgment.

This is especially relevant in parish life today. Every parish is a community of saints in the making, not a gathering of perfect people. Alongside generosity, faith and compassion, we also encounter misunderstanding, conflict, gossip, resistance to change and human weakness. It can be tempting to focus on what is wrong, to judge others or to become discouraged when things do not unfold as we hope.

Jesus invites us to see differently. Rather than spending our energy identifying the weeds, we are called to nurture the wheat. Our mission is to cultivate faith, encourage participation, accompany those who struggle and create spaces where people can encounter Christ. When we invest in prayer, welcome, service, formation and authentic relationships, the Kingdom quietly grows among us, often in ways we cannot immediately see.

This Gospel also reminds us that the battle between good and evil is not only "Out There" but within each of us. Every day we choose whether to act with kindness or resentment, hope or cynicism, forgiveness or division. The Holy Spirit continually invites us to become more like Christ so that the fruit of our lives strengthens the whole community.

As a parish, we are called not to be anxious weed-pullers or reckless judges of people's life but faithful gardeners. We sow seeds of hope, justice, mercy and love, trusting that God is at work even when growth seems slow. In His time, God will bring His harvest to fulfilment. Until then, our task is to remain faithful, to encourage one another and to let the light of Christ shine through everything we do.

Fr. Rass SVD

Parish News and Happenings

First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion – Parent Information Session

An information session for parents and guardians will be held on **Tuesday, 21 July at 7:00 pm in the Church**. At least **one parent/guardian, together with the candidate**, is requested to attend.

Parish lessons will commence on Sunday, 26 July at 11:30 am.

We look forward to welcoming all families as we begin this important sacramental journey.

Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

Birthday : Jonathan / Julia Victoria Lafaele / Epe Patolo / Maureen Orpia

Thanksgiving : Anishka, Alijah & Aisaach Britta Carvalho / Anita Menezes /

Special Intentions : Vilo Maiava

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



- * Jaypee Masangkay
- * Aida Dayao
- * Jamie Masangkay
- * Alan & Margaret Raisbeck
- * Monique Yongching
- * Wally Skoczylas
- * Resty Perez
- * Andrea Tuazon
- * Nelia Ambat
- * Romulo Cabrera
- * Lydia, Jocelyn & Janice de Jesus
- * Logan Wall
- * Jean Yongching
- * Mason Dulalia
- * Mycka Dimasangal
- * Roseline Rivet
- * Rani
- * Jude



- * Carole Dimayuga
- * Selda Dimayuga
- * Nancie
- * Charo Doctor
- * Lisapeta Kalasito
- * Nestor Henriques
- * Iya Gozum
- * Olga Peric
- * Mercy Espiritu
- * Czeslawa Piela
- * Allan Titmarsh
- * Jovencio Gregorio
- * Mary Clout
- * John Richnson
- * Lisa Kalasito
- * Maiava Vilo
- * Marissa A Patricio
- * Jake Valte

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



✠ Chacko	✠ Mary Thi Mong Le
✠ Jaime Lee	✠ Naty Nebrija
✠ Luc Claude Fabien	✠ Edna Khan
✠ Helga Kopeinig	✠ Daisy Noronha
✠ Gottfried Kopeinig	✠ Anastacio Bonjoc
✠ Deceased members of : Kopeinig Family	✠ Marie Rafaud
✠ 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 wonderful 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 - 25th & 26th July 2026

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

25/07 - 6:00 pm Vigil Mass

(1) Maria D'Souza	(2) Alisha Joseph
(3) Terry B / Noel S / Jisha J / Teresa B	
(4) Rosy D'Souza	

26/07 - 8.00 am Mass

(1) Petasi Sua	(2) Louise Phillips
(3) Alla B / Steve N / Lucy N / Emelia B	
(4) Emmanuel S	

26/07 - 10.00 am Mass

(1) Marissa Manoto	(2) Lucy Maher
(3) Carmen A / Threlly C / Laa F / Nancy K / Alvin M / Tina P	
(4) Tomjo Rinson / Nerayo Santos	

Church Cleaners (25/06)

Judges

Corrine & Michael Patterson / Sharon & Calvin Ambrose