

10 September 2023
Twenty-Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year A



Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and
your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord
with your merciful love.

First Reading the prophet
Ezekiel 33:7-9

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8
(R.) O that today you would
listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Romans 13:8-10

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
Matthew 18:15-20

Communion Antiphon

Like the deer that yearns for
running streams, so my soul
is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God,
the living God.

NEXT WEEK

17 SEPTEMBER 2023
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

First: Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

Second : Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

*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.*

Child Protection Week

This year National Child Protection Week will continue to champion the message 'Every child in every community needs a fair go'. This message captures the essence of National Child Protection Week which aims to promote a safe and supported life for every child, now and into the future. The aim of Child Protection Week is to bring together partners to focus on addressing the significant harms being experienced by children in Australia. By working collectively to change the trajectory of these children and families, we can reduce the number of children who may come in contact with the child protection system. The time to act is now.

Religious communities play their part to protect and care for children and young people in their community by supporting families and promoting children and young people's health and wellbeing.

Be a positive role model. Children and young people learn from the people that they spend time with, so make your influence positive.

Facilitate a youth friendly environment by creating opportunities for children and young people to engage in and be heard. This could include providing a youth space, holding a community event to showcase children's achievements, or developing a youth action network.

Become informed on the indicators and risks of child abuse and neglect as well as preventative measures. This will increase your awareness of how to support families in your community and prevent harm.

Develop means for family networking and support groups through communication channels such as notice boards, newsletters, online and social media or offering practical support. Reach out to families who are isolated. Be available and approachable.

Develop child related policies and procedures. Child Protection Policies should promote wellbeing and early intervention practices and be consistent with state/territory mandatory reporting legislation.

A code of conduct for working with children and young people is another practical tool for promoting clear and consistent roles and behaviour. Ensure that all staff and volunteers engaged in child related work hold a valid Working With Children Check. When implemented and supported consistently, these policies work to protect children, workers and the organisation.

Support Schools in their promotion of children and young people's safety and wellbeing. Openly encourage reviews of pastoral care systems to ensure they are meeting the needs of staff and students. Consider the impact on children/ young people when making service delivery decisions.

Be open to making connections with any child, young person or community member who needs your support regardless of cultural background or religious beliefs, to further perpetuate an environment of acceptance and tolerance.

Think about safe and respectful ways to be an active bystander if you see an adult being inappropriate towards a child or young person.



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

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Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Assistant Priest: Fr “Sam” Ransom Rapirap OCD

Parish Associate: Sr “Jill” Girle Sudario, CM

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Baby Matthew , Terry Maroun, 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: Rufino Baying Yanga, Diana Antilla, Gladys Bergicourt, Dolores Doyle, Petar Petrinovic, Catherine Crawford, Shirley Chitty,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Richard McGuiness, Sanjaey Pillay,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

17 September	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen & Arlene	Gabriel, Ofa & Volunteer	Betty & Bobi
Altar Servers	Cody, Christian & Ralph	Orly, Claire & Meliame	Stuart
Readers	Suzanne & Russell	Martin & Tina	Tim & Volunteer
Refreshments	Beatrix & Madonna	Nelia, Anita & Tina	
CLOTW			
Flowers	Lorraine & Effie	Church Vacuuming	Pawan & Effie
Counters	Richard & Michael	Foyer Cleaning	Suzanne & Beatrix

Our Community Notices

Next Sunday 17 September Bishop Brian will be confirming 29 children during the 9.30am Mass. Please pray for the candidates and their families as they prepare for this important milestone.

Pastoral Care in our Parish Our parish is blessed with a Pastoral Care Team who seek to spiritually support those in our parish who may not be able to attend Mass for a number of reasons; eg, illness, bereaved, living in a nursing home, grieving or lonely.

We aspire to be visible signs of God’s loving and caring presence in the life of a person who feels they need or will benefit from prayer and spiritual support. Prayer and a kind listening ear is often balm that promotes healing.

This ministry is able to celebrate the Eucharist on such visits if requested. If you or anyone you know would like more information please contact the parish office.



Bulletin Notices

Fundraising event; 23 September at 7pm. Campfire & Open Mic Night. Come along for a relaxed family evening with a campfire and entertainment. The cost will be \$20 pp or \$50 per family (dinner included; BYO drinks). For more information contact the parish office.

Pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on Wednesday 27 September by train. The day will include a visit to the museum, Mass in the chapel, and lunch. Museum entry is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. Morning tea and lunch is available for \$25 per person. For more info and to register please call the parish office by 22 Sept.

On The Journey podcast this Week Fr Mike Delaney says this Gospel challenges how we respond to issues within our faith communities. Mother Hilda says the sunrise is a metaphor for God in our life. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Robert Falzon, and Byron and Francine Pirola. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Catholic Men's Conference 2023 'Be Not Afraid' 16 September The Inaugural 'Catholic Men's Conference' – BE NOT AFRAID is a one day conference for men (18yrs plus) at St Mary's Cathedral Hall from 8am to 4.30pm. The conference will include breakfast, coffee/tea, talks by guest speakers, Q&A Panel, adoration, confession, Mass in St Mary's Cathedral, lunch and fellowship. Tickets are \$55 and Concession Ticket is \$45. CLERGY and SEMINARIANS are FREE More details and Registration : <https://www.trybooking.com/CKKF>

Become a CatholicCare foster carer! The CatholicCare foster care team are urgently looking for a forever home for Ollie* who is 8 years old. Ollie is a very engaging, outgoing, polite and active boy. Ollie enjoys swimming, going to the park, playing Nintendo, watching movies, colouring in, and trying new foods. Ollie would love to learn to ride a bike and play soccer or Oz Tag. Ollie is looking for a forever home with carers who are kind, caring, calm, and patient who can give him a sense of security and belonging. You can find out more by calling 0418 783 956, email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or go to <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au> for more information. CatholicCare will support you every step of the way. *name has been changed for privacy

Jamberoo Arts & Crafts Exhibition 'By the Work of our Hands' Come and join us for the Jamberoo Arts & Crafts Exhibition being held at the Old Fire Station Kiama. Date: 22 – 27 September from 10am- 3:30pm, Save the date and bring your friends and family along and enjoy beautiful Kiama and discover the beauty 'By the Work of our Hands'.

Ignite Conference 23 'Wonder' Sydney 28 September – 1 October: Ignite Conference is a gathering of Catholics for four days of real-world formation, renewal of faith, great people and powerful worship. Join over 2000 high schoolers, young adults, leaders, teachers, priests and religious taking part in a life changing encounter with God and His Church. Registration: <https://igniteconference.com.au/>

The Bishop's Annual Appeal will be promoted in our parish next weekend 16/17 September "Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Offering dignified support and care for our retired clergy, who have always cared

for us; and a sound and holistic formation of our young seminarians, our future priests, are my responsibilities as your Bishop. I seek your prayers and practical support to help me ensure that I can do this. Your donation to this appeal is very much appreciated." + Bishop Brian Mascord

Sisters of Charity of Australia Heritage Centre We invite you to come and share in the story of Australia's first religious sisters. We'd love to welcome you! Open Tuesday to Thursday 10am- 3pm or by appointment. Bookings recommended. Our centre celebrates over 180 years of ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Australia. Enquiries please contact concierge@rscoffice.com or (02) 9138 0835

Mary in Scripture: You are invited to discover the unique role of Our Lady, as the Ark of the Covenant, New Eve, and Queen Mother in this eye opening in-service presented with Mr Daniel Saliba (CCD Wollongong) revealing the deep theological connections between Mary and her ancient biblical types. Whether you are a catechist, or someone seeking to deepen their understanding of Mary's role in salvation history, this short in-service will provide invaluable insights into the profound symbolism and theological depth of Catholic teaching on Mary. Campbelltown - Monday 18th September: 9:30am - 12:00pm; Level 1, Micah House; 35a Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown; To register for the Campbelltown seminar, please visit <https://dow.sh/marybiblectown>

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 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. 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

Marriage Enrichment Weekend 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 27-29 October 2023 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.



Season of Creation 2022 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.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:15-20

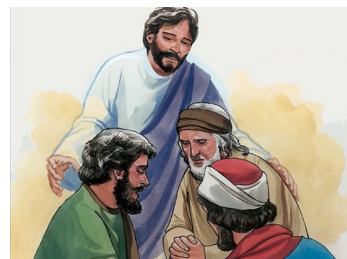
If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.'

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Pope Francis 30 August 2020

This Sunday's Gospel passage (cf. Mt 18:15-20) is taken from Jesus' fourth discourse in Matthew's account, known as the discourse on the 'community' or the 'ecclesial' discourse. Today's passage speaks about fraternal correction, and invites us to reflect on the twofold dimension of Christian existence: community, which demands safeguarding communion — that is, the unity of the Church — and personal, which obliges attention and respect for every individual conscience.

To correct a brother who has made a mistake, Jesus suggests a pedagogy of rehabilitation. And Jesus' pedagogy is always a pedagogy of rehabilitation. He always tries to rehabilitate, to save. And this pedagogy of rehabilitation is articulated in three passages. In the first place he says: "tell him his fault, between you and him alone" (v. 15), that is, do not air his sin in public. It is about going to your brother with discretion, not to judge him but to help him realize what he has done. How many times have we had this experience: someone comes and tells us: 'But listen, you were mistaken about this. You should change a little in this regard'. Perhaps in the beginning we get angry, but then we say 'thank you', because it is a gesture of brotherhood, of communion, of help, of rehabilitation.

And it is not easy to put this teaching of Jesus into practice, for various reasons. There is the fear that the brother or sister may react badly; at times you may lack sufficient confidence with him or with her. And other reasons. But every time we have done this, we have felt it was precisely the way of the Lord.

However, it may happen that, despite my good intentions, the first intervention may fail. In this case it is good not to give up and say: 'Make do, I wash my hands of it'. No, this is not Christian. Do not give up, but seek the support of some other brother or sister. Jesus says: "if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses" (v. 16). This is a precept of Mosaic law (cf. Deut 19:15). Although it may seem a disadvantage to the accused, in reality it served to protect him against false accusers. But Jesus goes further: the two witnesses are called not to accuse and judge, but to help. 'But let us agree, you and I, let us go talk to this man or woman, who is mistaken, who is making a bad impression. Let us go as brothers and speak to him or her'. This is the attitude of rehabilitation that Jesus wants from us. In fact Jesus explains that even this approach — the second approach, with witnesses — may fail, unlike Mosaic law, for which the testimony of two or three witnesses was enough to convict.

Indeed, even the love of two or more brothers or sisters may be insufficient, because that man or woman is stubborn. In this case — Jesus adds — "tell it to the church" (v. 17), that is, the community. In some situations the entire community becomes involved. There are things that can have an impact on other brothers and sisters: it takes a greater love to rehabilitate the brother. But at times even this may not be enough. And Jesus says: "and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector" (ibid.). This expression, seemingly so scornful, in reality invites us to put the brother in God's hands: only the Father will be able to show a greater love than that of all brothers and sisters put together.

This teaching of Jesus helps us a great deal, because — let us consider an example — when we see a mistake, a fault, a slip, in that brother or sister, usually the first thing we do is to go and recount it to others, to gossip. And gossip closes the heart to the community, closes off the unity of the Church. The great gossip is the devil, who always goes about saying bad things about others, because he is the liar who seeks to separate the Church to distance brothers and sisters and not create community. Please, brothers and sisters, let us make an effort not to gossip. Gossip is a plague more awful than Covid! Let us make an effort: no gossip. It is the love of Jesus, who had embraced the tax collectors and Gentiles, scandalizing the conformists of the time. However it is not a sentence without an appeal, but a recognition that at times our human attempts may fail, and that only being before God can bring the brother to face his own conscience and responsibility for his actions. If this matter does not work, then silence and prayer for the brother or sister who has made a mistake, but never gossip.

May the Virgin Mary help us to make fraternal correction a healthy practice, so that in our communities ever new fraternal relationships, founded on mutual forgiveness and above all on the invincible power of God's mercy, may be instilled.