

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.

8 SEPTEMBER 2024
TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

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

First Reading from the
prophet Isaiah 35:4-7

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1
(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading from the
letter of St James 2:1-5

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good
News of the kingdom
and healed all who were
sick. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Mark 7:31-37

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
Twenty-fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time B
First: Isaiah 50:5-9
Resp Ps: Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R.
v.9
Second: James 2:14-18
Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

Season of Creation 2024

Our lives can become a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for creation, and find their fullness in holiness. Pope Francis, 2024, para. 9 [1]

The Season of Creation opens with a World Day of Prayer on 1 September and concludes on the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. This year marks the 35th anniversary of this ecumenical movement of prayer and ecological action. Pope Francis has released a short message on the theme of this year's celebration, Hope and Act with Creation at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/cura-creato/documents/20240627-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.pdf>.

Pope Francis revisits the Christian virtues of faith, hope and charity. This Season of Creation, he believes, is an opportunity for all people to reinvigorate their hope into a living hope. On behalf of suffering peoples and Earth, he asks **us** to dare to dream and act for a better future for all. Pope Francis writes, "To hope and act with creation, then, means above all to join forces and to walk together with all men and women of good will. In this way, we can help to rethink, among other things, the question of human power, its meaning and its limits." (Pope Francis, 2024, para. 6)

A prime area action adopted by the global ecumenical community this Season of Creation concerns advocacy and participation in campaigns to reduce fossil fuel use. The date, 21 September, has been named as a day of international advocacy action.

The Season of Creation website includes a resource tab with downloadable materials for individuals, groups, Church gatherings and liturgical celebrations. View at <https://seasonofcreation.org/resources/>

The following prayer, Thanksgiving for the Earth, can be found on page 35 in the Season of Creation online Celebration Guide. View the guide at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12M3weSD4D2mvjCil3Mxen3JQZ5Rrazz3/view>

Thanksgiving for the Earth

God of Holy Dreaming, great Creator Spirit, from the dawn of Creation you have given your children the good things of our mothering Earth.

You spoke and the gum tree grew.

In the vast desert and the dense forest, and in the cities and at the water's edge, Creation sings your praise.

Your presence endures at the rock at the heart of our land.

When Jesus hung on the tree you heard the cries of all your people and became one with your wounded ones: the convicts, the hunted, the dispossessed.

The sunrise of your Son coloured the Earth anew and bathed it in glorious hope.

In Jesus, we have been reconciled to you, to each other and to your whole Creation.

Lead us on, Great Spirit, as we gather from the four corners of the Earth; enable us to walk together in trust from the hurt and shame of the past into the full day that has dawned in Jesus Christ. Amen.



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Liturgical
Resources*

*Sr Mary-Ann Casanova PhD
Project Officer – Josephite*

Explore~Embrace~Embody Laudato Si'

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

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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: Tracey Bautovich, William Parsons, Shirley Chitty, Gladys Bergicourt,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

15 September 2024	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Suzanne, Russell & Berna	Bianca, Antony & Gabriel	Stuart, Judy & Jackie
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana, Elijah & Eliana	Orly	Michael & Nathan
Readers	Candice D & Eliarna D	Confirmation students	Gloria & Fev
Refreshments	Tracey & Richard	Varroville Gospel Choir Comm	Leah & Patricia
Altar Linen	Berna	CLOTW:	
Flowers	Patricia & Mago	Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family
Counters	Vilma, Jeanette & Irene	Foyer Cleaning	Feiloakitohi Family

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

Safeguarding Sunday This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all children and adults at risk, and empowers and listens to all people, especially those who are vulnerable. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at:
<https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Safeguarding-Sunday-2024>

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.

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.

"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.

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.

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 or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au. If you would like more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, please see the WWME website at www.wwme.org.au.

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/>

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; For more information on becoming a foster carer, contact CatholicCare on 02 4227 1122 or email 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.

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 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.

CATHFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts, and recipes from their website to assist parents and grandparents in being the first educators in faith for their kids. Don't miss CathKids <https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/>

Growing Good Men Father and Teenage Son Weekend Experience 25–27 October at the Cataract Activity Centre, 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 17 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://dow.sh/ggm24>

Pilgrims of Hope; 26 – 27 October Retreat weekend: A retreat for men in preparation for the Jubilee Year of Hope at Mt Schoenstatt with Mass and Reconciliation. Facilitated by Fr Pawel OP. Email mensbranch@schoenstatt.org.au or ring 0432 487 927 (Jim) QR code for information and bookings or click on <https://bit.ly/4coasdO>

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 or visit dow.sh/weeklybulletin to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes.

Holy Gospel according to [Mark 7:31-37](#)

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'



The Gospel of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

'Get behind me Satan. The way you think is not God's way.'

This scene marks a turning point in the Gospel of Mark. When Peter speaks up and identifies Jesus as 'the Christ', it is the first time that any person has correctly known who Jesus is. The Jews at this time were waiting for a saviour they called the Messiah, which in Greek is the Christ. Peter recognises that Jesus is this saviour but he is not aware yet how Jesus will be a saviour. Peter's idea is probably for a political figure like King David who could free the people from the power of the Roman Empire. This is not Jesus' vision of his role! Even by this stage in his ministry, Jesus has met significant opposition to his teaching and his behaviour towards the sick, Gentiles and sinners. His teaching challenges the authority of the religious leaders of his time and he must know that if he goes to Jerusalem, which is the centre of their power and religious authority, he will be in trouble. In this, I liken Jesus to people like Oscar Romero, Aung San Suu Kyi, or Martin Luther King. These people challenged authority and knew the danger and likely consequences. Before his death, Oscar Romero said:

'I have often been threatened with death. I must tell you, as a Christian, I do not believe in a death without resurrection. If am killed, I shall arise again in the Salvadoran people... You may say, if they succeed in killing me, that I pardon and bless those who do it. Would, indeed, that they might be convinced that they will waste their time. A bishop will die, but God's church, which is the people, will never perish.'

So when Jesus speaks about his future suffering and death, it is not a case of having special power to see into the future – it is just common sense!

Jesus' teaching on what awaits him in Jerusalem is not understood by his disciples and Peter opposes him. Peter prefers a saviour who will be a glorious heroic figure, and of course, the disciples would then be famous and important friends of this saviour. But Jesus' ways are not the ways of Peter. Jesus puts Peter in his place as a disciple. 'Get behind me!' Peter is a follower; his place is behind Jesus, not in front as a leader. He is named 'Satan' – the Tempter. This is worth considering. Any person facing torture and death could well be tempted to avoid this path. In his humanity, Jesus must have wrestled with this question. Should he go to Jerusalem or remain in Galilee? In Galilee, he is well received and he is away from the authority of the High Priest and the Temple. Would it be better to stay in Galilee and spend more years in preaching and healing? Perhaps in time the Jerusalem authorities might even come around to accepting him? Remember the reading from Philippians during last week that spoke of Jesus becoming one with us in taking on our humanity. Jesus needed to think through his own vocation and what might God be wanting. Peter voices an alternative vision and even though this might be attractive, Jesus is focused on God's vision.

I feel for Peter in this scene – confused, not liking Jesus' words, and having his own idea of Jesus' future. Sometimes I try to tell God what I want done, and how it would be best for God to act. Then, like Peter, I have to learn that my role is disciple, not leader. Peter has to learn, as I have to learn, that the disciple needs to listen attentively and remain always as follower – even when the path is difficult and seems crazy by our standards. I pray that I can continue to listen and learn to be follower, even in those times when the way is confusing.

The letter of James continues the theme of the past few weeks that it is not just listening to God's word that counts but acting on it. His words I think are still appropriate today. If you say you are a Christian, prove it to me by what you do, how you live, the choices you make, the political policies you support. This section of James' letter finishes with the statement:

'For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.' (James 2:26)