

**14 August 2022**  
**Twentieth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**



**Entrance Antiphon**

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**First Reading**

from the prophet  
Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14

**Response:**

Lord, come to my aid!

**Second Reading** from the  
letter to the Hebrews 12:1-4

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.  
Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Luke 12: 49-53

**Communion Antiphon**

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

**Next Week**

**Twenty first Sunday in  
Ordinary Time Year C**

*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.*

## The Assumption of Mary and Our Christian Vocation

FR. NNAMDI MONEME, OMV

I stood in line for several hours at the Immigration office in Intramuros, Philippines, waiting to renew my missionary visa. I was very optimistic that I would get it this time around after many failed attempts. I rushed to the window with excitement when my turn came and handed in my documents. The officer looked at the folder and handed it back to me saying, "You have one more document lacking." She was speaking of a new visa requirement that I knew nothing about.

I left the office that day with that familiar question in my mind, "How much longer, O Lord? How much more can I take in the missions?" At such moments, the countless blessings of being loved by God and invited by Jesus Christ to be a missionary to His beloved children all fade to the background. I momentarily forget the numerous wonderful experiences of God's grace in my ministry and in the lives of those whom I serve. I begin to wonder if I have what it takes to give to the very end. It becomes hard to give of self to God and to others at such moments. If only the Assumption of Mother Mary made a greater impact on my life.

Pope Pius XII had in 1950 defined the Assumption of Mary as a teaching revealed by God in these words: **"I solemnly declare... that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."** This declaration gives us a complete picture of Mary's Assumption and what it means for us as Christians.

We cannot understand the Assumption of Mary in our lives without a sense of the unique prior gift of the Immaculate Conception. Mary was conceived without original sin by the foreseen merits of Christ her Son. It was a unique gift, something utterly unmerited on her part. Mary believed this gift of her utter sinlessness from the moment that the Angel Gabriel said to her, "Hail, full of grace." She lived in perpetual gratitude to God for this unique gift, "He who is mighty has done great things for me." Her deep faith and gratitude for this gift shaped her life completely.

Mary was not passive in the face of God's gift to her. She responded with all her being to this unique gift of God to her by a complete gift of herself to God – heart, mind, body and soul. By her strong faith, she belonged to God as perfectly as a human being could ever belong to God. She professed this perfect and unconditional self offering to God in these words, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to your words." Mary could give herself completely to God and His saving mission only because God had given Himself to her first.

Mary's gift of herself to God was not only complete; it was forever. She never revoked an iota of her self offering in the slightest way by her words, thoughts or actions. She never took anything back from her gift of self. Her gift of self was intact in good times and in bad times, even when she had to stand at the foot of the cross on Calvary and silently renew her gift of self in painful moments, "Standing by the cross was His mother." Even her departure from this life was an act of self offering to God.

God rewarded Mary's complete and unconditional gift of self to God by assuming her body and soul into heaven. She who gave herself to God completely and forever as no human being could ever do was rewarded by experiencing heavenly glory immediately in her body and soul. Total and instant glorification was God's reward for her total and immutable gift of self.

**The Assumption is a feast of our Mother Mary that reminds us what our Christian vocation is all about:** offering ourselves to God completely and forever in response to the gift that God has made to us in baptism and in our priestly and religious consecrations. We offer ourselves completely to God and let Him use us in the way that He seems best. In baptism, we too have been cleansed of our sins, God has united us to Himself in Jesus Christ and given us a gift of Himself in His Spirit that dwells in us. We belong to God and we too are to give ourselves to Him completely and forever in the state of life that He has called us to if we are going to experience glory like our Mother Mary.

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Contact us	Mass times	
Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD Assistant Priest: Fr "Sam" Ransom Raporap OCD Parish Associate: Sr Ines Comiling, CM Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm	<b>Sunday Mass times</b>	<b>Weekday Mass times</b>
	Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Mass at 9am
	Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm
	Reconciliation: Saturday at 11am	All Sacramental enquiries: call the parish office

**Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online:**  
for all of the online Mass options- please visit the DoW website <https://dow.sh/dailymass>

## Rosters

21 August 2022	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Monitors</b>	Berna & Ron	Gabriel & Tess	Betty & Boby
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Maria & Cassandra	Orly & Claire	Stuart
<b>Readers</b>	Richard & Tracey	Irene & Lee	Kathy & Volunteer
<b>Refreshments</b>	Patricia & Myra	Tina & Ronda	
<b>Flowers</b>	Maria	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Hermi & Charity
<b>Counters</b>	Christine, Nellie, Cira	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Allan & Anita
<b>CLOTW</b>		Fev & Asinate	

## Prayer intentions



**For the sick & homebound:** Amanda & John Meredith, John McDermott, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Doreen Gribbons, Clayton Diack, Emily Rose Pavicin, Pat & Denise Furner, Tracey Bokor, Lily Pereira, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Erlinda Hermes, Aurelia Vertucio, Mary & Frances Raithi, Jeanna San Diego, Hugo Garzotto, Eileen Butcher, Josephina Duefries, Austin Taylor, Marisa Aquirre, Joan Wilson.  
*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.*

**For our recently dearly departed:** Nonato San Miguel, Wendy Wright, Benito Cossetini, Jerry Migus, Anna Muscatello.

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.*

### .....Continued from front page

Maybe we are thinking today, "Lord, how much longer? How can I go on giving of myself in my vocation?" Maybe we are holding back in giving ourselves to God in certain areas of our lives. Maybe we have made an offering to God in the past and have slowly began to take it back little by little, knowingly or unknowingly. Maybe we have lost the sense of the gift of our baptism and mission from Christ because of the hardships and disappointments of life. Maybe all our sufferings and trials of this life has dimmed the vision of heavenly glory for us.

This Solemnity of the Assumption is one of hope and comfort to us, an invitation to renew our vocations through and with Mary. Let Mother Mary deepen our faith in God's blessing to us and keep these blessings ever before our eyes; let her help us to give ourselves completely to God until our last breath and allow Him use us as He pleases in this life. This is how we shall possess what Jesus desires for each of us – a complete participation in His own eternal glory, body and soul.



Glory to Jesus!!! Honor to Mary!!!

*Fr. Nnamdi Moneme OMV is a Roman Catholic Priest of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary currently on missionary assignment in the Philippines. He serves in the Congregations' Retreat Ministry and in the House of Formation for novices and theologians in Antipolo, Philippines*

**Monday is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
Mass will be celebrated at 9am and 7.30pm in our parish church**



# Bulletin Notices

- **The Divine Mercy Devotion** is held on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm.
- **Liturgy Committee meeting** is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.
- **Readers Preparation meeting** is held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.
- **Adoration** is held every Sunday at 6.30pm online.
- **Faith Circles** is on every Monday at 2pm and 6pm via zoom
- **Friendship Group** is held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 9.30am.
- **Alliance of the 2 hearts Mass and devotion** is held on the first Friday of each month at 7.30pm.
- **The Samoan Mass** will be at 12 midday on the first Sunday of every 2 months; August, October and December 2022.
- **Confirmation** preparation classes will be held every Saturday at 4pm until 11 September.

**Women as Acolytes by Sr Monica Barlow RSJ:** On January 21 in 2021 Pope Francis changed Canon Law so that women as well as men could become acolytes. He also reminded us that the ministry of Lector was a lay ministry, open to both men and women. **If you would like to find out more about these ministries, come along on Saturday morning, 20th August to the meeting room at 10.** Morning tea will be served between 9.30 and 10.00 and the talk will be followed by a light lunch. Please indicate if you are attending for catering purposes.

*... a doctrinal development has taken place in recent years which has highlighted how certain ministries instituted by the Church are based on the common condition of being baptized and the royal priesthood received in the Sacrament of Baptism; they are essentially distinct from the ordained ministry received in the Sacrament of Orders... in fact, that these lay ministries, since they are based on the Sacrament of Baptism, may be entrusted to all suitable faithful, whether male or female... Pope Francis – Spiritus Domini*

## **Formation and training night for Acolytes and Adult Servers**

Please be advised our first formation and training night for Acolytes and Adult Servers will be held on Wednesday 24 August at 7:30pm at the parish.

The topic will be delivered by Fr Ransom and may evolve into a series of formation lectures. The topic for this first session will be the "Liturgical text and a look at the history of the liturgy." During this we will learn about the development of the liturgy over time, the structure and use of the Sacramentary/Roman Missal, the Lectionary and other liturgical text used. We will also dive into aspects of the GIRM specific to our role as Acolytes.

Given the recent classification change of women being able to assume the role as official acolytes, this is a timely opportunity to invite anyone willing to join this ministry, to do so.

## **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass & celebration of India's Independence Day**

The Indian community invites you for the solemn Mass on the feast of "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary" & celebration of India's Independence Day at 6.00pm on Monday 15th August at Holy Family Church, 136 Oxford Rd Ingleburn: Please bring a plate (finger food)

**The Journey Weekly Podcast:** This Week: Fr Slawek Plonka's Gospel reflection on a baptism of fire to immerse us fully in God's love. Mother Hilda reflects on a famous poem, "The Prophet." Plus, a faith testimony from Verity Lebeter (Caloundra, Qld), Fr Mike Delaney and Josh Clayton. The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

## **Worldwide Marriage Encounter - Virtual Weekend**

*Live your best life in love:* The Weekend is conducted by Zoom allowing you to attend from the comfort of your own home. *Starting Friday, 19 August 2022, 7.00 pm (Sydney time) Through Sunday, 21 August 2022 around 4.00 pm.*

The Weekend will conclude with Holy Mass

Book online [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) OR contact Booking Couple Mercy & James Bvirakare, Mobile 0409 183 676

Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au)

You will need a computer / laptop with video (camera + microphone) and a good internet connection.

**Catechist Retreat 2022** All SRE teachers and helpers are welcome to attend the Catechist retreat planned for Monday, Sep 12 in Varroville OR Friday, Sep 16 in Gerringong. Sr Magdalen Mather OSB will facilitate the retreats in both locations. With God's help, Sr Magdalen will help us to move into an Ocean of Grace to be rejuvenated through prayer, contemplation and sharing with each other (flyer attached). Register for the retreat at [dow.org.au/events](http://dow.org.au/events) or contact Cindy Oliver by emailing [support@ccdwoollongong.com](mailto:support@ccdwoollongong.com) or calling 46408550.

**LIVE Festival 2022** If you are a young person in year 9 - 12 in the Wollongong Diocese who likes live music, quality content, fun, games, festival activities and has missed big Catholic events, then come to the LIVE Festival!

Date: Friday the 2nd of September; Time: 10am - 8pm; Location: WIN Entertainment Centre Wollongong; Cost: \$50; Registrations close on the 31st of July. For more information, please email [youth@dow.org.au](mailto:youth@dow.org.au)

## **menALIVE Growing Good Men Father & Teenage Son Weekend Experience Friday 6.30pm 21 October – Sunday 1.30pm 23 October 2022 to be held at Cataract Activity Centre, Appin**

A weekend experience for fathers and their teenage sons. One of the most important influences in the lives of men is the relationship they had with their father or significant father figure. The encouragement and affirmation that this relationship could, and should, provide, is a key ingredient for how young men view themselves and embrace their faith. Please Register and pay online at [www.dow.org.au/events](http://www.dow.org.au/events). Any enquiries please contact Helen Bennett 4222 2403 or email [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

## **menALIVE's—reFUEL Weekly Sharing and Journaling Sessions**

Every Tuesday 7.30pm reFUEL is a weekly hour-long gathering of men every Tuesday evening on Zoom providing the chance to: break open the Sunday reading using a Lectio Divina style exercise "catch up" with great men from across Australia and New Zealand. gain strength and inspiration by the witness of other men. pray as a group for individual needs and the needs of others. Join via this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88436558468>

## Holy Gospel according to Luke 12: 49-53

*I have come not to give peace, but discord.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



## Reflection by Pope Francis

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus warns the disciples that the time for decision has arrived. In fact, his coming into the world coincides with the time for decisive choices: the option for the Gospel cannot be delayed. And in order to make this call clearer, he alludes to the fire that he himself came to bring to earth. He says: "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled". These words aim to persuade the disciples to abandon their attitude of laziness, apathy, indifference and closure, so as to welcome the fire of God's love; that love which, as Saint Paul reminds us, "has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Rom 5:5). Because it is the Holy Spirit that makes us love God and love our neighbour. It is the Holy Spirit whom we all have within us.

Jesus confides his most ardent desire to his friends and also to us: to spread the fire of God's love on earth that enlightens life and through which mankind is saved. Jesus calls us to spread throughout the world this fire, thanks to which, we will be recognized as his true disciples. The fire of love, lit by Christ in the world through the Holy Spirit, is a boundless fire. It is a universal fire. This was so ever since the early days of Christianity: bearing witness to the Gospel spread like a beneficial fire, overcoming all division among individuals, social categories, peoples and nations. Bearing witness to the Gospel burns. It overcomes all forms of particularism and keeps charity wide open to all, with a preferential option for the poorest and the excluded.

Adherence to the fire of love that Jesus brought to earth, envelopes our entire existence and requires the adoration of God as well as a willingness to serve others. Adoration of God and a willingness to serve others. First, the readiness to adore God, also means learning the prayer of adoration which we usually forget. This is why I invite everyone to discover the beauty of the prayer of adoration and to recite it often. And second, the willingness to serve others. I think with admiration of the many youth communities and groups, who during the summer, dedicate themselves to this service to the sick, the poor and people with disabilities. In order to live according to the Gospel spirit, faced with the ever new needs that arise in the world, there is a need for disciples of Christ who know how to respond with new charitable initiatives. And so, with the adoration of God and service to others — practised together, adoring God and serving others — the Gospel truly manifests itself as a fire that saves, that changes the world beginning with a change in the heart of each one.

In this perspective, we can also understand Jesus' other statement mentioned in today's passage which, at first glance, may be disconcerting: "Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division". He came to "separate with fire". To separate what? Good from evil, the just from the unjust. In this sense he came to "divide", to cause "uneasiness" — albeit in a healthy way — in his disciples' lives, breaking the facile illusions of those who think they can combine Christian life with worldliness, Christian life with compromises of all kinds, piety with a hostile attitude to others. Combining, some think, true religiosity with superstitious practices: how many so-called Christians go to fortune tellers to have their palms read! And this is superstition. It is not God. One must not live in a hypocritical way but be willing to pay the price for choices that are consistent — this is the attitude that each of us should seek in life: [being] consistent — paying the price for being consistent with the Gospel. Being consistent with the Gospel. Because it is good to call ourselves Christian but above all it is necessary to be Christian in concrete situations, witnessing to the Gospel, which is essentially love for God and for our brothers and sisters.

May Mary Most Holy help us to allow our hearts to be purified by the fire brought by Jesus in order to spread it with our life through decisive and courageous choices.