



Blessed are those  
who have not lost hope  
(cf. Sir 14:2)

27 July 2025  
Seventeenth Sunday  
Year C

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV WORLD DAY FOR  
GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY 27 July 2025

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Jubilee we are now celebrating helps us to realize that hope is a constant source of joy, whatever our age. When that hope has also been tempered by fire over the course of a long life, it proves a source of deep happiness.

In the Bible, God repeatedly demonstrates his providential care by turning to people in their later years. This was the case not only with Abraham, Sarah, Zechariah and Elizabeth, but also with Moses, who was called to set his people free when he was already eighty years old (cf. Ex 7:7). God thus teaches us that, in his eyes, old age is a time of blessing and grace, and that the elderly are, for him, the first witnesses of hope. Augustine asks, "What do we mean by old age?" He tells us that God himself answers the question: "Let your strength fail, so that my strength may abide within you, and you can say with the Apostle, 'When I am weak, then I am strong'" (Super Ps. 70,11). The increasing number of elderly people is a sign of the times that we are called to discern, in order to interpret properly this moment of history.

The life of the Church and the world can only be understood in light of the passage of generations. Embracing the elderly helps us to understand that life is more than just the present moment, and should not be wasted in superficial encounters and fleeting relationships. Instead, life is constantly pointing us toward the future.

In the book of Genesis, we find the moving episode of the blessing given by the aged Jacob to his grandchildren, the sons of Joseph; his words are an appeal to look to the future with hope, as the time when God's promises will be fulfilled (cf. Gen 48:8-20). If it is true that the weakness of the elderly needs the strength of the young, it is equally true that the inexperience of the young needs the witness of the elderly in order to build the future with wisdom. How often our grandparents have been for us examples of faith and devotion, civic virtue and social commitment, memory and perseverance amid trials! The precious legacy that they have handed down to us with hope and love will always be a source of gratitude and a summons to perseverance.

These signs of living love, which have their roots in God himself, give us courage and remind us that "even if our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day" (2 Cor 4:16). Especially as we grow older, let us press forward with confidence in the Lord. May we be renewed each day by our encounter with him in prayer and in Holy Mass. Let us lovingly pass on the faith we have lived for so many years, in our families and in our daily encounter with others. May we always praise God for his goodness, cultivate unity with our loved ones, open our hearts to those who are far away and, in particular, to all those in need. In this way, we will be signs of hope, whatever our age.

From the Vatican, 26 June 2025

**Entrance Antiphon**  
God is in his holy place,  
God who unites those who  
dwell in his house;  
he himself gives might and  
strength to his people.

**First Reading** from the  
book of Genesis 18:20-32

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Ps 137:1-3. 6-8. R. v.3

**Response:** Lord, on the  
day I called for help, you  
answered me.

**Second Reading** from the  
letter of St Paul to the  
Colossians 2:12-14

**Gospel Acclamation**  
Alleluia, alleluia! You have  
received the Spirit which  
makes us God's children,  
and in that Spirit we call God  
our Father. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel**  
according to Luke 11:1-13

**Communion Antiphon**  
Bless the Lord,  
O my soul, and never forget  
all his benefits.

**Next week**

**Eighteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time Year C**

First: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23

Responsorial Ps:

Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

Second: Col 3:1-5, 9-11

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

## 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

**"To celebrate the Jubilee of Youth, the 6pm Vigil Mass next Saturday, 2nd August, will be a special Youth Mass.** Come and experience the energy, faith, and spirit of our youth as they lead us in prayer and worship. Everyone is warmly invited to attend and support our Parish Youth Group."

### There's a seat for you and 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. Starting in our Parish on Tuesday 12 August at 7pm for dinner

Or

Friday 15 August at 5:30pm for dinner (children catered for)

Come & See night: 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 & Loriana 0412216589:

Friday Alpha contact Diane 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 21 September at 9.30am Mass

**menALIVE Regional Weekend 9 – 10 August 2025, Xavier Conference Centre, Wollongong** Come along to our menALIVE weekend and be impacted by an encounter with the Gospel in the presence of other good men seeking to be renewed in faith and life. For more information and to register: <https://menalive-weekend-2025>

**JUBILEE YEAR EVENT – Rosemeadow Jubilee Pilgrimage Day Saturday 6 September** The Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow invites everyone to a Jubilee Pilgrimage Day where we will uncover the profound meaning, history and significance of the Year of Jubilee and how we can continue living it out in our pilgrimage of life towards Christ. The day begins with Mass at 10:00am, followed by a catechesis led by Elise Duval, a time of Eucharistic Adoration with opportunity for confession, and concludes with Benediction at 3:00pm. Please BYO lunch. Come and be renewed in God's mercy!

### 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: Friday 29 August 2025.

**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

## Parish Notices

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)

### Vocaris 'Beer and Beads' Saturday 9 August 5:30pm – 10pm

Inviting all young adults (over the age of 18) to our next VOCARIS Beer and Beads - a Catholic twist on the classic "Paint & Sip" on Sat 9 August (5.30pm to 10pm). Instead of painting, we will be making your own set of Rosary beads! Please BYO Drinks. Where: Wilton Community Centre: Main Hall. Address: 20 Broughton Street, WILTON, (25 minutes from Campbelltown ). Please see the registration page using the QR Code for more information or to register.



**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. CatholicCare'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)

### Disability Support – NDIS experts

If you or someone you know lives with disability reach out to CatholicCare. Their experienced NDIS team offers personalised support designed to help people to achieve goals and enhance independence. 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

## Prayer intentions



### For the sick and homebound:

Pat Cullen, Mary Ponnappalam, 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, Allan Marquinez.

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

### For our recently departed:

John Rogan

### 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**

## Our Rosters

3 August	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Paul & Lori	Sarah, Jeanne & Jessica	Beatrix & Michael
Altar Servers	Andrew, Diane, Sebastian & Eliarna	Vu	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Richard & Tracey	Martin & Tess	Fev & Stuart
Altar Linen	Sr Jill	CLOTW: Lee & Princy	
Counters	George & Tess	Church Vacuuming	Gerard & Loretta



### 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 11:1-13

*Ask, and it will be given to you.*

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'

He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy,  
your kingdom come;  
give us each day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.  
And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

### SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA

At issue in the dialogue between Abraham and God is the extent to which the righteousness of some can off-balance the sinfulness of most others. There is a tension here between communal guilt and innocence and individual guilt and innocence. If the city is guilty, it should be punished. But what if there are innocent individuals in that city? Is it fair that the innocent should suffer along with the guilty?

In customary Near Eastern style, Abraham prefaces each of his inquiries with adulation. However, it is still he who boldly initiates the exchange that probes the nature of divine justice. The account shows that a few can indeed be salvific for many.

The psalmist had previously been in dire straits, had called upon the LORD for help, had been heard, and had been inwardly strengthened. The reason for the psalmist's gratitude is God's faithfulness to covenant commitment. This is clear from the presence of technical covenant language, lovingkindness and truth. The temple setting suggests public worship and witness. The psalmist acknowledges that the LORD is exalted, lifted high in glory, yet attentive to those who are humble or of mean estate. The psalmist concludes the prayer of thanksgiving on a note of confidence that God's commitment will endure forever. God is not only faithful to past promises, but will be faithful into the endless future. In what appears to be baptismal instruction, Paul describes the effects of the triumph of the power of God in the lives of believers as manifested in the resurrection of Christ. He relates Christ's burial in the grave of the earth with the Christian's burial in the waters of baptism. Those baptised have gone down into death with Christ and have been raised with him to a new life which requires a new standard of living. Since they have died, the legal claims of the past are no longer binding. Furthermore, the debt owed because of the transgressions of the past is cancelled. Paul acknowledges circumcision's inability to forgive sin. Only interior faith in Christ can accomplish that. Once an instrument of death, the cross is now the source of life.

This discourse on prayer can be divided into three separate but related segments: the Lord's Prayer (vv.1,4); an example of persistence prayer (vv.5,8); the assurance of being heard (vv.10-13). 'Father' suggests a relationship that is intimate and childlike. This prayer is intended for those who enjoy such a relationship because of Jesus, who called God 'Father' and who now invites his disciples to do the same. The plea for the coming of God's reign is a prayer for eschatological fulfilment. The request for God's forgiveness acknowledges that the one praying has forgiven others. All the petitions point to the continuing need for God in the present struggles of life. This entire discourse encourages the disciples to persevere in prayer.