



To know, love and serve Jesus
by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission

We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.

26 September 2021
Twenty sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Year B



Entrance Antiphon

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading

from the book of Numbers 11: 25-29

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 18:8, 10, 12-14, R. v.9](#)

(R.) The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Second Reading

from the letter of St James 5: 1-6

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

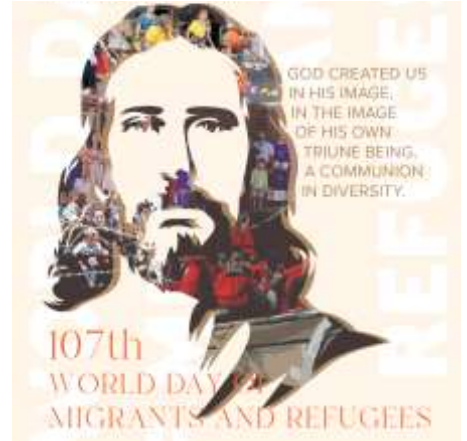
according to Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Communion Antiphon

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

**MIGRANT and REFUGEE SUNDAY
REFLECTION ON TOWARDS AN
EVER WIDER "WE"**

by **ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE**
*Chairman, Bishops Commission
for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry*



Pope Francis' Message for the 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2021 is that we ought to work "Towards an ever wider "WE"".

He writes: 'We are all in the same boat and called to work together so that there will be no more walls that separate us, no longer others, but only a single "we", encompassing all of humanity.'

He goes on to say: "...we find many migrants and refugees, displaced persons and victims of trafficking, to whom the Lord wants his love to be manifested and his salvation preached."

Reflecting on this, I recall one of the initial shocks I received as a newly ordained priest. I started to visit parishioners extensively in their homes. The shock was to realise how many had not become real friends with their neighbours. It seemed that life for them was simply themselves and their 8 visiting families and friends. It did not really include in a significant way their neighbours. It was an "I" rather than a "we" mindset.

This fact became embarrassing when it became clear that one of the people on our parish social justice group was in this category. Yet the issues of this group included migrants and refugees policies in Australia.

We can take a national and international perspective on migrants and refugees. This is good. Yet, if our concerns do not start with our neighbours, so many of whom are migrants and refugees in Australia, then something is very wrong. I have always appreciated the saying: "Think globally, act locally." Perhaps our contributions globally are limited. However, there is surely no limits to what we can do in our neighbourhoods. No doubt, the needs are great.

For example, the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated a huge reduction on migrants and refugees intake into Australia. I hope that former levels will return and be increased as soon as it is safe to do so. At the same time, so many people residing in Australia whose families live overseas are worried about their loved ones too often living in very dangerous COVID hot spots.

Let us be encouraged by Pope Francis' message and show neighbourhood closeness to them in their vulnerabilities. Simple practical kindnesses can generate the "we" of our concern for them. May they not feel simply the "I" of facing their difficulties alone.

As Pope Francis prays in his Message: "Bless each act of welcome and outreach that draws those in exile into the 'we' of community and of the Church, so that our earth may truly become what you yourself created it to be: the common home of all our brothers and sisters. Amen.



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC
MIGRANT & REFUGEE OFFICE

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Mass times

Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online

For all of the online Mass options- please visit the
DoW website <https://dow.sh/dailymass>

Plenary Council 2021 – 3-10 October

From 3 – 10 October, the Church in Australia will commence its fifth Plenary Council – the first in 84 years. 279 members will begin a process of dialogue focusing on 6 themes that were developed from the responses of over 220,000 people.

Checkout: **Advisers, Chairpersons named for Plenary Council**

<https://www.dow.org.au/advisers-chairpersons-named-for-plenary-council/>

- the latest media release [which is also online here](#),
- the agenda [and is online here](#)
- Plenary Council by the numbers; and
- [Archbishop Coleridge – Why a Plenary Council are available](#)

The clergy members from the Diocese of Wollongong are: Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD, Very Rev Bernard L Gordon VG, Very Rev Kenneth Cafe OFM EV, Very Rev Sean Cullen PP EV.

Hear from the **three lay members** of Plenary Council from the Diocese of Wollongong Mr Paul Fleming, Mrs Erin Gillard (who has grown up in Campbelltown) and Dr Jodi Steel via a short interview that can be accessed at <https://dow.sh/plenarychats> and which will be released via social media over the next week.

DoW interview with Lana Turvey Collins: Free access at jcr.org.au

We will also be producing a daily podcast of 3 interviews from the Plenary Council form 3-10 October which we will share on our website daily.



Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Carol Gonzales, Christabelle Adina, Gloria Gonzales Prudente, Allan & Kelvin Marquez, Amelia Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Nelia Balingit, John Morgos, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Gabriel Gonzales, Francisco Carmona, Doreen Gribbons, Clayton Diack, Emily Rose Pavicin, Pat & Denise Furner, Tracey Bokor, Lily Pereira, Doris Wahhab, John Kajdrys, Erlinda Hermes, Aurelia Vertucio, Ofilia Mawson, Mary & Frances Raithi, Marie Atkins, Jeanna San Diego, Hugo Garzotto, Eileen Butcher, Josephina Duefries, Austin Taylor, Marisa Aguirre, Joan Wilson. *May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.*

For our recently dearly departed: Carter Por, Leonard Mansfield, Fr Peter Caruana, Claude Fricot,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Francis Villahermosa, Tracey Bautovich, Damien Champion
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.





Bulletin Notices

SPRINGTIME: OLMC PARISH RETREAT SAT 2 OCTOBER FROM 2-4pm: Join us on Zoom for an afternoon of reflection, prayer and inspiration to see God's presence in our lives in this season of change, growth, challenges and new life. The afternoon will include input from the MGL Sisters, individual prayer time and a chance to 'come away' together on retreat as a parish. Zoom link: <https://dowcatholic.zoom.us/j/66476756873>

ADORATION PRAYER with the Carmelite Missionaries: GOD BLESS US ALL IN OLMC PARISH! During the lockdown, you are invited to join **ADORATION PRAYER with the Carmelite Missionaries every Sunday at 6:30-7:30 PM.** Contact the parish office for the zoom link.

Prayer Seminars: Experience various prayer styles – All Welcome: A series of Prayer Seminars, commencing on **Tuesday 21 September, and run weekly, 7pm - 8:30pm** via Zoom. These are open to anyone in the Diocese to attend any or all of the 12 evenings. Each week a different presenter will lead us in a style of prayer that is meaningful to them. The seminars will include information, but also the opportunity to be led by an expert in the prayer experience. You are welcome to come to any or all of the seminars. Registering does not require you to attend every seminar. Please follow the link to register for **Prayer Seminars:** <https://www.dow.org.au/events> Next Tuesday 28 Sept, **Peter Gilmore** will lead us on Praying with the Holy Spirit. **Tuesday 5th October** Frances Tilly on The Examen. Come and discover the beautiful practice of interior silence using a sacred word and simply rest in the presence of God. Please encourage the faithful to be part of this experience to grow in prayerfulness.

Season of Creation: The *Season of Creation* began on **September 1**, on the designated *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*. It concludes on **October 4, the Feast of St. Francis**.

The Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace have created five prayer cards which focus on the themes of the statement. This week's prayer focuses on [Sacramentality](#)

The Journey Weekly Podcast: Great show this week as we jump into an interview with Lana Turvy Collins who is the chief organiser of the upcoming Plenary Council. Plenty of great music and the regular God spots you've come to expect from the Journey available at www.jcr.org.au.

Youth Ministry Online: Have you seen Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong's (CYMW) online version of LIVE yet? Click on the link below for some great worship and challenges as you explore faith with some very awesome leaders! Enjoy! https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTphLF5OdSt8V_yo7ZLrVgg

Online Holy Hour for Young Adults: CYMW & NET are hosting online Adoration every Thursday from 4-5pm. Join our Holy Hour through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cymdow/> or watch via Instagram @net.wollongong – everyone is welcome!

Online Young Adult Bible Study! Are you missing your community? CYMW are hosting an online Bible Study for all young adults aged 17-35 throughout the Wollongong Diocese. Bring your bible and your favourite snack as we journey through scripture together... over zoom! Every Tuesday night. 7PM-8PM. Check out @cymdow on Instagram or Facebook for more information or email youth@dow.org.au

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving: Given that no one is able to attend Mass in our church, many who support our parish planned giving envelope program have asked how they can continue to financially support the parish. So, we respectfully encourage all parishioners to join our electronic parish planned giving program to help us ensure that we limit the financial pressure this current situation will impose on our parish. **Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving/> to learn of the two simple ways you can give to our parish electronically.** Importantly, we are mindful that some of our parishioners will sadly be experiencing a change in their financial circumstances. Please contact the Parish Office, 0434705176 if you need to decrease/discontinue your planned giving contribution, but mainly to let us know how we can support you.

Divine Renovation Australasia Virtual Conference 2021: Called to Discipleship Saturday 20 November 2021 | 9:00am-12:30pm. Join us for a spirit-filled time of prayer, live keynotes, inspiring panel sessions. The virtual conference will aim to support priests, parish teams and individuals in their journey of parish renewal, while encouraging and equipping you in your Catholic faith. For more and information and registration: <https://www.divinerenovation.org/dr-aus-called-to-discipleship-conference>

The Chosen – A TV Series about Jesus – watch during lockdown! The Chosen is a new 'free to view', television program that creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and is receiving acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen> to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via *The Chosen app* ([download](#))

Men's Kickstart Program: Monday Nights 13- Sept till 4 October 7.30 – 8.30pm
There are still two sessions to go for the kickstart program and men can attend any or all of the remaining sessions that engage with some great talks from the National Catholic Men's Gathering (NCMG) presentations. **Kickstart** is being facilitated by menALIVE for the Diocese of Wollongong, online by Peter Gabauer and Colin Bennett and the menALIVE leaders from the Diocese of Wollongong. To register go to <https://www.dow.org.au/events/ancmgkickstart>
Sessions are short and sharp and a great way for men in lockdown to come together to engage with the theme 'Brothers What must we Do?'

- Man of Character: Shayne Bennett (27 Sept)
- Missioning & Sending: Archbishop Julian Porteous (4 Oct).

Holy Gospel according to Mark.9:38-43, 45, 47-48

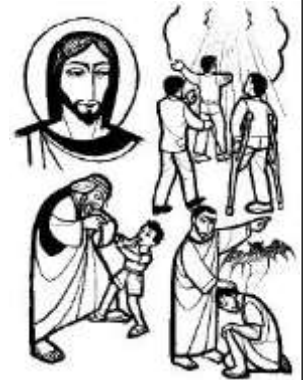
Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The question of legitimacy of ministry is not a new one. There is a certain amount of tension between the institutional and the charismatic aspects of the church. To say that one is Spirit-driven and the other is not is to misunderstand Jesus' promise to remain with the church until the end of time. God normally calls ministers through the structures of the community. The authorities of the church are usually the ones who make the ultimate decisions about the needs of the church, how these needs are to be met, and who is to meet them. That is one of the responsibilities of their office.

However, God calls in other ways as well. A solid biblical tradition maintains that the Spirit is not confined to human structure or custom. We see this in the judges, the prophets, and even the early kings. The Pentecost story describes the coming of the Spirit upon all people – sons and daughters, young and old, slaves and free. When God calls it is up to us to recognise that call and to test its spirit. Perhaps the primary criterion we have for judging is the biblical measure: By their fruits you shall know them.

Today we also see that those who benefit from exploitation of the vulnerable will reap the fruits of their sin. This warning stems from the belief in the justice of God. Just as we believe that God will not allow the righteous to go unrewarded, so we are confident that neither will the wicked escape punishment.

St Joseph the Migrant Worker

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv is Bishop of Parramatta

Have you ever imagined St Joseph as a migrant worker? Would he have taken with him as many tools of trade as he could carry when he fled with Mary and the child Jesus into Egypt? What would it have been like for him trying to find work in a foreign land to support his family? Would anyone help them, or would these 'outsiders' be exploited or left to fend for themselves?

During the COVID-19 pandemic temporary seasonal workers have had a very difficult time. Many came to Australia for jobs that disappeared because of the pandemic. None the less, these workers found themselves ineligible for the Jobseeker allowance. Many could not go home. They became stranded in Australia because of closed borders. Without work or access to government support, they were forced to rely on charities.

Those who did find work were often exposed to risk of infection with the virus – for example in the coronavirus outbreak that centred on the meatworks in Colac in mid-2020, or in food delivery or cleaning. Sadly, the exploitation of migrant workers is not something that only happens in other countries.

Before the pandemic, over a million overseas workers on temporary visas came to Australia each year. Even in the best of times, temporary seasonal workers are more vulnerable to exploitative working conditions than workers who have Australian citizenship. FairWork Australia says that "employees under the [Pacific Labour] Scheme have the same workplace rights as other employees in Australia". But temporary seasonal workers might not know that. They are less likely to know what their rights are, and to be able to effectively assert them. It is not uncommon to hear stories of unreasonable accommodation charges and other levies being imposed. There have even been reports of passports being held by employers.

Migrant workers often lack friends and allies who can help them. Can we see in the faces of temporary seasonal workers the face of St Joseph, seeking work in a foreign land, trying to support his family? Can we see migrant workers as our sisters and brothers in need of our care? Can we welcome them into our homes, communities and churches and defend their dignity and rights?

Let us entrust temporary seasonal workers in Australia to the protection of St Joseph the Worker.