



MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH PARISH

58 EDGAR STREET or PO BOX 18 MACQUARIE FIELDS NSW 2564

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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.

*17th Sunday in Ordinary Year
Year A - 25th & 26th July 2026*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Kings (3:5, 7-12)

(You have asked for wisdom).

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said, 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 118)

All: Lord, I love your commands.

Reader: My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold.

All: Lord, I love your commands.

Reader: Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight.

All: Lord, I love your commands.

Reader: That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways.

All: Lord, I love your commands.

Reader: Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple.

All: Lord, I love your commands.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:28-30)

(He predestined us to become true images of his Son).

We know that by turning everything to their good God cooperates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of

Parish News and Happenings

his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

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 (13:44-52)

(He sells everything he owns and buys the field).

Communion Antiphon

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And never forget all his benefits.

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

What's on in August for the MMOC Youth Group?

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!

2nd Friday (14/8): Craft Night - DIY Pocket Shrines

4th Friday (28/8): Mary's "Yes": Trusting God's Plan - A Talk by Fr. Peter

For more, follow @mmoc.youthgroup on Instagram

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.

Parish Volunteers Needed

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

♦ **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

Spiritual Direction – An Invitation to Grow in Faith

Are you longing to deepen your relationship with God? **Spiritual Direction** is a confidential, one-to-one conversation that helps you become more aware of God's presence and guidance in your everyday life. It is not counselling confession, or advice-giving, but a prayerful journey of listening to the Holy Spirit and discerning where God is leading you.

Meeting with a spiritual director **once a month or every two months** can help you:

- Deepen your prayer life
- Discern life's decisions
- Find peace during times of change

Grow in faith and spiritual awareness

If you would like to explore Spiritual Direction, please contact **Fr Rass** through the Parish Office to arrange an appointment.

Parish News and Happenings

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

is held every year on the fourth Sunday of July (Sunday 26, July) and is connected to the feast days of St Joachim and St Anne. The day is an opportunity to bring the Church closer to grandparents and the elderly. The theme of World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is: **"I will never forget you" (Is 49:15)**. The theme reminds us about God's unconditional fidelity to his people, especially the elderly who are living in solitude or feel like they are forgotten. To celebrate this special day, we warmly invite everyone to join us for a **cuppa after Mass**.

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 this weekend of 25 - 26 July. A third collection will be taken up in support of this appeal.

Please donate generously. Thank you.

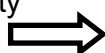
Parish Multicultural Day Celebration

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 :

What is our treasure?

Last weekend, I travelled back to Melbourne to celebrate the funeral of Jeannate who was one of my supporters during my time there as a deacon. She was always encouraging me, checking in on me, and helping me whenever she could. Her death came very suddenly, and it was hard to say good-bye.

I arrived a few days earlier, so I took the opportunity to visit some friends and parishioners. I had only been away for about four months, but I was surprised by how much had changed.

One family had started a new business and was excited about building a better future for their children. Then I visited another family where someone had suffered a stroke. Another person had gone through major surgery and had been unconscious for several days. I also visited many elderly parishioners. Some had become much weaker. Some could no longer walk easily. Others were living alone after losing their husband or wife. Yet they rarely complained. They simply carried their crosses with quiet faith.

As I drove from one house to another, one question kept coming into my mind: What is our treasure?

Life can change so quickly. Today we are healthy, tomorrow we may be sick. Today we are making plans, tomorrow everything may change. Standing at a funeral and visiting people reminded me that many of the things we spend our lives chasing are not the things that last.

Then I read today's Gospel. Jesus says, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field... like a pearl of great price".

Jesus invites us to ask ourselves a simple but important question: What is the treasure of my life? Is it money? Success? Comfort? Or is it something that will last forever?

As we celebrate the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly this weekend, I think they have much to teach us. After visiting many elderly people, I have noticed that they rarely talk about making more money or becoming more successful. Instead, they speak about their children and grandchildren. They speak about their faith. They thank God for the blessings they have received. They pray for their families and hope that future generations will remain close to God. Perhaps, after many years of life, they have discovered what Jesus is teaching us today: the greatest treasure is not what we own, but the relationship we have with God and the love we share with others. So today, I invite each of us to spend a few quiet moments asking ourselves one simple question: What is my treasure?

Because whatever we treasure will shape the way we live. And only one treasure will remain forever—Jesus Christ.

- Fr. Peter Wang

Parish News and Happenings

Notice :

Please note that our monthly Parish Cuppa will be **cancelled next weekend** after the 6:00pm vigil and 10:00am Masses.

The Parish Cuppa after the 8:00am Mass will continue as usual.

A Biblical walk through the Mass :

Facilitated by Charbel Raish. A journey that will transform your faith.

Thursday 6 August ; 7pm to 8:30pm at Holy Family Parish Ingleburn. Please register via their parish website : hfi.org.au

Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

Birthday : Sr. Oliver Hogan

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



- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| * Jaypee Masangkay | * Carole Dimayuga |
| * Aida Dayao | * Selda Dimayuga |
| * Jamie Masangkay | * Nancie |
| * Alan & Margaret Raisbeck | * Charo Doctor |
| * Monique Yongching | * Lisapeta Kalasito |
| * Wally Skoczylas | * Nestor Henriques |
| * Resty Perez | * Iya Gozum |
| * Andrea Tuazon | * Olga Peric |
| * Nelia Ambat | * Mercy Espiritu |
| * Romulo Cabrera | * Czeslawa Piela |
| * Lydia, Jocelyn & Janice de Jesus | * Allan Titmarsh |
| * Logan Wall | * Jovencio Gregorio |
| * Jean Yongching | * Mary Clout |
| * Mason Dulalia | * John Richnson |
| * Mycka Dimasangal | * Lisa Kalasito |
| * Roseline Rivet | * Maiava Vilo |
| * Rani | * Marissa A Patricio |
| * Jude | * Jake Valte |
| | * Michael Patterson |



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

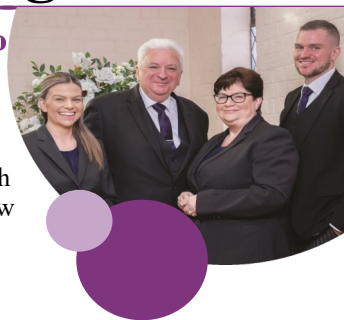


- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| ✠ Chacko | ✠ Wasyl Skoczylas |
| ✠ Danica & Mile Vukovic | ✠ Jose Thekkekkara |
| ✠ Chandra Fernando | ✠ Rosa Thekkekkara |
| ✠ Kate & Maria | ✠ |
| ✠ Milazzo Family members | |
| ✠ Rodolfo Kalaquian | |
| ✠ Mercedes Carlos | |
| ✠ Alberto & Benjie Nebrija | |
| ✠ 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 - 1st & 2nd August 2026

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

01/08 - 6:00 pm Vigil Mass

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|---|---------------|
| (1) Rosy D'Souza | (2) Davitah S |
| (3) Terry B / Irma G / Jisha J / Teresa B | |
| (4) Nerayo / Neejay Santos | |

02/08 - 8.00 am Mass

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| (1) Robyn Ashley | (2) Lucy Niumata |
| (3) Mimi C / Robyn A / Alla B / Steve N | |
| (4) Emmanuel S | |

02/08 - 10.00 am Mass

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| (1) Harry Morell | (2) Alvin Morales |
| (3) Bennette / Elisha S / Noel S / John T / Carmen A / Threlly C | |
| (4) Jayson Huynh | |

Church Cleaners (01/08)

Deuteronomy

Catherine & Pierre Rochecouste / Jenny & Mario K