

**24 September 2023**  
**Twenty-fifth Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time Year A**



**Entrance Antiphon**

I am the salvation of the  
people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any  
distress, I will hear them,  
and I will be their Lord for  
ever .

**First Reading** the prophet  
Isaiah 55:6-9

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R.  
v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all  
who call him.

**Second Reading** letter of  
St Paul to the  
Philippians 1:20-24. 27

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your  
Son. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Matthew 20:1-16

**Communion Antiphon**

You have laid down your  
precepts to be carefully kept;  
may my ways be firm in  
keeping your statutes.

**NEXT WEEK**  
**01 OCTOBER 2023**  
**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN**  
**ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

**First:** Ezekiel 18:25-28

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

**Second :** Philippians 2:1-5

*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.*

**“Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay”**

*Archbishop Christopher Prowse Chairman Bishops Commission for  
Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry*

In this year’s World Day for Migrants and Refugees Message, Pope Francis focuses on the theme, “Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay.” In the message he points out that for a healthy society there should always be “the freedom that should always mark the decision to leave one’s native land.” Migration movements throughout the world continue unabated. The Pope insists that we should always be “ensuring that that freedom is a widely shared pastoral concern.”

We don’t often reflect on this given our current understanding of refugees, but the Pope reminds us, once again, that there are Biblical examples of refugees. We think first of all of the experiences of the Holy Family - Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Pope notes, “The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt was not the result of a free decision.” He then insists that, “The decision to migrate should always be free, yet in many cases, even in our day, it is not.” He reminds us of St John Paul II who stated that there should be a real commitment “to safeguarding first of all the right not to emigrate, that is, the right to live in peace and dignity in one’s own country.” The other example given in the Pope’s message is the flight of Jacob and all his offspring with him (Gen 46:6). Due to a grave famine in their land of origin, it necessitated them “to seek refuge in Egypt, where his son Joseph ensured their survival.” We are all aware that “Migrants flee because of poverty, fear or desperation.” The Pope makes the very important point that the country of origin must make a commitment which “begins with asking what we can do, but also what we need to stop doing.” He cites the example of “the arms race, economic colonialism, the plundering of other people’s resources and the devastation of our common home.” For migration to be truly a choice that is free, “efforts must be made to ensure to everyone an equal share in the common good, respect for his or her fundamental rights, and access to an integral human development.” In anticipating the Jubilee Year of 2025, Pope Francis recalls the important dimension of jubilee years as “an act of collective justice.” Here people are able to return to their places of origin with the intention of “the cancellation of all debts, restoration of the land, and an opportunity once more to enjoy the freedom proper to the members of the People of God.” In other words the right not to be forced to immigrate is “the chance to live in peace and with dignity in one’s own country.” The Pope concludes his reflection by reminding us again that “the migrant is not simply a brother or sister in difficulty, but Christ himself, who knocks at our door.” We are to construct “bridges and not walls, expanding channels for a safe and regular migration.”

**FREE TO CHOOSE WHETHER  
TO MIGRATE OR TO STAY**

**109TH WORLD DAY OF  
MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

**SUNDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2023**



## 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	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	
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 Rapirop OCD

Parish Associate: Sr “Jill” Girлие 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:** John McDermott, Richard McGuinness, Sanjaey Pillay,  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



### Our Community: Rosters

01 October	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Myra, Paul & Lori	Gerry, Margaret & Volunteer	Terry & Maree
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Cody, Christian & Ralph	Orly, Luisa & Carlos	Volunteer
<b>Readers</b>	Richard & Tracey	Tess & Aida	Gloria & Fev
<b>Refreshments</b>	Estela & Margaret	Steve, Sarah & Volunteer	
<b>CLOTW</b>		<b>School holidays</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Patricia & Asinate	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Hermi & Charity
<b>Counters</b>	George & Wendy	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Tess

### Our Community Notices

**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.  
**Meet at Minto Station at 9am with your opal card. We will return by 5pm.**  
**Call the parish on 0434 705 176 for more information.**

**Ignite inspired youth gathering in our parish on Friday 6 October from 5—7pm.** The Ignite Conference is a gathering of Catholics for four days of real-world formation, renewal of faith, great people, and powerful worship. Over 2000 high schoolers, young adults, leaders, teachers, priests and religious are taking part in a life changing encounter with God and His Church. The Parish youth who attend the Ignite Conference in Sydney will lead our Parish youth for an afternoon session. For more info call the parish office.



# Bulletin Notices

## **Called by Name: Macarthur Young Adults Gathering**

Campbelltown Catholic Club, Saturday 28 October 6:45pm - 9pm We live in a chaotic world that often leaves us struggling to understand who we truly are, our purpose, and our calling in life. If you've found yourself contemplating these questions, you're not alone! We all crave a profound sense of purpose in our lives, and an understanding of "whose" we are and what we were created for. We extend to you this personal invitation to engage with fellow young adults from 17—35 years old, guided by a panel who will openly share the stories and learnings from their own journeys, with an opportunity for Q&A throughout the discussion. This event is the beginning of a regional initiative connecting young adults in the Macarthur, though young adults from all throughout the Diocese are most welcome. Register now: [dow.sh/cbn23](https://dow.sh/cbn23) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

## **On Friendship in the light of St. Therese & St. Teresa;**

Oct 7, 2023 • 10am - 4pm; **Presented by** Lorraine Murphy, OCDS; "The Circle of Love" - We will explore friendship with Jesus in the light of our Carmelite Saints and Dorothy Day. At Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville; **COST:** \$30 (Please BYO Lunch)

## **Catholic Medical Association National Conference 10-12 Nov 2023**

Those who work in health care are invited to attend The First National Catholic Medical Association Conference. Ethical Medicine is at an important crossroad and Catholic practitioners are confronted everyday with an increasingly secular workplace. This conference aims to address a number of the current and emerging issues confronting the Catholic practitioner. This is also a time where we can connect with each other and become more acquainted with the professionals within our network. For more information and registration: The Conference will also enable the First ever National "White Mass" for Catholic Health Care professionals. <https://acma.glueup.com/event/acma-national-conference-2023-85401/>

**On The Journey podcast :** Fr Mike Delaney says this gospel challenges us to give thanks that God is bigger than we are, and is just to all of us, no matter when or how we hear the word of God. Mother Hilda says for God there is no late in the day, He is always a sunrise in our life. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Byron and Francine Pirola, and Fr Dave Callaghan. The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au).

**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.

**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 at Potts Point. Bookings recommended. Our centre celebrates over 180 years of ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Australia. Enquiries please contact [concierge@rscoffice.com](mailto:concierge@rscoffice.com) or (02) 9138 0835

**Morocco Earthquake** Caritas Australia has launched an appeal for the victims of the earthquake in Morocco. Over 2,000 people have been confirmed dead. Thousands of people have been injured, over 1,000 critically. Search and rescue efforts are ongoing, with many people still trapped under rubble. The time to act is now. Caritas agencies are on the ground as they assess the scale of the damage and critical needs. Your donation today can help communities affected by the earthquake. Please give generously at [www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency)- appeals/morocco-earthquake/

**Blessing of Animals, Monday, 2 October at 9:30am** As usual, the Blessing of Animals will take place on the Monday of the long weekend, 2 October at 9:30am at the Parish 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 crocodiles on a tight leash. The feast of St Francis of Assisi is on Wednesday, 4 October, with Mass at 9:00am – animals are welcome at that Mass. Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.

**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.

## **Made Free: Creative Retreat, 20-22 October 2023**

Join the MGL Sisters in a weekend retreat that explores a range of creative prayer experiences. Recapture the freedom you were made for, let go of what is burdening you, and let God fill you again with life.

Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW  
Bookings: <http://www.trybooking.com/CFBRD> (by 6 October)  
Contact: Judy - [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

## **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](mailto:jude.hennessy@dow.org.au)



## Holy Gospel according to Matthew 20:1-16

*Why are you jealous because I am generous?*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



### SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Pope Francis 24 September 2017

This passage of the Gospel, this parable, makes us understand this: God goes out to find us. Five times in this passage we speak of the exit: the exit of God, the master of the house, who goes to fetch the workers for his vineyard. And the day is a person's life, and God goes out in the morning, mid-morning, noon, afternoon until evening, at five. He doesn't get tired of going out. Our God never tires of going out to look for us, to show us that he loves us. "But, father, I am a sinner ...". And how many times do we stand in the square like these [in the parable] who are there all day long; and being in the square is being in the world, being in sins, being ... "Come!" - "But it's late..." - "Come!". For God it is never late. Never, never! This is the logic of his conversion. He goes out of Himself to seek us, and so much has He left Himself that He sent His Son to look for us. Our God always has his gaze on us (Lk 15:20). But why did she see him? Because every day, and perhaps several times a day, she went up to the terrace to see if her son came, if the son came back. This is the heart of our God: he is always waiting for us. And when someone says: "I have found God", he is wrong. In the end, he found you and took you with him. It is He who takes the first step. He never tires of going out, going out ... He respects the freedom of every man but he is there, waiting for us to open the door for him a little.

And this is the great thing about the Lord: he is humble. Our God is humble. He humbles himself by expecting us. He is always there, waiting.

We are all sinners and we all need an encounter with the Lord; of an encounter that gives us strength to move forward, to be better, simply. But let's be careful. Because He passes, He comes and it would be sad that He passes and we do not notice that He is passing. And today we ask for grace: "Lord, may I be sure that You are waiting. Yes, waiting for me, with my sins, with my defects, with my problems ". We all have them, all of them. But He is there: He is there, always. I believe the worst of sins is not understanding that He is always there waiting for me, not having faith in this love: distrust in God's love.

May the Lord grant you this grace on this joyful day for you. Me too, everyone. The grace from the terrace and went to meet his son. That old man was in a hurry, and the Gospel says that when the son began to speak: "Father, I have sinned ...", he did not let him speak; he embraced him, kissed him (cf. Lk 15: 20-21). This is what awaits us if we open the door a little bit: the embrace of the Father. of being sure that He is always at the door, waiting for me to open a little bit to enter. And do not be afraid: when the prodigal son met his father, the father came down from the terrace and went to meet his son. That old man was in a hurry, and the Gospel says that when the son began to speak: "Father, I have sinned ...", he did not let him speak; he embraced him, kissed him (cf. Lk 15: 20-21). This is what awaits us if we open the door a little bit: the embrace of the Father.

