

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.

**1 SEPTEMBER 2024  
TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**



**Entrance Antiphon**

Have mercy on me, O Lord,  
for I cry to you all the day  
long. O Lord, you are good  
and forgiving, full of mercy  
to all who call to you.

**First Reading** from the book  
of Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1  
(R.) The just will live in the  
presence of the Lord.

**Second Reading** from the  
letter of St James  
1:17-18, 21-22, 27

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! The Father  
gave us birth by his message  
of truth, that we might be as  
the first fruits of his creation.  
Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

**Communion Antiphon**

How great is the goodness,  
Lord, that you keep for  
those who fear you.

**Next week: 8 September  
Twenty-third Sunday in  
Ordinary Time Year B**

First: Isaiah 35:4-7

Resp Ps: Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second: James 2:1-5

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!  
POPE FRANCIS ON THE FATHER.  
WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A HOLY CHRISTIAN FATHER?**

Father's day will be celebrated in honour of a beloved person in our life: our father. Hence, I have thought of making a post regarding fatherhood or paternity in honour of the countless silent, kind hearted and loving fathers in all places living their lives for the sake of their wife and their children... many times, in a hidden and heroic manner.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN FATHER?...

A lot! To answer this question, we must bear in mind that all fatherhood here on earth is a participation in God's paternity (cf Eph 3:15). Jesus revealed the Trinitarian mystery, calling God his Father, and He and the Father are one (cf. Jn 10:30). And He also taught us to direct ourselves, to call and to pray to Him as such, Our Father! (cf. Lk 11:2), because this is what we are: not just his mere creatures but rather, children of God through Our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. 1Jn 3:2; Rm 8:17; Eph 1:5)!

In my opinion, to be a good Christian father is to imitate God the Father's paternity ...and this is such a gargantuan task!

But since fatherhood –and motherhood as well– is a vocation, then father's can be assured that when God calls, He also provides them necessary graces in order to fulfil the mission entrusted to them.

God exercised His Paternity with and for love, with patience, justice and mercy, always present and awaiting for His children, maintaining, sustaining, educating, correcting and providing for them, wanting the best and true good and happiness for us, His children.

All Christian fathers in the world should meditate upon this, not only once, but rather many times during their lifetime, to educe and draw out the virtues of God's Fatherhood and thus learn how to love like Him and imitate Him in His Fatherhood. However, this is a lifetime task and presupposes knowledge and intimate personal dealing with God the Father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit.

Let us not forget that the Christian father is an instrument of God the Father. He has the task of educating, sustaining, correcting, accompanying and providing for his children so that they would grow into mature Christian men and women who know how to live by themselves in wisdom and Christian criteria.

However, his most important task is to teach his children how to love God. This is the divine wisdom of a Christian father: to provide all the necessary means in order for his children to attain not only earthly but above all, everlasting –not fleeting– happiness!

In the book of Deuteronomy it says: *"You must love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Let the words I enjoin on you today stay in your heart. You shall tell them to your children, and keep on telling them, when you are sitting at home, when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are standing up; (Dt 6:5-7)." "And hence, if, throughout your lives, you fear Yahweh your God and keep all his laws and commandments, which I am laying down for you today, you will live long, you and your child and your grandchild (Dt 6:2)."*

The above-mentioned ideas can be gleaned in the General Audience of February 4, 2015 of Pope Francis where he spoke about the beauty of fatherhood and its characteristics.

To all fathers in the world, a sincere and heartfelt happy Father's Day!

May God bless you all especially during this day when the world celebrates the heroic, indispensable vocation to fatherhood!

## 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 and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday at 12 noon	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12



### Contact us

Parish Priest:  
**Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD**

Parish Associate:  
**Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM**

### 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)

## Prayer intentions

**For the sick and homebound:** Peter Presdee, Matthew Johnson, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda and John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart. Catherine, Elizabeth & Monika  
*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.*

**For our recently dearly departed:** Agnes Spooner, Neil Goodhew

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** William Parsons, Shirley Chitty, Gladys Bergicourt,  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



## Our Community: Rosters

8 September 2024	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Estela & Cecilia	Chris, Margaret & Irene	Terry & Maree
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Andrew, Diane, Sebastian & Eliana	Orly	Stuart & Nathan
<b>Readers</b>	Richard & Tracey	Allan & Aida	Tim & Sheenalyn
<b>Refreshments</b>	Josephine & Glenda	Samoan Choir Community	Margaret, Geoff & Danni
<b>Altar Linen</b>	Ann Maree	<b>CLOTW:</b> Rebecca, Asinate & Sue-Ann	
<b>Flowers</b>	Tracey & Richard	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Tess & Effie
<b>Counters</b>	Ruby, Cynthia & Bing	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Patricia & Parish Office

## Meetings and Gatherings

**Friendship Group** meets on the first Tuesday of each month after the 9am Mass for morning tea. All are welcome and bring a friend.

**Readers Ministry Meeting** meets on the last Tuesday of every 2 months at 7.30pm via zoom.

**Holy Family Fellowship** meets on the 4th Saturday at 7pm.

**Book Club** meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.

**Children’s Mass** is on the 5th Sunday of the month:

**Wrap with Love Knitting group** meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 11am

**Faith Circles** meets every Monday via zoom at 2pm & 7.30pm.

**Bible Reflection** group meets every Monday at 10am.

**Children’s Choir** will meet on 3rd Friday at 7.30pm.

**Children’s Ministry Gathering** will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm.

**“Ascent” Youth Ministry** All 13-17 years old are invited to join every fortnight on the 2nd & 4th Friday at 6:30 pm.

**Pastoral Care Team** meets on 23 August at 9.30am.

**ALPHA** meets every Tuesday at 7pm and Friday at 5pm.

## Our Parish Notices

## Community Notices

**Friendship Group** meeting is on the first week of spring, Tuesday 3 September, after the 9am Mass, in the parish meeting room. We will celebrate Fathers Day. Please join us, bring a plate to share and bring a friend.

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**Vinnies Winter Appeal & Sleep out Thankyou;** Thank you for the love shown through your giving to the St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies) Winter Appeal. Our OLMC Vinnies Conference will use this fund to assist those experiencing homelessness, poverty and inequality in our local communities. We collected \$1873.80 in donations.

A huge thank you to the 19 people that sought sponsorship and slept out. To their families, relatives and friends and all that donated to their sleep-out, your generous giving of \$9268.00 is humbling.

On behalf of those in need we thank you; from Fr Shane and Terry Reilly ( OLMC Vinnies Conference President).

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**Major Cash Raffle is still going.** If you haven't already taken home a book of tickets please take one today. The draw will be held on Sunday 13 October.

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**Campfire Social Night on Saturday 28 September from 7pm.**

Come along for a family social event, singalong and games around the campfire. BBQ dinner will be included. The cost will be \$20 for adults, \$10 for children and \$50 for a family. RSVP to 0434 705 176. The funds raised will support our upcoming foyer renovation.

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**“COME & SEE, GO & MAKE” Formation Opportunity!**

Introduction to “Come & See, Go & Make” (CSGM) & Facilitating CSGM; Worksheet Activities (Double-event); Exploring the vision for parishes, why it matters, and how we can have hope for the future & understanding the parish approach to the Worksheet Activities.

Campbelltown – Monday 2 September, 7-9:30pm

Wollongong (& Zoom) – Wednesday 4 September, 7-9:30pm

REGISTER TO ATTEND: <http://dow.sh/sept2024>; All welcome!

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**Legion of Mary,** Our Lady Queen of Heaven and Earth Praesidium cordially invite all members, auxillaries, parishioners, family & friends for the celebration of the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Friday 6 September at St John theEvangelist Church, 35 Cordeaux St,Campbelltown. 6pm for Legion of Mary Prayers followed by Holy Mass at 6.30pm.

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**Ignite Conference 2024: Rise Up! (Sydney) 26-29 September 2024**

A conference for everyone, from leaders to first-time believers. This is the Church gathered and alive on mission. This is God’s people united with one heart. Ignite Conference is a gathering of Catholics for four days of real-world formation, renewal of faith, great people and powerful worship. Join with young people from our Diocese and over 2000 high schoolers, young adults, leaders, teachers, priests and religious taking part in a life changing encounter with God and His Church. Contact the parish office to join our youth group who are attending this event.

**Blessing of Animals, Monday, 7 October at 9:30am** As usual, the Blessing of Animals will take place on the Monday of the long weekend, 7 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 900kg and their carers are welcome, though please keep fleas well-muzzled. The feast of St Francis of Assisi is on Friday, 4 October, with Mass at 9:30am – animals are welcome at that Mass.

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**Marriage Encounter Weekend:** We are offering 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 25-27 October, 2024 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Book online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au). If you would like more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, please see the WWME website at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au).

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**Walk for Life Sydney, 2–4pm Saturday 21 September Hyde Park, Sydney** (Near the Archibald Memorial Fountain) Join the movement of Australians making abortion unthinkable in our country! All are welcome to this family-friendly gathering to be a voice for the unborn and call for the protection of every life from the moment of conception. Further Info & Registration (for free): <https://www.lovesydney.org.au/>

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**CatholicCare | A Call for Foster Carers - Can You Help?** Over 350 children and young people in NSW are urgently seeking foster care. Close to 100 of the 350 are living in our diocese alone. CatholicCare is doing all it can to meet this need – but more carers are desperately needed. Bishop Brian has recorded a short video that outlines the challenges of the foster care system and is urging all parishioners within the Wollongong Diocese to discern if you can help: [dow.sh/bmfc24](http://dow.sh/bmfc24); For more information on becoming a foster carer, contact CatholicCare on 02 4227 1122 or email [fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au). CatholicCare will provide you and your family with training, emotional support, and financial assistance to ensure that you are supported every step of the way.

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**UOW Catholic Society past students** Were you a member of the University of Wollongong Catholic Society/Newman Society, or the Wollongong Teachers College St Thomas More Society? UOW CathSoc would love to hear from you! Complete this form to register your interest to join a new past students’ network: [tinyurl.com/UOWCSPastStudents](http://tinyurl.com/UOWCSPastStudents) All UOW students, staff, and visitors are welcome along to our Mass on Campus during semester (12:35pm Thursdays, Clubs Room, Building 11). Follow @UOWCathSoc on social media for more details.

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**Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese** Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at [dow.sh/stayingconnected](http://dow.sh/stayingconnected) or visit [dow.sh/weeklybulletin](http://dow.sh/weeklybulletin) to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes.

## Holy Gospel according to Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

*You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.*

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:



This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Reflection on the Reading by Pope Benedict XVI<sup>2</sup>

The theme of God's Law, of his commandments, makes its entrance in the Liturgy of the Word this Sunday. It is an essential element of the Jewish and Christian religions, where the complete fulfilment of the law is love (cf. Rom 13:10). God's Law is his word which guides men and women on the journey through life, brings them out of the slavery of selfishness and leads them into the "land" of true freedom and life. This is why the Law is not perceived as a burden or an oppressive restriction in the Bible. Rather, it is seen as the Lord's most precious gift, the testimony of his fatherly love, of his desire to be close to his People, to be its Ally and with it write a love story.

This is what the devout Israelite prays: "I will delight in your statutes, / I will not forget your word.... Lead me in the path of your commandments, / for I delight in it" (Ps 119[118]:16, 35). In the Old Testament the person who passes on the Law to the People on God's behalf is Moses. After the long journey in the wilderness, on the threshold of the promised land, he proclaims: "Now, O Israel, give heed to the statutes and the ordinances which I teach you, and do them; that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, gives you" (Deut 4:1). And this is the problem: when the People put down roots in the land and are the depository of the Law, they are tempted to place their security and joy in something that is no longer the Word of God: in possessions, in power, in other 'gods' that in reality are useless, they are idols. Of course, the Law of God remains but it is no longer the most important thing, the rule of life; rather, it becomes a camouflage, a cover-up, while life follows other paths, other rules, interests that are often forms of egoism, both individual and collective.

Thus religion loses its authentic meaning, which is to live listening to God in order to do his will — that is the truth of our being — and thus we live well, in true freedom, and it is reduced to practising secondary customs which instead satisfy the human need to feel in God's place. This is a serious threat to every religion which Jesus encountered in his time and which, unfortunately, is also to be found in Christianity. Jesus' words against the scribes and Pharisees in today's Gospel should therefore be food for thought for us as well.

Jesus makes his own the very words of the Prophet Isaiah: "This People honours me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men" (Mk 7:6-7; cf. Is 29,13). And he then concludes: "You leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men" (Mk 7:8).

The Apostle James too alerts us in his Letter to the danger of false piety. He writes to the Christians: "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (Jas 1:22). May the Virgin Mary, to whom we now turn in prayer, help us to listen with an open and sincere heart to the word of God so that every day it may guide our thoughts, our decisions and our actions.