



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.

*21st Sunday in Ordinary Year
Year A - 22nd & 23rd August 2026*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (22:19-23)

(I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder).

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 137)

All: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Reader: I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple.

All: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Reader: I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul.

All: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Reader: The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

All: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (11:33-36)

(From him, through him, and in him are all things).

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Parish News and Happenings

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew (16:13-20)
(Your are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven).

Communion Antiphon

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

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

Synodality talk : With Fr Rass (Flyer is in the church notice board)
When: Thursday 3 September 2026
Time : 7:00—8:30pm
Place : Holy Family Parish Ingleburn.
Please register on www.hfi.org.au

Multicultural Day Raffle:
If you have already sold your raffle tickets, please return the money and ticket stubs to Lina as soon as possible. Thank You.

"Mary's Yes: Trusting God's Plan" – MMOC Youth Group

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

With so many paths to choose from, how do we learn to recognise God's voice, trust His plan, and surrender our lives to His will? Join us next Friday for our Monthly Prayer Meeting, where our very own Fr. Peter Wang SVD will lead us in a reflection on Mother Mary's perfect example of openness to God's will.

Come ready to pray, reflect, and ask: "Lord, what are You calling me to say yes to?"

Find 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

**Formation Pathway:
The Next Faithful Step**
Discerning what God is asking of our parish
Campbelltown

Tuesday 1 September;
7:00—9:00pm

Wollongong + Zoom

Wednesday 2 September;
7:00—9:00pm

To Register : scan the QR code



Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

On **Tuesday 8 September**, we celebrate one of the most significant birthdays in the history of the world. Birthday of Holy Mary. As we celebrate her birth, we are reminded of her purity, humility, and willingness to cooperate with God's plan.

Mass is at 9:00am & 7:00pm

Thinking of Becoming Catholic? You Are Very Welcome!

If you are **over seven years of age**, have not been baptised, and would like to become a Catholic, **now is a good time to contact the Parish Office.**

The preparation for the three Sacraments of Initiation — **Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist** — is called **RCIA** for adults and **RCIC** for children.

If you have already been baptised in another Christian Church and would like to become Catholic, **you will not be baptised again.** We will first confirm your baptism and then help you prepare to receive **Confirmation and Eucharist.** If you, a family member, a friend, or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, **please contact the Parish Office this week** to receive an *Inquiry Form* and begin the journey of faith.

Those participating in RCIA or RCIC will receive the Sacraments of Initiation during one of the Easter Celebration Masses in March 2027.

Important: If you, your spouse, or de facto partner has been previously married and divorced, please contact the **Tribunal Office on 4222 2409** before enrolling in the RCIA program.

Parish Weekly Collections & Monthly Expenditure

Collections (Cash & Envelops)	19th Sunday Ordinary Time	20th Sunday Ordinary Time
First (for Diocesan Presbytery)	\$ 765.75	\$ 689.90
Second loose (for Parish)	\$ 990.80	\$ 954.35
Planned Giving (for Parish)	\$ 996.00	\$895.00
July Expenditure	\$ 9,982.75	

Parish News and Happenings

Priestly Ordination of Deacon Seth Harsh

All parishioners are warmly invited to share in the great joy of the **ordination to the priesthood of Deacon Seth Harsh**, celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord, on **Saturday 12 September 2026 at 10:30am** at **Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rosemeadow**.

Please come and support Seth with your presence and prayers as he takes this beautiful step in his vocation and begins his priestly ministry.

RSVP is essential by 1 September 2026
rsvp.dow.org.au (preferred) or phone (02) 4222 2400.

Garden Group :

A big thank you to all the volunteers who attended last month's Garden Working Bee! Our next Garden Group Working Bee will be held on **Saturday 29 August 2026, from 9:30am to 11:30am**. Our main task will be tidying up the gardens in preparation for our Multicultural Day celebrations. Bring your smile, gardening spirit and a helping hand! Thank you. **-Alla Bakulic**

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.

First Reconciliation for Children, which will be held **next Friday, 28 August, at 5:00pm**.

Parents are also welcome to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, **after their children have received the Sacrament first**. There will be **four priests available** to hear confessions, so there should be plenty of opportunity for both children and parents to receive the Lord's mercy and forgiveness.

Reflection : **Who Do You Say That I Am?**

Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus asks his disciples a question that sounds simple: **"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"** The disciples give several answers. Then Jesus makes it personal: **"But you—who do you say that I am?"**

Peter gets straight to the point: **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

Peter certainly did not always get things right. In the Gospels, he sometimes spoke before thinking—which, if we are honest, is something many of us can relate to! But on this occasion, Peter gets it exactly right. He recognises Jesus not simply as another teacher, prophet or spiritual guide, but as **the Christ, the Son of the living God**.

We live in a wonderfully diverse society, surrounded by people of many religions, cultures and spiritual traditions. As Christians, we respect our neighbours and their sincere search for God. Inter-faith dialogue is not about arguing over who has the better religion. It is about listening, understanding and building friendship, peace and respect.

But respecting other faiths does not mean we have to put our own faith on the shelf. We can be open to others while remaining confident in what we believe. For Christians, there are not many competing gods. **There is one living God**. And we believe that this one God has revealed himself to us uniquely and fully in Jesus Christ. Jesus is not simply one spiritual option among many. **He is the Christ, the Son of the living God**.

And that belief should make us humble, not arrogant. If Jesus is truly the Son of the living God, then following him means loving as he loved, forgiving as he forgave, welcoming the stranger, caring for the poor and standing with those who are forgotten.

Jesus still asks us today: **"Who do you say that I am?"** May our answer be like Peter's—not only with our lips, but with our lives:
"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
: Fr Rass SVD

Parish News and Happenings

Invitation to host a Food Stall and Cultural performance on Multicultural Day on 13th September

We warmly invite **all ethnic and cultural groups** to participate in our upcoming multicultural day by **organizing a food stall** and **presenting the cultural performance**.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share the unique flavours and traditions of your country with the wider community. Sign up sheet is in the foyer.

Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

Birthday : Leni Valencia / Elizabeth Smith / Sion Gilchrist / Romolo De Santis / Tiffany

Thanksgiving : Alanso / Gavin Noronha / Leon Skoczylas / Joseph Quiah /

Anniversary : Danilo & Rolando Angeles

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
* Jude
* Jacquie Heeraman
* Joe Duval

* Carole Dimayuga
* Selda Dimayuga
* Nancie
* Charo Doctor
* Lisapeta Kalasito
* Nestor Henriques
* Iya Gozum
* Olga Peric
* Mercy Espiritu
* Czeslawa Piel
* Allan Titmarsh
* Jovencio Gregorio
* Mary Clout
* Maiava Vilo
* Marissa A Patricio
* Michael Patterson
* Joseph Sequeira
* Daniel Maher
*



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

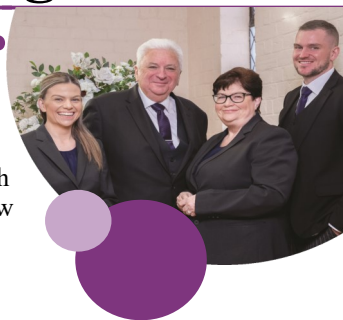


✠ Chandra Fernando ✠ Herbert (Sr.) & Elvera Kreltszheim
✠ Mila G Katon ✠ Thi Phan Le
✠ Peter Oloaga
✠ Bill Fullerton
✠ Clifford Quiah
✠ Marka Hunkin
✠ Halina Smolik
✠ Patrick Joseph Maher
✠ All souls in Purgatory



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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 - 29th & 30th August 2026

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

29/08 - 6:00 pm Vigil Mass

(1) Pierre Rochecouste (2) Maria D'Souza
(3) Andres C / Irma G / Noel E / Teresa B
(4) Rosy

30/08 - 8.00 am Mass

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

30/08 - 10.00 am Mass

(1) Ashley Valencia (2) Jaiden Valencia
(3) Carmen A / Threlly C / Laa F / Nancy K / Alvin M / Tina P
(4) Gabriel Wijaya / Nerayo Santos

Church Cleaners (29/08)

Steve N / Jossie & Group / Regimol / Sheeba / Hyein

Kings