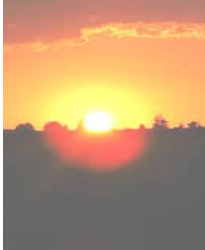


**22 October 2023**  
**Twenty-ninth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time Year A**



**Entrance Antiphon**

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

**First Reading** the prophet  
Isaiah 45:1.4-6

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7  
(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour .

**Second Reading** letter of  
St Paul to the  
Thessalonians 1:1-5

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life . Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Matthew 22:15-21

**Communion Antiphon**

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine .

**NEXT WEEK**

**29 OCTOBER 2023**  
**THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

**First:**

Exodus 22:20-26

**Resp Psalm**

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

**Second**

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

**Gospel:**

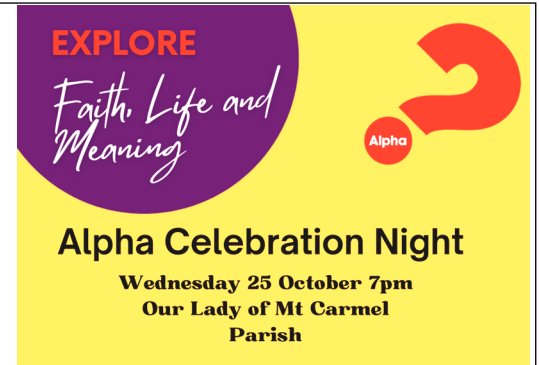
Matthew 22:34-40

*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.*

**ALPHA CELEBRATION NIGHT**  
**Wednesday 25 October at 7pm**  
**for supper, stories,**  
**praise & worship**

The Parish Alpha at home sessions are concluding this week. The participants have been meeting weekly in the homes of our Alpha hosts since August.

Come along on Wednesday evening to hear the testimonials of the participants and join in the praise & worship.



**The Synod of Bishops**

On Pentecost this year, Pope Francis said that he sees the Holy Spirit not only as the “soul of the Church” but also as “the heart of synodality.” He called for the Synod on Synodality to “place the Holy Spirit at the beginning and at the heart of the work of the synod.”

A “synod” is a journey of discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit. In the Synod on Synodality, the entire Church has been called to discern how the Spirit is moving through and with the Body of Christ inside and outside the Church so that we may continue to fulfill our mission to evangelize in the world.

The Faithful are encouraged to pray for the Synodal Process underway from 4 – 29 October in Rome, specifically that the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

**Prayer for the Synod of Bishops**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.  
All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## 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

Parish Associate:  
Sr “Jill” Girlie 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:** Sennie Masian, Jose Useche, Rufino Boying Yanga.

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Giuseppe Cuomo, John McDermott,  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



### Our Community: Rosters

29 October	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Myra, Paul & Lori	Nelia, Laura & Volunteer	Geoff & Margaret
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Berna, Ralph & Kenneth	Orly, Claire & Meliame	Vu
<b>Readers</b>	Suzanne & Russell	Children’s Mass	Gloria & Fev
<b>Refreshments</b>	Beatrix & Madonna	Ofa & Charlotte	
<b>CLOTW</b>		Children’s Mass	
<b>Flowers</b>	Lorraine & Effie	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Tess & Jacinta
<b>Counters</b>	Christine & Cira	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Suzanne & Beatrix

### Our Community Notices: Upcoming Events

22 October: Catholic Mission Appeal  
 25 October at 7pm: Alpha Celebration Night  
 27 October at 7pm: Friday Faith & Supper  
 29 October at 9.30am: Children’s Mass  
 2 November at 7.30pm: All Souls Day Mass in the Columbarium  
 7 November at midday : Melbourne Cup with Friendship Group  
 12 November: Francisco Palau Appeal  
 12 November at 1pm: Fashion Fun Clothing Swap fundraising  
 18 November from 9am: Parish working bee

19 November at 11am: Annual Parish Meeting  
 25 November from 9.30am: Parish Retreat Day  
 25 November at 4pm: First Reconciliation  
 26 November: Vinnies Christmas Appeal  
 30 November at 7.30pm: Parish Ministry Thanksgiving Mass for  
 all those involved in ministry in our parish.



# Bulletin Notices

**Catholic Mission Appeal** will be held this weekend or online at [catholicmission.org.au/timor](http://catholicmission.org.au/timor)

**Hearts on Fire Feet on the Move:** Tuberculosis, malnutrition, and maternal mortality are a few of the many conditions present in the community of Venilale in Timor-Leste. With Timor-Leste's fragile infrastructure, reliance on local health practices, and limited access to medical care, many health conditions only worsen, and sadly can result in death. Witnessing the gap in care, the Salesian Sisters took action and established the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic. Sister Carolina, a local nurse, hopes to see better outcomes for here people through providing them with the appropriate treatment, care and knowledge to give them the confidence to act and have autonomy over their health.

**This week Catholic Mission will offer you the opportunity to partner with the Sr Carolina and the Salesian Sisters in Venilale, Timor-Leste, where your gift can help continue a life-saving program to help address this reality.**

We hope you will take this opportunity to make an incredible impact for those in need.

**Friday, Faith and Supper night on Friday 27 October**, the plight of Timor-Leste will be presented by Mark Raue. The evening will be an opportunity to spend time with fellow parishioners in a social atmosphere & to participate in a topical discussion about faith. A light supper, wine, beer and cheese will be served. A donation towards the cost of catering (or bring a plate) will be appreciated but is not essential.

**All Souls Day Annual Mass in the Columbarium.** Join us on Thursday 2 November at 7.30pm for our outdoor Mass in memory of your loved ones. The Mass will be held outdoors so dress warmly. A light supper will be served after the Mass.

**Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday 19 November at 10.30am – 2.30pm.** How can we as a community show the love of Christ to our neighbourhood and beyond. This meeting will be an opportunity to look back and reflect on the year; look forward and together develop our vision for the future; have your say in the future of our parish. RSVP to 0434705176 for catering purposes.

**Diocesan Annual Catechist Mass** The Annual Catechist Mass and awards ceremony will occur on Saturday 11 November, at 10am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. We look forward to welcoming all our Life Members, award recipients, active and retired Catechists, special guests and their families. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord and concelebrated by clergy of the Diocese. A light luncheon will follow in the Xavier Conference Rooms. For more information please contact Helen Bennett on [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

**FEARLESS Catholic Online Gathering Tuesday 14 November 2023** at 7:00pm; Join Alpha Catholic teams from across Australia to share your Alpha stories, be renewed in the Spirit and encouraged to continue forward in the Lord's Great Commission to "Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19). Register at <https://alpha-org-au.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpcOmpqD8vG9PRZiY4ntg5JEx6Jz1jXCDH#/registration>

**El Roi: The God Who Sees Me (Women's Retreat) Carmel House**, Varroville | 17-19 November 2023

Prepare for Advent through this women's retreat with the MGL Sisters, as we spend time together listening to God's unique heart of love for each one of us. This retreat is supported by the Catholic Women's Network in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Bookings: [trybooking.com/CFBRE](http://trybooking.com/CFBRE) (by 3 November)

Contact: Bernadette - [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

**Summer School of Evangelisation (Sydney): 7-14 January 2024**, Mount Carmel Retreat Centre,

Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Registrations open 31st October. Register by 30th November to receive early bird rates (concession \$525/adult \$625). More info: contact@summerschool.org.au. Bookings: [summerschool.org.au](http://summerschool.org.au)

**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](http://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)

**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.

**Go Deeper in your Faith with FREE Catholic Podcasts**

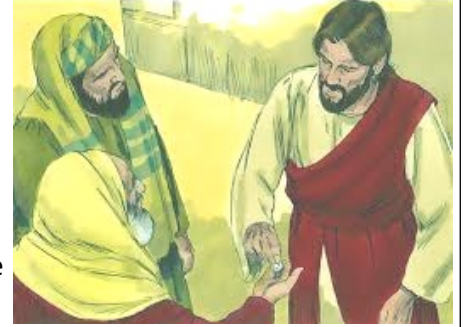
- ◆ **Bible in a Year** Last year, Ascension Press ran the Catholic Bible in a Year Podcast featuring Fr Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins. It was the world's number 1 Religious Podcast with over 250 million downloads. It will run again throughout 2023 – and while a new podcast is released daily, you can do it at your own pace signing up at [www.ascensionpress.com/biy](http://www.ascensionpress.com/biy) and it's not too late to catch up or simply work through at your own pace.
- ◆ **Catechism in a Year** This year, Ascension Press have commenced the Catechism in a Year podcast which will slowly and prayerfully read through and break open the Catechism over 365 days. It's not too late to catch up, and the daily podcasts can be listened to at your own pace. It is available at [www.ascensionpress.com/ciy](http://www.ascensionpress.com/ciy)



# Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:15-21

*Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.*

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'



The Gospel of the Lord.

## A REFLECTION BY POPE FRANCIS 18 October 2020

This Sunday's Gospel reading shows us Jesus struggling with the hypocrisy of his adversaries. They pay him many compliments — at the beginning, many compliments — but then ask an insidious question to put him in difficulty and discredit him before the people. They ask him: "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" (v. 17), that is, to pay their tribute to Caesar. At that time, in Palestine, the domination of the Roman Empire was poorly tolerated — and it is understandable, they were invaders — also for religious reasons. For the people, the worship of the emperor, underscored also by his image on coins, was an insult to the God of Israel.

Jesus' interlocutors are convinced that there is no alternative to their questioning: either a "yes" or a "no". They were waiting, precisely because they were sure to back Jesus into a corner with this question, and to make him fall in the trap. But he knows their wickedness and avoids the pitfall. He asks them to show him the coin, the coin of the taxes, of the tribute, takes it in his hands and asks whose is the imprinted image. They answer that it is Caesar's, that is, the Emperor's. Then Jesus replies: "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (v. 21).

With this reply, Jesus places himself above the controversy. Jesus, always above. On the one hand, he acknowledges that the tribute to Caesar must be paid — for all of us too, taxes must be paid — because the image on the coin is his; but above all he recalls that each person carries within him another image — we carry it in the heart, in the soul — that of God, and therefore it is to Him, and to Him alone, that each person owes his own existence, his own life.

In this maxim of Jesus we find not only the criterion for the distinction between the political sphere and the religious sphere; clear guidelines emerge for the mission of believers of all times, even for us today. To pay taxes is a duty of citizens, as is complying with the just laws of the state. At the same time, it is necessary to affirm God's primacy in human life and in history, respecting God's right over all that belongs to him.

Hence the mission of the Church and Christians: to speak of God and bear witness to him to the men and women of our time. Every one of us, by Baptism, is called to be a living presence in society, inspiring it with the Gospel and with the lifeblood of the Holy Spirit. It is a question of committing oneself with humility, and at the same time with courage, making one's own contribution to building the civilization of love, where justice and fraternity reign.

May Mary Most Holy help us all to flee from all hypocrisy and to be honest and constructive citizens. And may she sustain us disciples of Christ in the mission to bear witness that God is the centre and the meaning of life.

## Friday, Faith & Supper

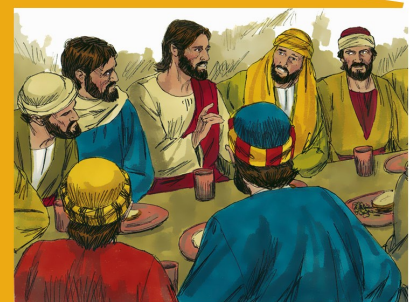
**27 October**  
**7.00pm**

*The evening will be an opportunity to spend time with fellow parishioners in a social atmosphere & to participate in a topical discussion about our faith.*

*The guest speaker will offer some insights & food for thought.*

*A light supper, wine, beer & cheese will be served.*

*A donation towards the cost of catering (or bring a plate) will be appreciated but is not essential.*



### Topic for 27 October

**Hearts on Fire**  
**Feet on the Move**  
*An insight into the work of Catholic Mission in Timor-Leste*

*Presented by Mark Raue*  
*Director of Catholic Mission*  
*Diocese of Wollongong*

**RSVP to the Parish office: 0434 705 176**  
**Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish**  
**193 St Andrews Rd**  
**Varroville NSW**