

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.

16th February 2025
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year C

Entrance Antiphon

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save
me. For you are my rock, my
stronghold! Lead me, guide
me, for the sake of your
name.

First Reading from the
prophet Jeremiah 17:5-8

Responsorial Psalm Ps 1:1-4.
R. Ps 39:5
(R.) Happy are they who
hope in the Lord.

Second Reading from the
first Letter to Corinthians
15:12, 16-20

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in
heaven.

Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Luke 6:17. 20-26

Communion Antiphon

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the
Lord gave them; they were
not disappointed in what
they craved.

23rd February 2025
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year C

First: 1 Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-
13. 22-23

Resp Ps: Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12
-13. R. v.8

Second: 1 Corinthians 15:45-
49

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
In Year C

Reflection by Greg Sunter

We are perhaps more familiar with the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew in which the kingdom of heaven is promised to those who are 'blessed' because of their afflictions. Rather than the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel of Luke presents the same event and teaching as the sermon on the plain as it occurs on 'a piece of level ground'. This version may appear a little more confronting than the Matthew version. Rather than the afflicted being 'blessed', they are to be 'happy'. It seems odd that anybody should be happy to be poor, hungry, mourning or reviled and we would certainly regard these as states of sadness and difficulty; not times for rejoicing at our good fortune! However, this gospel in particular frequently reminds us that God does not think, feel and behave as we might expect. God's actions are frequently contrary to the expectations of society. The Gospel of Luke makes it plain that the reign of God will upend the structures of society. The lowly will be raised and the mighty will be brought low. It is in this context that the poor, the hungry and the outcast are regarded as happy. Their happiness comes from the reassurance that although they are rejected and dismissed by society, they are indeed the most favoured of God. Whatever the world dishes up to such as these, they can rejoice in the knowledge that in the reign of God their fortunes will be reversed and they will be favoured. However, just as the fortunes of the poor and afflicted will be reversed for the better, those who are rich, well fed, happy and well regarded will also have their fortunes reversed. Alas to them! Their comfort and joy leaves no room for the generosity of God!

The sermon on the plain challenges our ideas about happiness and success, particularly those of us who live in a relatively prosperous society. Those who are rich and well regarded are actually condemned by Jesus. This also flies in the face of the so-called Gospel of Prosperity that has gained some prominence amongst Pentecostal churches in the last 20-30 years. This teaching holds that God blesses the faithful with wealth and influence. It doesn't take a lot to see how this teaching is out of step with the gospel blessing of the poor and cursing of the rich.



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: 3rd Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass & 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: Reg Bucknell, Mary Ponnappalam, Peter Presdee, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart.

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Christephur Pereira, Effin D’Cruz.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Hilda Young, Ivan Astolosh, Mrs. Rodriguez, Lio Feiloakitohi, Baldwin Lopez

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

23 February 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Paul Q, Lori Q & Myra C	Chris P, Margaret P & Irene R	Beatrix R & Michael S
Altar Servers	Andrew F, Diane F, Sebastian F & Eliana D	Orly S	Stuart & Nathan S
Readers	Ryan P & Michael B	Martin H & Tina S	Gloria D & Evangeline F
Refreshments			
Altar Linen	Berna P	CLOTW:	
Flowers		Church Vacuuming	Susan R
Counters	Christine B & Cira R	Foyer	

Meetings and Gatherings

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, 29 December at 9.30am

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 6pm.

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

Young Adults Group will meet at 6pm every Sunday after 5pm Mass

Parish & Community Notices

Pastoral Care Team meets on last Friday at 9.30am.

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

Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.

Restoration of Church Benches: We are looking for more volunteers to help with the restoration of the Benches in the Church. Steve Locke and his team are doing a great job but really need your help. If you have a couple of hours after the Weekday Masses please come along.

Hospitality Ministries Gathering : 2 March 2025 AFTER 9.30am mass in the hall. Where does your ministry fit into the parish vision? Is the building work effecting your ministry? Looking at the future with the building plans.

Lenten Books: Lenten books are now available at \$5 each from the Parish Office.

Lenten Groups: Would you like to lead a group through Lent this year. Please contact the Parish Office or Parish Mobile.

A Women's Opportunity to Experience a Cursillo 3-Day Weekend A Cursillo weekend will be held at Carmel House, Varroville (Near Campbelltown) from Thursday evening 6 March to Sunday afternoon 9 March 2025. To view brochure and find out more, please scan the QR code, email cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com or contact Margaret on 0417 041 721.

The Journey, : 16 February – Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast On The Journey This Week: Fr Bernard Gordon says Jesus calls for trust in God's presence and future promise, encouraging those in need to remain open to divine fulfilment. Mother Hilda's story of how she did not meet her own expectation to respond as Jesus would to a visitor. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Pete Gilmore, and Mark Raue. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Level 1 Catechist Course - The Level 1 course is essential for all new volunteers to the catechist ministry and is also helpful as a refresher for experienced SRE Catechists. On the first day of the course, Safeguarding and Classroom Management training will occur, which must be revisited by SRE Catechists every three years to remain active in the ministry. The course will run from 9.30am till 1:30pm in Campbelltown and Wollongong on the following dates:

Campbelltown: Fridays 7, 14, 21, 28 February, and 7 March

Wollongong: Mondays 10, 17, 24 February, 3 and 10 March

To register for the 5-week Level 1 course: [LEVEL 1 https://web.thankqportal.com/cdowa/2025-ccd-level-1-course/#/stepper?pagelid=16488](https://web.thankqportal.com/cdowa/2025-ccd-level-1-course/#/stepper?pagelid=16488) Alternatively, register for the Safeguarding and Classroom Management update only: [Training Update https://web.thankqportal.com/cdowa/ccd-cp-and-cm-update-2025/#/stepper?pagelid=16490](https://web.thankqportal.com/cdowa/ccd-cp-and-cm-update-2025/#/stepper?pagelid=16490)

Medjugorje Pilgrimage: commences Monday 1 September 2025—Accompanied by Fr Patrick Vaughan Queen of Peace – Medjugorje Pilgrimage A tiny Croatian village, six children and the faith of millions from all over the world have shed new light on what it means to be a true pilgrim on life's journey. In this hallowed place of Medjugorje, this valley of miracles, the Mother of God beckons us forward. For full details, itinerary and bookings, Visit: harvestjourneys.com/medjugorje

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue or restart your monthly gift at any time. Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/parishgiving/> to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronically.

Want Netflix for Catholics? Get 'FORMED' Free for DoW Parishioners Join hundreds of other families around the Diocese of Wollongong in nurturing your faith at home, in your own time and at your own pace? FORMED is a fantastic Faith Formation Resource library website containing thousands of faith formation documentaries,

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/weekly bulletin to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 6: 17, 20-26

Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Commentary by Dianne Bergant CSA

Jeremiah's oracle contains a curse and a blessing. He uses nature imagery to contrast two individuals. The one who turns away from God is barren and desolate, like a desert, while the one who trusts in God is firmly planted near water, the source of life. This one is not spared the hardship of heat, but, because the source of life is so near and because its roots have forged their way underground to that source, the drought that often accompanies heat is not a serious threat. The one who trusts in the Lord is secure and productive. This passage exhorts the hearers to choose the way that guarantees security and productivity.

This psalm contrasts the way of the wise or righteous and the way of the foolish or wicked. The former live in harmony with the order set by God. They delight in the law and they follow it. The latter prefer to live against God's order. They choose the way of the wicked, the sinners, the insolent. Since the order within the world, established at the time of creation, somehow directs the outcome of one's behaviour, a life that is faithful to this order will enjoy its fruits; a life that is unfaithful will reap the consequences of such behaviour. The psalmist draws on experience rather than religious tradition to illustrate the point of the instruction.



Paul proclaimed and interpreted the good news of Christ's resurrection. He defends belief in bodily resurrection against those who do not believe in it. The Sadducees rejected any development of the law. Belief in reward and/or punishment after this life was one of the concepts that they rejected. Some Christians believed that, through baptism, believers were joined to the risen Christ and were already living the resurrected life. In their eyes, there was no need for any further resurrection after death. Based on his understanding of union with Christ, Paul argues that Christians' failure to rise suggests that Christ never rose before them. Their resurrection is dependent on his and demonstrates the fruitfulness of his resurrection.

Jesus singles out four life situations that make people blessed. He then identifies their opposites and declares them as being woeful. The blessed are those who are poor, hungry, sorrowful, or persecuted, while the woeful ones are the rich, the satisfied, the joyful, the respected. Jesus has overturned the standards of this age and has established new standards, those of the reign of God. Perhaps the heart of this teaching is found in the last beatitude and the last woe. The followers of Jesus will be hated and marginalised and scorned; they will be like the prophets of old. Conversely, the disciples should be wary when they are accepted and esteemed; this could mean that they enjoy approval because they deliver a message that contains no call to conversion.