

4 September 2022

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



Entrance Antiphon

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading from the book of Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4. 12-13. 17. 19.
R. Lk 15:18

Response: I will rise and go to my father.

Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy 1: 12-17

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Luke 15: 1-10

Communion Antiphon

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Next Week

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

First: Am 8:4-7

Resp Ps: 112:1-2. 4-8.

R. see vv.1. 7

Second: 1 Tm 2:1-8

Gospel: Lk 16:1-13

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.

Bishop Brian Mascord will be Confirming 25 Children at 11am on Sunday morning.

Confirmation is the sacrament which enriches the baptised with the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that they may grow in stature as Christians and give witness to Christ more fully. Baptised in Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit at Confirmation, the Christian is then called to the table of the Lord in the sacrament of the Eucharist.



The celebration of Confirmation calls to mind the faith professed in Baptism and confers the gifts needed to build up the Christian community in unity and love. By the laying on of hands and anointing with the Sacred Oil of Chrism, Confirmation seals and completes Baptism. Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, candidates are filled with the grace to follow the example of Christ and serve others. The gathering will use the traditional Christian symbols to focus the celebration. These symbols are:

- the cross, under which all Christians gather to live and pray.
- water, by which the new member is brought into the life of the community.
- light, which provides direction to one's life in the community.
- Word of God, which forms every Christian gathering for prayer, and
- Chrism, the holy oil which speaks of the fragrant presence of the Spirit of God.

These five symbols will draw together in the celebration of Confirmation. Confirmation will also be held during the celebration of Mass. The Mass is the most theologically and liturgically appropriate setting for conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation and completing Christian Initiation into the Eucharistic community. It will also provide an opportunity for those present, many of whom are not regular worshippers, to take part in a very moving Eucharist.

Safeguarding Sunday 11 September 2022

The Parish of Our Lady Of Mount Carmel and the Diocese of Wollongong are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. Mindful of the theme for National Child Protection Week, may we work together to ensure all people feel safe and supported.



This year's theme will be "every child in every community needs a fair go" and will continue to focus on children growing up in a safe, loving, and supported environment.

On Safeguarding Sunday, the Gospel reminds us how attentive we should be to people in need, including those who have separated themselves from the community. It indicates, too, the level of care we ought to have for children in the Church and the seriousness with which we should observe the safeguards. The Parable of the Prodigal Son also points to our special responsibility to seek out and welcome people who have been abused as children in the Church. Any financial cost we might bear as a Church in compensating them for the abuse they have suffered in our care is insignificant compared to the gain if they again find a home in Christ's church. The Gospel is about bigheartedness.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday

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

Rosters

18 September	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Myra, Russell & Suzanne	Sarah, Violetti & Martin	Thalody Family
Altar Servers	Maria & Cassandra	Orly & Luisa	Stuart
Readers	Ryan & Bevina	Allan & Laura	Kathy & Volunteer
Refreshments	Joanne & Margaret	Irene, Jessica & Meg	
CLOTW		Sarah & Cordelia	
Flowers	Jessica & Patricia	Church Vacuuming	Gerard & Loretta
Counters	Richard & Margaret	Foyer Cleaning	Russell & Suzanne

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,
May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Sinjaey Pillay, Peter Ingster, Tito Lintag, Joan Wilson, Nonato San Miguel, Wendy Wright

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Sam Wilson, Margaret and Joe Farrell, Anne Migus
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Adoration with the Rosary is going to be held in the church every Saturday morning at 9.30am for 1 hour. The Intercessory Prayer group will lead the prayers and all are welcome to join.

Faith Circles is on every Monday at 2pm and 7pm via zoom

Friendship Group is held on the first 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; October and December 2022.

The Filipino Mass will be at 11.15am on the third Sunday of each month.

The Divine Mercy Devotion is held on the third Sunday of each month at 3pm.

Liturgy Committee meeting is held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Readers Inservice meeting is held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

The Fundraising meeting is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm via zoom

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible: Many Catholics want to read the Bible but get bogged down by the long stretches that seem not to make sense or get lost among the sea of Old Testament names and places.

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible, an eight part bible study, helps you uncover the story woven throughout the scripture, so you can get the "big picture" of the Bible and understand what it's all about. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. 2 sessions will be held each week: Evening Group commences on **Tues Sept 6 at 7:30 pm** and the Morning Group on **Fri Sept 16 at 10:00 am**. Both groups will be held in the Parish Meeting Room. For more information visit ascensionpress.com, or contact the parish office at 9603 7373.



Bulletin Notices

Altar Servers formation and training sessions for both junior and adult to commence on Saturday 10 Sept at 4:30 to 5:45pm. Existing and new Altar Servers are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to the parish office.

Hospitality Ministry Gathering: Saturday 17 September at 10am in the parish hall. This gathering is for parishioners who volunteer in the ministries of refreshments, monitors, wardens, cleaners, money counting and flower arranging. The meeting will include formation and a reflection on ministry. Anyone considering joining a ministry is encouraged to attend. Please RSVP your attendance to the parish office.

Bishop's Annual Appeal To Support the Dignified Retirement and Health of Clergy, and the Sound and Holistic Formation of our young Seminarians - will be promoted in our parish on the weekend of 17/18 September. To find out more, view the special appeal video and to make a secure on-line donation, please visit www.dow.org.au/giving, or call (02) 4222 2446 to make a donation over the phone.

The Journey, Weekly Podcast On The Journey This Week, Fr Joseph Murphy says Our God, the True Shepherd, is searching for us to lead each of us home. Mother Hilda calls us to be an observer of life and God's creation." A faith testimony from Ann Byrne (Darwin, NT), and Josh Clayton is staring into a firepit. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Season of Creation Resources for Parishes: We are in the Season of Creation and there are some wonderful activities and resources for families delve into at <https://seasonofcreation.org>. Take the time as we move into Spring to pray, to plant, to recycle and enter into the awe and wonder we find in dwelling on and being in God's creation.

Blessing of Animals, 9:30a.m. Monday, 3 October 2022 The Blessing of Animals will take place on the Monday of the long weekend, 3 October at 9:30am, at the Church of Saint Michael, 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Thirroul. The blessing takes place in the courtyard next to the church. All animals under 800kg and their carers are welcome, though please keep the larger boa constrictors on a tight leash. The feast of St Francis of Assisi is on Tuesday, 4 October, with Mass at 5:30pm at St Michael Parish, Thirroul – animals are welcome at that Mass.

menALIVE to the MAX2022 5pm Fri, 7 Oct – 2pm Sun 9 Oct, Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Grose Vale. menALIVE to the MAX is a National Catholic Gathering of men called MAX 2022 it is Hosted by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney (CAS) and menALIVE. The theme this year is-- RENEW/REFRESH/RECONNECT. We desire to grow into the men we were made to be: better husbands, fathers, and men of God. There will be nothing in Australia this year like this! So come on: REassemble, REgather, to REbuild and REgain the REal you and the Fullness of Life. REjoice!! For costs and more information and to register <https://app.tickets.org.au/MA/MAX2022Syd>

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 and gifts as they take their place in the world.

GROWING GOOD MEN is an experientially based program which encourages and enables fathers and sons to strengthen their relationship and to explore important issues of growing into manhood. It is designed for fathers and their adolescent sons aged 12 to 16 years (school years between 7 and 10). Don't miss this! Spots are limited to just 25 fathers with their sons. This is a unique opportunity for dads and their sons to embark on a quest of discovery with Robert Falzon (founder of menALIVE) and his team. 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

Marriage Enrichment Weekend 28 – 30 October 2022 Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville; Join us to learn together to live your best life in love! A stunning and tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at www.wvme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or Email: nswbookings@wvme.org.au.

Catholic Family Camping Weekend Friday 4 Nov – Sunday 6 Nov 2022; Wooglemai Catholic Camping Facility/Environmental Centre, Sheehys Creek Road, Oakdale. This will be an awesome opportunity for families throughout the diocese to come together in a relaxed camping environment for connection, formation, fun, meals, prayer, sport, music, and of course Sunday Mass including children's liturgy. It will be a self-catered weekend, with a cost of \$100 per family regardless of size. Please register your interest with Helen Bennett so we can connect with you. helen.bennett@dow.org.au.

Embrace the Call to Global Mission: American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Zambia are requesting Australian Catholics to live in and share their skills with parish communities. Embrace one of these Mission opportunities abroad and mentor those with little other opportunity. You will be well prepared and supported by Palms Australia who have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961. Enquire online or Ph: 0422 742 567 and Register for a Webinar on Saturday 24 September at 11:30am where you can talk directly with Veronica Lawson who is mentoring teachers in Pago Pago, American Samoa now. Or visit others already engaged in Mission with Palms on our 13-day Encounter Tour to Timor-Leste from October 16th to 28th

Chaldean Holy Mass at Oran Park: Fr David Catterall, Parish Priest, St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park, is pleased to announce that a Chaldean Holy Mass will commence on 11 Sept and will be celebrated every second Sunday (2nd and 4th Sun of every month) at 12.30pm at St Mary MacKillop Church at Oran Park. This Mass will offer Chaldean Catholics residing in the diocese, especially the exponentially growing region of South-West Sydney, the opportunity to celebrate Mass in their own language and with their own customs and rituals. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 4648 2226 or email oranpark@dow.org.au.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 15: 1-10

There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who does penance.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection by Pope Francis

Today's Gospel passage begins with several people criticizing Jesus, upon seeing him in the company of tax collectors and sinners, and they scornfully say: "This man receives sinners and eats with them". In reality, this statement turns out to be a marvellous announcement. Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. It is what happens to us at every Mass, in every Church: Jesus is happy to welcome us to his table where he offers himself for us. It is a statement that we could inscribe on Church doors: "Here Jesus welcomes sinners and invites them to his table". And in response to those who were criticizing him, Jesus tells three parables, three wonderful parables that reveal his preference for those who feel distant from him. Today, it would be nice if each of you would take up the Gospel of Luke and read the three parables. They are wonderful.

The first parable says: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it?". What man of you? Not a person with good sense: he does the math and sacrifices the one to keep the ninety-nine. Whereas God does not give up. He cherishes precisely you who still do not know the beauty of his love; you who have not yet welcomed Jesus into the centre of your life; you who are unable to overcome your sin; you who, perhaps due to the bad things that have happened in your life, do not believe in love. In the second parable, you are that small coin that the Lord does not accept losing, and he searches relentlessly. He wants to tell you that you are precious in his eyes, that you are unique. No one can replace you in God's heart. You have a place; you are you, and no one can replace you; nor me, no one can replace me in God's heart. And in the third parable, God is the father who awaits the return of his prodigal son. God always awaits us. He does not tire, he does not lose heart. Because we, each one of us is that son embraced once again, that rediscovered coin, that sheep caressed and put back upon his shoulder. He waits every day for us to perceive his love. And you say: "But I have done my share of things, I have done too much!". Do not be afraid. God loves you; he loves you as you are and knows that his love alone can change your life.

But this infinite love of God for us sinners, which is the heart of the Gospel, can be rejected. It is what the elder son in the parable does. He does not understand love in that moment and he has in mind more of a master than a father. It is also a risk for us: to believe in a more rigorous than merciful god, a god who defeats evil with power rather than with forgiveness. It is not so. God saves with love, not with force: offering himself, not imposing himself. But the elder son, who does not accept the father's mercy, withdraws; he makes a greater mistake. He thinks he is just; he presumes he has been betrayed and he judges everything on the basis of his concept of justice. Thus he becomes angry with his brother and rebukes the father: "You killed the fatted calf when this son of yours came". This son of yours: he does not call him my brother, but rather, your son. He feels like an only child. We too are mistaken when we believe we are just, when we think the others are bad. Let us not think we are good, because on our own, without the help of God who is good, we do not know how to defeat evil. Today, do not forget to take up the Gospel and read the three parables of Luke, Chapter 15. It will do you good; it will be healthy for you.

How can we defeat evil? By welcoming God's forgiveness and the forgiveness of our brothers and sisters. It happens each time we go to confession: there we receive the love of God, which conquers our sin. It no longer exists. God forgets it. When God forgives, he loses his memory, he forgets our sins, he forgets. God is so good to us! Unlike we who, after saying "it's okay", remember "with interest" the harm done to us, at the very first opportunity. No, God erases evil, he makes us new inside and thus enables joy to be reborn within us, not sadness, not darkness in our heart, not suspicion, but joy.

Brothers and sisters, take courage. With God, no sin has the last word. May Our Lady who unties the knots of life, free us from the presumption of believing we are just, and make us feel the need to go to the Lord who always awaits us to embrace us, to forgive us.