

21 August 2022
**Twenty First Sunday in
Ordinary Time**



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

from the prophet Isaiah
66:18-21

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15

Response:

Go out to all the world
and tell the Good News.

Second Reading from the

letter to the Hebrews
12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth,
and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father,
except through me.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to

Luke 13:22-30

Communion Antiphon

The earth is replete with
the fruits of your work,
O Lord;

Next Week

**Twenty second 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.

Jesus Saves....

A reflection by Richard Leonard

Jesus and Satan have an argument as to who is the better computer programmer. This goes on for a few hours until they agree to hold a contest with God as the judge.

They set themselves before their computers and begin. They type furiously for several hours, lines of code streaming up and down the screen.

Seconds before the end of the competition, a bolt of lightning strikes, taking out the electricity.

Moments later, the power is restored, and God announces that the contest is over. He asks Satan to show what he has come up with.

Satan is visibly upset, and cries, 'I have nothing! I lost it all when the power went out.'

'Very well, then,' says God, 'let us see if Jesus fared any better.'

Jesus enters a command, and the screen comes to life in vivid display, the voices of an angelic choir pour forth from the speakers.

Satan is astonished. He stutters, 'But how? I lost everything, yet Jesus' program is intact! How did he do it?'

God looks up over his glasses and chuckles, 'Ah you see, Jesus saves.'

Salvation has, rightly, always been the big issue. Who was going to make it, how it was going to happen and when would Christ return in glory have captured the imagination of each generation of believers.

The roots of this thinking can be found in today's Gospel. The earliest Christians, especially the Gentiles, saw that the Jews had been given every opportunity for salvation. They were the Chosen people. They had the Law and the Prophets. They were looking for the Messiah. Jesus, however, did not come as they expected or act as they hoped, so they rejected him and his followers. Within a generation after Jesus' death the Jews were persecuting the Christians and expelling them from the synagogues. The Christians took comfort from saying that in the salvation race the Jews might have started as the favourites, but they had missed the start and were now coming last.

This way of thinking had a strong effect on the Church. While we have always believed in the mercy and love of God, at different times we have been hostile to other religions, other denominations and the secular world. We have often needed to express this in absolute terms about who was going to be saved and, more importantly, who was not!

The Second Vatican Council, however, reflected on the Church's experience of working side by side with religious people and secular humanists throughout the world who were as committed as we are to justice, love and freedom. In the 'Declaration on the relationship of the Church to non-Christian religions', the bishops thought more generously about how God has a relationship with all people who in turn relate to God, even if they do not name it in the same way we are able to. The Council did not resile from believing that Jesus is the way to the Father, but they also affirmed that God can work in an infinite number of ways to assist people to salvation. It is Church teaching now that our relationship to all people who share the best of our values must be characterised by acceptance, collaboration, dialogue and charity.

This does not make salvation any less important. It just clarifies for us that it is God, not us, who does the saving and the judging. Christian salvation marks us out as people who know who we are following, where we are going, how we are getting there and why this world, and the next, matters to us. Salvation gives our lives meaning, direction and purpose.

The way we live out this salvation should be irresistible to others. As the folk hymn sings, 'They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.'

Contact us	Mass times	
Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD Assistant Priest: Fr "Sam" Ransom Rapiro OCD Parish Associate: Sr Ines Comiling, CM Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm	Sunday Mass times	Weekday Mass times
	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

28 August 2022	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Glen , Arlene & John	Laura & Nelia	Volunteer
Altar Servers	Cody & Christian	Orly & Luisa	Robert
Readers	Suzanne & Russell	Rhonda & Tina	Sheenalyn & Kavya
Refreshments	Beatrix & Madonna	Sarah & Steve	
Flowers	Mago	Church Vacuuming	Vergara family
Counters	Louise & Lina	Foyer Cleaning	Wicks family
CLOTW		Rebecca & Lee	

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: Conrado Leonor,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Bulletin Notices

- **The Divine Mercy Devotion** is held on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm.
- **NEWS ITEM: Fr Sam will have a Filipino Mass** to be celebrated in our church on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 11.15am.
- **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.
- **Fundraising meeting** will be held on Wednesday 24 August via zoom commencing at 6.30pm. Please contact the parish office for the zoom link.

Thank You from VINNIES

Through your support of our 2022 Winter Appeal and Sleep-out you have contributed towards our Vinnies Conference in actively addressing homelessness, poverty and inequality in our local communities. We collected \$1,643.00 for the Winter Appeal and had 13 people sleeping out who collected \$7,698.65. Thank you so much for your kind hearts and love and may God bless each of you abundantly.

From Terry Reilly (President) and our Conference Members



Bulletin Notices

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.

Marriage Enrichment Day: Sunday, 28 August 2022, 2-4 pm at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Church, Meeting Room. Title: THE VOW; To book Contact: Anne 0416 345 644 or Eddie 0417049418. A good marriage is the heart of the family.

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 or contact Cindy Oliver by emailing support@ccdwoollongong.com or calling 46408550.

The Journey, Weekly Podcast On The Journey This Week: Fr Galbert Albino's Gospel reflection calls us to make all our actions to be driven by love so we can enter through the narrow door. Mother Hilda says, often our judgement of others is inaccurate and wrong, yet God doesn't judge us in the same way. Plus, we have an interview with Fr Chris Ryan mgl about being equipped for mission. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

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

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. Any enquiries please contact Helen Bennett 4222 2403 or email 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>

Men's Cursillo 3-day weekend. Men from our Diocese are invited to join with Men from the Canberra / Goulburn Diocese to live a 3-day weekend. Take time for yourself to share your life journey with others. This life enriching weekend consists of talks, discussion, daily Mass, and Spiritual growth. The weekend runs from Thursday Evening 24th till Sunday 27th November and will be held at Greenhills Centre, Strombo. ACT. For further information, call Lester Smith on 0415562808. Transport from Campbelltown is available.

CATHFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts, and recipes from their website to assist parents and grandparents in being the first educators in faith for their kids. Don't miss CathKids cathfamily.org/activities/ for both adults and children. Sign-up for Free using our Diocesan Subscription by contacting darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au or helen.bennett@dow.org.au

Faith Circles—free small group resource: During this period of COVID pandemic, you are encouraged to spend time in prayer and spiritual reading and faith Circles is one way that you can do this. The weekly Faith Circles resource is available for free to download. It is easy to use and could easily be done in your household or even by skype / phone with others at this time, with its questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/ or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

CatholicCare - Have you thought about becoming a foster carer? We need foster carers who provide love, care, and support to help these children thrive and reach their full potential. Carers receive comprehensive support from the Fostering Futures team to ensure they have a full range of resources and networks to nurture their forever home. Our team have over 30 years' experience helping carers give vulnerable children a loving home and a brighter future. For more information, please call 0418 783 956, or email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or go to www.catholiccare.dow.org.au

We're always here if you ever need... These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes. To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au

Holy Gospel according to Luke 12: 49-53

From East and West they will come to take their place in the kingdom of God.

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'



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.