



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.

3 October 2021

Twenty seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Year B



Entrance Antiphon

Within your will, O Lord,
all things are established,
and there is none that can
resist your will.

For you have made all
things, the heaven and
the earth, and all that is
held within the circle of
heaven; you are the
Lord of all.

First Reading from the
book of Genesis 2: 18-24

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127. R. v.5
(R.) May the Lord bless us
all the days of our lives.

Second Reading

from the letter to the
Hebrews 2: 9-11

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
If we love one another,
God will live in us in
perfect love. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Mark 10: 2-16

Communion Antiphon

The Lord is good to those
who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.

This Sunday the fifth
Plenary Council of
Australian will commence,
a historic opportunity for
the Catholic Church in
Australia to renew its
commitment to the mission
of Jesus Christ in this 'Great
South Land of the Holy Spirit'.



Throughout the past three years, an exhaustive consultation process has been conducted toward this ecclesial gathering which will convene for two assemblies, the first of which will be held online due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and a second assembly to be held in Sydney, the setting in which the Catholic Church was first established in this country.

As we move into this second stage of the Plenary Council journey we continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Beginning in July 2019, we are called to reflect on Scripture, Church teaching and our contemporary situation, in order to discern the answer to this question. The fruits of what is discerned during this time has helped shape the agenda of the first session of Plenary Council this week.

This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a deep and faith-filled trust in God and a need for lament and healing within the Church, acknowledging the sexual abuse crisis as a turning point for the Church in Australia. It identified the need for relationship and reconciliation among many within the Catholic community, and with the wider Australian society, particularly with Australia's First Peoples and with all of creation. A desire was expressed for stronger prayer and sacramental life and more effective outreach to those who seek healing, as a renewed openness to and sign of God's mercy.

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is humble, healing and merciful?

Plenary Council Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

*O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.*

*Give us the grace to see your face in one another
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.*

Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth.

*Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age.

Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

Contact us

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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>

Mass will commence again during the week of 25 October. Stay tuned for more information.

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.

Key moments during the First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia will be live-streamed between October 3 and 10. They will include daily Masses, morning prayer for Plenary Council members and sharing of the fruits of discernment. Visit the Plenary Council website at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au for a calendar of live-streams during the Assembly. Masses will be livestreamed. Opening mass this Sunday Oct 3, 2pm weekday masses are 9.30am, and the closing Mass 11am, Sunday Oct 10.

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 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 in collaboration with ACBC will also be producing a daily podcast of 3 interviews from the Plenary Council from 3-10 October which we will share on our website daily. <https://anchor.fm/plenarypodcast> including the full interview we did last week with Lana Turvey Collins.

The Tuesday Evening **Diocesan Prayer Seminar series** where we will pray for the Council members can be accessed via <https://www.dow.org.au/events>

The Journey, Weekly Podcast Great show this week as we focus again on Plenary Council with some insights from Dr Jodi Steel and Mrs Erin Gillard as we commence the 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.

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: Edgar De Souza, 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

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.

Urgent - Join in Opposition to Euthanasia in NSW before October 11

The move to make Euthanasia / Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) legal will be introduced into the NSW Parliament in coming days. We are called to stand up for the sanctity of life and oppose 'the culture of death'.

Bishop Mascord urges the faithful of the Dioceses to contact their local state MPs without delay, asking them to vote NO. Advocates of Assisted Suicide, are similarly working very hard influence local MPs and without similar efforts for those who uphold the value of life from conception to natural death, it is likely that this terrible bill will become law. Go to www.dow.org.au/euthanasiabill to receive contact details of your State MPs, as well as speaking points for a phone call which is by far the most impactful form of communication. Emailing is a less impactful, but still valuable option. This is a most urgent call to brave action, with this bill infringing many religious freedoms and worse still the sanctity of human life.

Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese

Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at subscribe <https://dow.sh/stayingconnected> or visit <https://dow.sh/weeklybulletin> to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes weekly

Prayer Seminars: Experience various prayer styles – All Welcome 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> Tuesday **5th October** Frances Tilly will lead us in The Examen prayer, and **Tuesday 12th October** Sr Sue Barker SGS on Introduction to Lectio Divina.

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.

St Mary's Towers Online Retreat Weekend, 3 Days, 8-10 Oct Sr Jennifer Scally rsj presents "The Hidden Wisdom of Women in the Gospels." This retreat is a chance to allow some of the Gospel women to come alive and speak to us in our lives today. Daily 9:30 and 4pm reflections. \$175 for all materials and live presentations, \$250 if you'd also like daily spiritual direction. Prices are negotiable. Email Enquiries: contact@towersretreat.org.au. Website <https://www.towersretreat.org.au>



Marriage Enrichment Weekend
We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

Come and join us on **October 22-24, 2021** for a **Virtual Marriage Encounter Weekend via Zoom.** Open to married couples, priests & religious.

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact **Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419** or nswbookings@wwme.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! . 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)*

Holy Gospel according to Mark 10:2-16

What God has joined together, no one must divide.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'



People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

On the day before the feast of St Francis of Assisi, we are indebted to the inspired imagination of the Hebrew author of the Book of Genesis. In storytelling genre, he portrays God forming the first human creature from 'dust from the ground' = 'Adamah' in Hebrew. The very breath of God is breathed into its nostrils. It has a soul so as to share Divine Life. But before we become too heady, we find that the human being is called 'Adam' which means 'earth creature'. Human beings are created 'earthy'.

Pope Francis says: 'We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf Gen2:7); our very bodies are made up of *her* elements, we breathe *her* air and we receive life and refreshment from *her* waters.' (2 Laudato Si', italics added). You will note the recurring '*her*'. Where did this come from?

At times it is useful to describe the universe scientifically, marvelling at the calculation of eons of time and space needed to comprehend its vastness emanating from the Big Bang (a theory first propounded by a Catholic priest, LeMaitre).

But there is another way to describe the cosmos and the relationship of human beings to all its elements. Listen to St Francis of Assisi in his Canticle of the Creatures.

'Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.' This leads Pope Francis to say '... Our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.' (1 Laudato Si').

If this way of putting it is true (as I believe it is) then the degradation and wanton destruction of the environment is surely a type of domestic violence in our common home. It is family violence.

In a joint statement, Pope Francis, Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, say: 'Today's children and teenagers will face catastrophic consequences unless we take responsibility now, as "fellow workers with God" (Genesis 2:4-7).'

Wouldn't it be marvellous if young Christians went to the climate change rallies fired up with the vision of St Francis of Assisi and the teaching of Laudato Si'? This could be their distinctive contribution to that movement. Imagine a placard: 'Keep Alive our Sister, Mother Earth' with the young people singing: 'All creatures of our God and King' (McCauley)!

To return to the Canticle of the Creatures, St Francis could have finished: 'Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us'. But, he didn't. He went on: '... and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs'.

St Francis had an eye to appreciate the sheer beauty of flowers and herbs, even of what we term 'weeds' which he insisted be allowed to flourish in a corner of the friary garden. In a moment, after Mass, we will go to the rear of the church to bless and open our 'Laudato Si' Community Garden'. Already, with the benefit of spring rains and some sunshine, we have the coloured flowers and herbs of the Canticle. The garden is constructed in the forecourt of the affordable housing units we have built there. May these gardens and apartments be our parishioners' response to what Pope Francis in his encyclical calls: 'The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'. May it be our response to the imperative attributed to St Francis of Assisi: 'Preach the Gospel and occasionally use words'.