

**13 August 2023**  
**NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF  
ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**



**Entrance Antiphon**

Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

**First Reading** from the first book of the Kings 19:9.11-13

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation .

**Second Reading** from the second letter St Paul to the Romans 9:1-5

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I hope in the Lord,  
I trust in his word. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to Matthew 14:22-33

**Communion Antiphon**

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat .

**NEXT WEEK**

**20 AUGUST 2023**  
**TWENTETH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

**First Reading:**

Isaiah 56:1.6-7

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

**Second Reading:**

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

**Gospel:** Matthew 14:22-33

*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 the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation in Australia.

Mass times on Tuesday 15 August are 9am and 7.30pm

**Reflection** by Sr Margaret McKenna PhD

Do you have a favourite Christian feast? St Mary MacKillop claimed the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (or Mother of God) as hers.

This feast has its origins in Jerusalem before the end of the fourth century. The early Christians held Mary, the loving and courageous Jewish Mother of Jesus, as one of their own. They had prayed with Mary. Together they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The feast “The Passing of the Mother of God” commemorated her death.

Four centuries passed before the feast was adopted by Rome. Over a period of years theologians debated the questions: *Was Jesus truly God and man? Was Mary conceived free from original sin?* Theologians searched and prayed to come to a decision. Finally in 1854, Pope Pius XI defined the dogma of the immaculate conception of Mary the Mother of God.

In 19<sup>th</sup> century Australia, it was a time of renewal of devotion to Mary the Mother of God. Mary was a sorrowing mother of a suffering Jesus. In a letter to her mother, Mary MacKillop wrote, “Unite all your sorrows to [Mary’s] and through her to the desires to the Sacred heart of her son.”

It is clear that Mary MacKillop yearned to develop a loving relationship with Mary the Mother of God. She shared with Fr Julian Tenison Woods, “I feel myself so cold and listless beside those who really love her [Mary the Mother of God], and it humbles more than anything else to see how easily slight disappointments or annoyances move me to grief – whilst the thought of her sorrows, or the injury done by me to her love, takes so little effect on me.”

Mary states a few weeks later, “I know she [Mary the Mother of God] loves us all far more than we deserve, but I really am sure that I do not strive to become more practical in my devotion to so tender and compassionate a Mother”.

Mary adopted the Rosary as a favourite prayer and made it a practice of the Sisters. In later years, she wrote addressing Mary the Mother of God, “Ah, my Mother, think of the day when I knelt but a child to ask you to be my Mother, and I remember your gentle whisper when you said that you marked as your child since my birth”. The source to this statement is not known.

Let us celebrate Mary MacKillop’s favourite feast with faith, love and hope.



## Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri & Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon		
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12

### Contact us

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm

Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176

Email: [varroville@dow.org.au](mailto:varroville@dow.org.au)

Website: [varroville.dow.org.au](http://varroville.dow.org.au)

Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Assistant Priest: Fr “Sam” Ransom Rapirap OCD

Parish Associate: Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM

### Prayer intentions

**For the sick & homebound:** Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys.

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

**For our recently dearly departed:** Gladys Bergicourt, Dolores Doyle, Petar Petrinovic, Catherine Crawford, Shirley Chitty,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** William Parsons, Francisco Turingan, Fr Peter Caruana, Anne La Spina  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



### Our Community: Rosters

20 August	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Suzanne, Russell and Berna	Gabriel, Ofa and volunteer	Geoff and Margaret
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Andrew, Sebastian, Austin & Elana	Orly, Luisa and Carlos	Stuart
<b>Readers</b>	Bevina and Amana	Allan and Laura	Gloria and Fev
<b>Refreshments</b>	Tracey and Richard	Nelia, Anita and Tina	
<b>CLOTW</b>		Lee & Asinate	
<b>Flowers</b>	Patricia and Asinate	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Tess and Jacinta
<b>Counters</b>	Ruby and Cynthia	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Suzanne and Beatrix

### Our Community Notices

**Confirmation preparation sessions** will commence on Saturday 12 August. Registration is essential at the parish office.

**Bible Study Course:** Commencing on Thursday 17 August for 7 weeks; The Gospel of John presented on DVD by a Passionist Priest. Printed Materials will be provided. For further info and to register call the parish office. All are welcome.

**Alpha Update:** The Come & See Night on Tuesday was well

attended and Alpha groups will start meeting this coming week in the homes of some of our Alpha Team.. Its not too late to join in and for more information call the parish office.

The times are: Tuesday at 7pm in Minto; Wednesday morning at 9.45 in the parish and Wednesday at 6.30pm in Varroville.

**Bible study and discussion group** will be held in our meeting room every Monday morning after the 9.am Mass. Bring your bible and contact the parish office for more information.



# Bulletin Notices

**Parish Retreat Day on Saturday 26 August:** Parish Retreat Day: Fr Aloysius Rego will present on Saturday 26 August from 9am Mass till 3pm. The topic will be Prayer in the Carmelite Perspective. Please register at the Parish office.

**Childrens Ministry Get together:** All children aged 7+ years are invited on Sunday 27 August from 3—5pm for Children's activities in the parish meeting room. The group will continue to meet on the 4th Sunday of each month. Children's choir will meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7.30pm. For more information call the parish office.

**Feast of the Assumption at Ingleburn Church;** You are invited for the solemn Mass on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the celebration of India's Independence Day at 6pm on Tuesday 15 August at Holy Family Church Ingleburn. Please bring a plate for supper after the Mass.

**Overshadowed: Filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit,** 6pm Friday 18 - 2pm Sunday 20 August; Join the Missionaries of God's Love Sisters on a weekend retreat exploring what happens when we say yes to the Holy Spirit. Experience the life-changing power of deepening in God's love, surrendering to Jesus and living under the grace of the Holy Spirit. Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville Bookings: [trybooking.com/CFBQX](http://trybooking.com/CFBQX) (by 11 August). Contact: Katherine - [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

**How Do I Pray: weekend retreat 25—27 August at the Mt Carmel Priory;** To pray is to converse with God. In these days of quiet, we will reflect on the wonder of this and seek to deepen our experience of prayer. Led by Fr Gerard Moran. Contact [bookings@mtcarmel.com.au](mailto:bookings@mtcarmel.com.au); 0435857690

**Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program 2024** Applications for our Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program 2024 are now officially open! If you have a strong desire to deepen your faith, acquire practical leadership skills, theological knowledge, and spiritual formation to effectively serve Christ in today's Church, then our program is specifically designed for you. Please note that spaces for our Foundations of Missionary Leadership program for 2024 are limited and expected to fill quickly. Don't hesitate, take action now to ensure your place! Find out more: <https://www.aretecentre.org/>

**Made for More than this - Arete Centre for Missionary Leadership OPEN NIGHT!** Join Fr Chris Ryan MGL and an exciting panel of guests including Fr Rob Galea, Fr Simon Lobo, Co-author of Preaching on Purpose and Parish Priest at St Benedict, Halifax, and others, for a wide-ranging conversation about the powerful role lay people can play in the Church's Mission. Guests can also find out more about the Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program and how they can enrol for 2024. The Open night takes place on Thursday 17 August 2023 at 7.30 pm. Register at [www.aretecentre.org](http://www.aretecentre.org) for this event.

**Raising Fathers: Fathering from the Front Line:** Speaker: Robert Falzon; Monday 28 August 2023 Level 1, Micah House Resource Centre; 7:00pm—8:30pm Cost: Free; Join other dads

and father figures for this special evening event as Robert Falzon unpacks practical advice and shares stories that are powerfully important, impacting, informative and instructional for fathering in today's world. RSVP by 27 August. Enquiries: [jude.hennessy@dow.org.au](mailto:jude.hennessy@dow.org.au). Register: [dow.sh/RF2023](http://dow.sh/RF2023)

**MenALIVE Macarthur Regional Weekend,** 9-10 September, Micah House, Campbelltown. Cost \$70 per person (\$50 concession). Come along to our menALIVE weekend and be impacted by an encounter with the Gospel in the presence of other good men seeking to be renewed in faith and life. So many men have had their faith transformed and renewed by the experience of menALIVE, and this is an opportunity for men who have attended a menALIVE regional weekend in the past, and men who haven't, to come together to affirm the words of St Irenaeus all over again: "God is glorified when men are fully alive!" Register: [dow.sh/MACampbelltown2023](http://dow.sh/MACampbelltown2023)

**Mystery and Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration** You are invited to register for the national liturgy and music conference "Mystery and Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration" hosted by the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network together with the National Liturgical Council, commencing 28 - 30 September 2023 at the Hilton Hotel in Brisbane. This promises to be an outstanding conference for the Australian Catholic community in response to the Pope's call for a "serious and dynamic liturgical formation" within the Catholic church. For all the details, including keynote speakers and workshop presenters, please go to <http://www.mysteryandmission.com.au> You may watch the promotional video here <https://youtu.be/OpyclmMFrGA>

**A women's opportunity to experience a Cursillo three-day weekend;** A Cursillo weekend will be held at Carmel House, Varroville from Thursday evening 5 October to Sunday afternoon 8 October 2023. To view brochure and find out more, please email [cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com](mailto:cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com) or ring Geraldine Dayball on 0421 329 365.

**Growing Good Men Father and Teenage Son Weekend Experience** 20–22 October 2023 Cataract Scout Camp Appin. 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. Don't miss this life-changing father and son weekend! Spots are limited to just 25 fathers with their sons aged between 12—and 16 years. This is a unique opportunity for dads and their sons to embark on a quest of discovery with Robert Falzon and the team from menALIVE. Register online <https://www.dow.org.au/events/menalive-growing-good-men-weekend/> or contact Jude Hennessy on 42222407 [jude.hennessy@dow.org.au](mailto:jude.hennessy@dow.org.au)

**Ordination to the Diaconate Invitation** Bishop Brian Mascord DD will be ordaining to the diaconate, Lawrence Burns and Rodney Mackrill on Saturday 2 September 2023 at 10.30am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral. Light refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the ceremony in the Xavier centre

## Holy Gospel according to Matthew 14:22-33

*Command me to come to you over the water.*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'



### SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Pope Francis

This Sunday's Gospel passage (see Mt 14:22-33) speaks of Jesus walking on the water of the stormy lake. After feeding the crowds with five loaves and two fish – as we saw last Sunday – Jesus commands the disciples to get into the boat and return to the other shore. He dismisses the people and then climbs the hill, alone, to pray. He immerses Himself in communion with the Father.

During the crossing of the lake by night, the disciples' boat is hindered by a sudden wind storm. This is normal on a lake. At a certain point, they see someone walking on the water, coming toward them.

Upset, they think it is a ghost and cry out in fear. Jesus reassures them: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear". Then Peter – Peter who was so decisive – answers: "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water". A challenge. And Jesus tells him: "Come". Peter gets out of the boat and takes a few steps; then the wind and waves frighten him and he begins to sink. "Lord, save me", he cries, and Jesus grasps him by the hand and says to him: "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?".

This Gospel narrative is an invitation to abandon ourselves trustingly to God in every moment of our life, especially in the moment of trial and turmoil. When we have strong feelings of doubt and fear and we seem to be sinking, in life's difficult moments where everything becomes dark, we must not be ashamed to cry out like Peter: "Lord, save me" (v.30). To knock on God's heart, on Jesus's heart. "Lord, save me." It is a beautiful prayer! We can repeat it many times. "Lord, save me." And Jesus's gesture, who immediately reaches out His hand and grasps that of His friend, should be contemplated at length: this is Jesus. Jesus does this. Jesus is the Father's hand who never abandons us, the strong and faithful hand of the Father, who always and only wants what is good for us. God is not in the loud sound, God is not the hurricane, He is not in the fire, He is not in the earthquake – as the narrative about the Prophet Elijah also recalls today that says God is the light breeze – literally it says this: He is in the "thread of melodious silence" – that never imposes itself, but asks to be heard (see 1 Kgs 19:11-13). Having faith means keeping your heart turned to God, to His love, to His Fatherly tenderness, amid the storm. Jesus wanted to teach this to Peter and the disciples, and also to us

today. In dark moments, in sad moments He is well aware that our faith is weak –all of us are people of little faith, all of us, myself included, everyone – and that our faith is weak our journey can be troubled, hindered by adverse forces. But He is the Risen One! Let's not forget this: He is the Lord who passed through death in order to lead us to safety. Even before we begin to seek Him, He is present beside us lifting us back up after our falls, He helps us grow in faith. Maybe in the dark, we cry out: "Lord, Lord!" thinking He is far away. And He says, "I am here." Ah, He was with me! That is the Lord.

The boat at the mercy of the storm is the image of the Church, which in every age encounters headwinds, very harsh trials at times: we recall certain long and ferocious persecutions of the last century and even today in certain places. In situations like that, she may be tempted to think that God has abandoned her. But in reality it is precisely in those moments that the witness of faith, the witness of love, the witness of hope shines the most. It is the presence of the Risen Christ in His Church that gives the grace of witness unto martyrdom, from which buds new Christians and fruit of reconciliation and peace for the entire world.

May the intercession of Mary help us to persevere in faith and fraternal love when the darkness and storms of life place our trust in God in crisis.