



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.

5 SEPTEMBER 2021
23RD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and
your judgement is right;
treat your servant in
accord with your merciful
love.

First Reading from the
prophet Isaiah 35: 4-7

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1
(R.) Praise the Lord,
my soul!

Second Reading

from the letter of
St James 2: 1-5

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good
News of the kingdom
and healed all who were
sick. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Mark 7: 31-37

Communion Antiphon

Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for
God, the living God.

Happy Fathers Day in the Year of St. Joseph.

Since God the Father Almighty created the first man, He has called men to the heroic role of fatherhood, men who sacrifice themselves to lead, protect and provide for their wives and children. In recent times, the vision of heroic fatherhood has sometimes been lost. With the Catholic Church's celebration of the Year of St. Joseph, it is a great time to inspire Catholic men to their great and noble call to be Catholic fathers.

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE TO FATHERS:

Teach your children well, always be by their side

Pope Francis urged all dads in the world to stick by their children's side, teaching them, guiding them and loving them.

"I ask that you have the grace to be very close to your children, letting them grow, but being by their side. They need you, your presence, to be there, your love!" the Pope told fathers present in St. Peter's Square.

The pope dedicated his catechesis to the role and example of St. Joseph.

St. Joseph's "great mission is to be a guardian," the pope said.

The saint is a model for all educators, whether they are teachers, catechists, parents, religious or priests, "who are fathers, too, you know!" he said.

Like an educator, St. Joseph guided and accompanied Jesus so he could grow in "wisdom and age and grace," Pope Francis said. This is the same thing all parents must do, and "it would be a serious mistake to think that a father and a mother can't do anything to teach their children to grow in God's grace," he said.

Even though God was Jesus father, St. Joseph lovingly took on the paternal role and taught the young Jesus various skills, the value of work, reverence for the Lord, and fidelity and obedience to God's will, the pope said.

He also had to keep his family safe during the difficult period of their exile to Egypt, he said, which makes the saint a special example for refugees and those facing persecution.

Pope Francis said St. Joseph "knew how to cross the darkness of doubt, the experience of exile and fleeing from home, without ever losing faith in God and his love."

"Learn from him that only trust in God can turn doubt into certainty, evil into good, total darkness of the night into a radiant dawn," he said.

In his main audience address, the pope gave his heartfelt greetings to all fathers in the square, asking them to show who they were by raising their hands. "Oh, how many dads!" he said. "Best wishes! All the best on your day!"

Pope Francis led the crowd in praying the Our Father, urging them to remember God the Father in heaven, but also their own fathers and every father, whether alive or deceased.

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service



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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>



Alpha Launch Night previously advertised for October 5, 2021, has been postponed until early next year due to the ongoing situation with Covid 19.

Lectio: Evangelisation Course with Dr Mary Healy Beginning Thursday September 2 at 7:30pm - 9:00pm via Zoom. Using the Lectio Divina approach of reading, reflecting, responding, and contemplating, Dr. Mary Healy combines insightful biblical study with Church teaching and practical advice to show how modern Catholics can effectively impact their world for Jesus Christ. She explores topics such as the call of Jesus to evangelize, the power of the Sacraments, the role of charisms for building up the Body of Christ, techniques from St. Paul for reaching a secular culture, and more. Using the Formed website, this course offers a fantastic opportunity to explore and deepen your faith through videos and small group sharing. Please contact: Donna Ransom, Alpha and Discipleship Coordinator; donna.ransom@dow.org.au

ADORATION PRAYER with the Carmelite Missionaries GOD BLESS US ALL IN OLMC PARISH! During the lockdown, this is our community's response to the request of the PPC to participate and deepen their prayer life through Adoration. 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.

THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Pope Francis on 8 December 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde (With a Father's Heart)*, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. You are encouraged to visit the ACBC year of St Joseph page at <https://www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

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.

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Carol Gonzales, Christabelle Adina, Gloria Gonzales Prudente, Allan & Kelvin Marquinez, 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 Kajdryns, 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, Uncle Leo McInerney

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Tracey Bautovich, Anne Migus, Joe, Noreen & Margaret Farrell

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021



Bulletin Notices



Can't find anything to watch on television?

Try a good book.

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Book Club recommends:

Source and Summit – Joel Giallanza
\$9.95 from Pauline Books and Media or St Paul's Publications
Father Giallanza writes about the Eucharist using the ideas of 6 great spiritual guides from different periods.

Parish Trivia Night: Fri 10th Sept, 7pm on Zoom (hosted by the MGL sisters)

Join us online for a night of fun and community for people of all ages! Register a team of up to 8 people or come on the night and we'll allocate you to a team to get to know others. Zoom link: <https://dowcatholic.zoom.us/j/64506077586>
To register a team mail mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com with the names of your team members. If you'd like us to put you in a team, just come along on the night!

Springtime: OLMC Parish Retreat Sat 2nd Oct 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> Meeting ID: 664 7675 6873

Season of Creation: The *Season of Creation* begins **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 [Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor](#)

Bishop's Sacramental Program Parental Survey

A discussion paper to assist in the development of a Sacraments of Initiation policy for the Diocese is being developed and Bishop Brian is seeking feedback from parents and, via parishes, is reaching out especially to parents with children in state schools who have presented their sons daughters for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If that is you, we would love to hear from you! You can access the Survey by simply clicking here: <https://dow.sh/SacramentsSurvey> and we would be most grateful for your feedback.

Men's Kickstart Program: Monday Nights 13, 20, 27 September and 4 October

We are pleased to announce that the planned hubs for the National Catholic Men's Gathering (NCMG) have been replaced by **Kickstart** being facilitated by menALIVE for the Diocese of Wollongong, hosted 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>
Kickstart will run on Monday evenings 13, 20, 27 Sept and 4 Oct from 7.30-8.30pm. 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' developed by

the ACBC, hosted by Robert Falzon and Jude Hennessy with some excellent keynotes including:

- Man of God: Tomasz Juszczak
- Man of Service: Tim Davis
- Man of Character: Shayne Bennett
- Missioning and Sending: Archbishop Julian Porteous

Marriage Anniversaries Mass: Now to be Livestreamed Sunday 19 September – 12.30pm:

This celebration for those marking 25, 40, 50, 60, or over 60 years of marriage in 2020-21, will now be livestreamed, with no attendance possible due to COVID restrictions. All those who had registered will, in coming days, be invited to be part of an online Mass with Bishop Brian, who will celebrate Mass from the Cathedral, offering a blessing for each of the 40 couples who have registered. Each couple will be sent a letter and commemoration certificate by Bishop Brian

John Henry Newman Lecture 2021: Fr Frank Moloney, leading biblical scholar presents Pope Francis and the Word of God. Saturday 11 September 2021 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (UTC+10). Fr Frank Moloney will deliver the lecture and the Knights would like to invite anybody who wishes to join in and hear this magnificent speaker. Due to Covid the lecture will be presented by Bulli KSC as a ZOOM event. Register [here](#) before 27 August to obtain the zoom.

The Journey, 5 September 2021 – Podcast

Great show this week as we celebrate the season of creation and feature some brand new God Spots from our presenters, with all of the great music you've come to expect from the Journey available at www.jcr.org.au.

Plenary Council 2021: In just over a month, 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: • the latest media release, • the agenda • Plenary Council by the numbers; and
In coming weeks, we will share short clips from our DoW delegates, that have been shared with the Plenary 2020 organising committee.

Caritas Australia – Your Support is Needed

Your support can provide aid and relief to humanitarian crises, like the one currently unfolding in Afghanistan, Lebanon and Haiti, where hundreds of thousands of people are now facing displacement, drought, COVID-19 and poverty. To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal at <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/> or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving.

Given that none of us are 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.

Holy Gospel according to Mark 7: 31-37

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection

Strangely, this week's gospel about the healing of a man who was deaf and dumb is less about healing than it is about Jesus being the Messiah. The theme is set up in the first reading when the prophet, Isaiah, describes the signs by which the coming of the Messiah will be recognised: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will leap; and the dumb will speak. When Jesus healed the man in the gospel story the crowd were admiring of what he had done. They even exclaimed, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.' These words are a direct echo of the Isaiah text – they were recognising Jesus as fulfilling the prophecies of the promised Messiah.

However, the passage also demonstrates to us that Jesus was trying to show the people that he was not exactly the Messiah that many of them were anticipating. This healing story takes place in the region of The Decapolis – south-east of the Galilee region and populated mostly by Gentiles. By travelling in this area and working miraculous healings, Jesus is making the point that his mission is to all people, not just 'the Chosen People' of Israel. He commands the crowd who witnessed the healing to tell no one about it but, filled with the idea that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for, they broadcast the news. Jesus wanted their silence because he knew that they did not fully understand the sort of Messiah that he was. Only when they understood that this Messiah must suffer and die would he have allowed them to speak of his deeds.

The healing that Jesus works in this passage is perhaps one of the most 'physical' of his healing actions. He puts his fingers in the man's ears and places spittle on his tongue. It is an incredibly intimate contact with a complete stranger and someone regarded as outcast and unclean because of his disabilities. When Jesus speaks the word of healing, Ephphatha ('Be opened'), he appears to be speaking not only to the man but to all those listening. Be open to the possibility of embracing those you have cast out; be open to a different understanding of Messiah.

All three synoptic gospel writers were at pains to demonstrate that Jesus was the fulfilment of the prophecies of the scriptures. This reference to Isaiah's prophecy appears in all three synoptic gospels. It is perhaps most familiar in the context of the Gospel of Luke, where the gospel writer actually combines it with a different passage from Isaiah and portrays Jesus as reading it in the synagogue as an announcement of his mission (Lk 4: 16-21). It is good to have the Isaiah text as the first reading this week and then see the way it is referred to in the gospel of the day.

When Isaiah described the signs by which the Messiah would be recognised, he identified those people who were isolated from society by their physical afflictions. He portrayed a Messiah who released them from those afflictions and allowed them to re-enter society. That is what Jesus did time and time again. In the healing of the deaf and dumb man, Jesus called on all those around him to also be opened – that their hearts may be opened to compassion. Jesus calls to us through today's gospel to also be open to compassion and open to the needs of those around us.