

## In the Beginning

### History of St Vincent de Paul Society

St Vincent de Paul Society was founded in France in 1833 by a group of dedicated Catholics who put their faith into action to support the poor in their community.

Today, the St Vincent de Paul Society is active in 150 countries through 800,000 members and 1,500,000 volunteers. The Society helps over 30 million people every day.

### A changing society in France

Paris of the early 19th century was in the grip of great upheavals. During and following the French Revolution of 1788 to 1799, Paris was profoundly affected by social unrest. A new type of society was being formed – a republic based on liberty, equality and fraternity.

The 1830s brought the collapse of the old Bourbon monarchy which had dreams of strengthening the throne with the support from the Church. Religion was on the decline and atheism increasing.

### Faith in action

During this time in 1832, a young student named [Frédéric Ozanam](#) walked through the poorer suburbs of Paris on his way to university lectures each day. He soon became deeply moved at the hopeless state of families who had been left without the support of their breadwinners after the epidemic.

It was the taunt of an anti-religious opponent in a student debating society that stung him to action: *'You are right Ozanam when you speak of the past! In former times Christianity worked wonders, but what is it doing for mankind now? And you, who pride yourself on your Catholicity, what are you doing now for the poor? Show us your works.'*

Frédéric Ozanam gathered a few friends and on 23 April 1833, they met to decide what they could do to assist the poor. After the meeting, Frédéric and his flat mate took the remainder of their winter wood supply and gave it to a widow.

These young men attracted the comment:

"What can seven young men hope to achieve in alleviating the suffering of Paris?"

Fortunately, Ozanam paid little attention to their comments. He was determined to satisfy his own conscience that he was doing what he could to bear witness to his Christian upbringing by assisting those less fortunate in the community.

### Women in The Society

In 1856, the 'Women's Society of St. Vincent de Paul' was founded with headquarters in Bologna, Italy, to give care to widows, orphan girls and mothers with small families; matters which men could not handle.

This separation of the organisation continued until 1963. After a trial period, the women's Society was amalgamated with the men's Society in 1967.



17 August 2025  
Twentieth Sunday  
Year C

### Entrance Antiphon

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**First Reading** from the Prophet Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14  
(R.) Lord, come to my aid!

**Second Reading** from the letter to Hebrews 12:1-4

**Gospel Acclamation**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;  
I know them, and they follow me.  
**Alleluia!**

**Holy Gospel** according to Luke 12:49-53

**Communion Antiphon**  
With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

Next week

**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 66:18-21

**Respons Psalm:** Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

**Holy Gospel:** Luke 13:22-30

## Mass and Devotions

### Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass: 1st Sunday of August at 12noon

Maori Mass: 1st Sunday of each month at 2pm

Filipino Mass: 3rd Sunday of each month at 11.15am

Children's Mass: 5th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

### Weekday Mass

- 9am each day except Thursday;
- Thursday at 7.30pm
- Healing Mass on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9am.

### Devotions & Prayer groups

- Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday at 9.30am
- Alliance of the 2 hearts Mass & devotion: 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm
- Divine Mercy Devotion: 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm
- Reconciliation every Saturday at 11am.
- Faith Circles: every Monday at 2pm & 7pm via zoom
- Holy Family Fellowship: every 4th Saturday at 7pm.
- Book Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.
- Friendship Group is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month
- Bible Study & Reflection group meets Monday at 10am.
- Children's Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm
- Ascent Youth Ministry meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday from 6.30p.

## Parish Notices

**There's a seat for you**

**You're Invited**

Alpha is a safe space where you can ask questions about life, faith & meaning.

Right now, a seat at the table has been prepared for you.

**In our Parish**

**Tuesday at 7pm for dinner**

**Or**

**Friday at 5:30pm for dinner (children catered for)**

***We would love to see you there***

Invite family, friends, work colleagues & neighbours

For those that have already been to an Alpha come again and share your experience in a safe welcoming environment

For more details

Tuesday Alpha contact Paul & Lorian Quirk 0412216589

Friday Alpha contact Diane Redmayne 0403322098



**Confirmation preparation** classes commence on Saturday 16 August at 4pm. Registrations are being accepted at the parish office or online at [www.https://varroville.dow.org.au/confirmation/](https://varroville.dow.org.au/confirmation/). Confirmation will be celebrated on 13 September at 10am Mass

**Invitation by Darren McDowell Ordination to his Diaconate** it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I invite you to attend my ordination to the Diaconate occurring on **Saturday 23rd August, 10am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral Wollongong**. This will be a wonderful celebration for myself and for our Diocese. Please RSVP at <https://www.sjec.org.au/darren> so that we can

### **Compass: "Bush" family camping weekend Friday 5 – Sunday 7 September at Guntawang – Wooglemai Catholic Camping Facility**

We are excited to be returning for the second of our 2025 Catholic family camping weekends at Guntawang Catholic Youth Centre. This weekend is designed to bring together families of all ages, including couples with or without children, single parents with their children, and grandparents, to celebrate the incredible gift of family life. Mark your calendars for a wonderful opportunity to connect with families from across the diocese in a laid-back setting. Enjoy shared meals, games, music, prayer, and Mass together. To secure your spot, register now. [dow.org.au/events/compass-bush-family-camping-weekend](https://dow.org.au/events/compass-bush-family-camping-weekend) Cost: \$50 per adult or \$100 per family. RSVP: Fri 29 Aug.

**2025 Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass** If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, we invite you to the celebration of Significant Marriage Anniversaries, to be celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on Sunday 24 August at 2pm at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre Conference Room. Please register online at <https://dow.sh/MA2025> by no later than Monday, 11 August. Any enquiries please email Helen Bennett [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

**Hear from Pope Leo XIV Sunday Echo** is a limited-release resource the Diocese has developed that contains, using the Holy Father's most recent homily or reflection and accompanying discussion questions. Each issue will be released the day after Pope Leo XIV gives a homily or reflection on the most recent Sunday Gospel readings go to <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/> to access or sign up to have sent straight to you.

**Strengthening Relationships Courses – Enrol Now** Strengthen your family relationships and navigate life's changes with confidence. Catholic-

## Parish Notices

Care's courses support families, children, and individuals, especially during times of change. Call 4227 1122 or go to: [www.catholiccare.dow.org.au](http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au)

**Committee for Older People** The Diocesan Committee for Older People meets monthly in both Campbelltown and Wollongong and are on the look out for new members. The Committee partners with and promotes the activities of parishes, service providers and advocacy groups to assist older parishioners. We are on the look out for committee members so if you know of anyone that might be interested please reach out to Jane Hollier.

**UOW Catholic Society invites all UOW students, staff, and friends to our start of semester BBQ!** This is a great way to connect with other Catholics on campus and become involved with the many activities CathSoc hosts. Follow @uowcathsoc on Instagram for more details.

Date: 12.30pm Sat 23 August; Location: Stuart Park; Cost: Free! Register now: <http://tiny.cc/CathSocBB>

**Newman Lecture 2025** Hosted by the Bulli Branch of the Knights of the Southern Cross (KSC) presents "THE LEGACY OF POPE FRANCIS"; Guest Speaker: Bishop Brian Mascord; Date: Saturday, 6 Sept at 2:00pm; Venue: Xavier Centre, Wollongong; Will be Live-streamed nationally; Open invitation to all parishioners and friends across the Wollongong Diocese; Live-stream link to be advised closer to the lecture; For bookings, use: <https://www.trybooking.com/DDQBT>; For further information, contact: Denis Bristow 0412699929

**The Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney** In 2015, Pope Francis wrote that "charity and mercy demand that the Church, like a good mother, be near her children who feel themselves estranged from her." The Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney, which has an Office in the Diocese of Wollongong, is a service of the Church to assist with the pastoral care of Catholics and non-Catholics who are civilly divorced, and who are seeking to remarry or who want clarification of their standing in the Church. The Tribunal also assists remarried persons seeking to have their current marriage recognised in the Church, and remarried persons wishing to be baptised or received into the Church. Any divorced person, or a divorced and remarried person is welcome to contact the Wollongong Office of the Tribunal to obtain further information, or to have their status within the Church clarified. The Wollongong Office of the Tribunal is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You are welcome to contact the Tribunal on 4222 2409 or [tribunal@dow.org.au](mailto:tribunal@dow.org.au) or visit [www.tribunal.dow.org.au](http://www.tribunal.dow.org.au)

## Prayer intentions

### **For the sick and homebound:**



Pat Cullen, Mary Ponnappalam, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez, Richard Scolyer, Angela Perosh Pavlovic,  
*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.*

### **For our recently departed:**

John Rogan. Marie Atkins

### **Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Anne La Spina, Jeff Randal

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

**Please contact the parish office to add names for prayer intentions**

## Our Rosters

| 24 August            | Saturday 6pm                      | Sunday 9.30am             | Sunday 5pm       |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Welcomers</b>     | Estela M & Cecilia M              | Chris, Margaret & Gabriel | Geoff & Margaret |
| <b>Altar Servers</b> | Berna, Christian, Elijah & Austin | Orly                      | Robert & Nathan  |
| <b>Readers</b>       | Margaret McD & Suzanne M          | Irene & Lee               | Gloria & Leah    |
| <b>Altar Linen</b>   | Maria D                           | <b>CLOTW</b>              | Konrad & Rhonda  |
| <b>Counters</b>      | Margaret McD & Jeanne             | <b>Church Cleaning</b>    | Susan R          |



### **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  
Address: 193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville  
Email: [varroville@dow.org.au](mailto:varroville@dow.org.au)

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.

## Holy Gospel according to Luke 12: 49-53

I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'



### SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Richard Leonard

We can tell from the whole text of Luke's Gospel that these divisions were certainly a part of the earliest Christian community which wrote this book and that their faith in Christ led them to confront some very tough issues: how could Gentiles inherit the promises made to the Jews; why the rich members of the community had special responsibility to the poor; the centrality of forgiveness in the Christian life; and what leadership role women should have in the earliest Church. We know that fights over these issues and faith in Jesus as the Christ or the Messiah, divided families and villages, cities, nations and a religious tradition.

This gospel is both a stark reminder of the costs involved in following Jesus and a comfort to us in the church today. Sometimes we can domesticate the Christian community into a 'feel-good' society. Our religious words and actions, however, are always meant to have an edge; our faith should 'afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted'. If Christians at home, at work, in society and on the international stage just go along with what is trendy or current because we're frightened of conflict or because we want to be seen to be part of the crowd, then we are not worthy of this Gospel.

Sometimes when we hear Jesus use the metaphor of a blazing fire we can see a violent image, but I am not sure if it has to be exclusively interpreted this way. Fire is sometimes necessary and good to clear out the layers of undergrowth built up over time that smother the soil of a forest and prevent new growth. Fire is a beacon that gives guidance and attracts attention. A blazing fire can attract everyone to its light, warmth and power. So maybe this Gospel is a call to purge the weight of old growth that can stop fresh thinking. Maybe it gives guidance to us in the justice we are meant to live and the attention we must call to the needs of all God's children. And maybe it is a reminder that the life of our Christian community is meant to be attractive through its gentle power and warmth. If the price we pay for witnessing to any of these values is that we divide the crowd, so be it.

What's comforting about this gospel is that it recognises conflict as a necessary part of the Christian life. There are some who want to pretend that the followers of Jesus should never disagree with one another or with those outside the Church. Conflict in itself, Jesus teaches us today, is an element of our commitment to the kingdom of God. What marks out the way we should disagree with one another inside and outside the Church, however, is that it is conducted with charity, dignity, careful listening and compassion. Christians always look to put the best possible interpretation on the opinions of those with whom we disagree and to be reconciled to those we have hurt, to heal divisions where we can.

May this Eucharist give us the courage to divide the crowd for the right reasons. May we be a blazing fire that casts light on darkness where people are exploited and injustice smothers the growth Christ wants to see in the human family. No one promised us that Christian faith was ever going to be a picnic!