

Commentary by Anonymous

In his *Spiritual Exercises*, St Ignatius Loyola warns of three seductive and destructive forces, pride, riches, and power. These temptations, described as an “unholy trinity,” continue to underlie many of the conflicts and divisions in our world today. From wars between nations to tensions within families, the pursuit of wealth, status, and influence often leads us far from justice and peace. This insight, centuries old, remains uncannily relevant in our age of consumerism, social media, and reality television, where fame and fortune are pursued at almost any cost.

The popularity of shows like *Big Brother* is not simply a reflection of individual ambition, it is also a mirror held up to us, the audience. Our participation, whether by viewing, commenting, or consuming related products, makes us complicit in a culture that glorifies superficial success. In this environment, values such as humility, generosity, and compassion are often drowned out by noise, spectacle, and competition.

In contrast, the Gospel offers a stark but freeing alternative. Jesus speaks directly to the dangers of riches and greed, not because material goods are inherently evil, but because of the way they can corrupt the heart and distort our relationships. Whether it is children fighting over toys or nations battling over resources, the consequences of unchecked greed are both common and devastating. Jesus calls us to consider not only what we have, but what we *do* with what we have and how our possessions affect our inner lives.

Importantly, the Gospel does not condemn wealth in itself. Money can fund healthcare, education, and provide dignity through meaningful work. The problem lies in the illusion that having more makes us better or that comfort exempts us from responsibility toward others. Many Western societies have fallen into the trap of associating poverty with moral failure, seeing the poor as lazy or undeserving. This mindset justifies inaction, while every day, tens of thousands of children die from preventable causes like hunger.

Yet, the Gospel challenges this complacency. As followers of Christ, we are called to respond, not with guilt, but with generosity, justice, and hope. Our acts need not be grand gestures. Even small decisions changing the channel, making an ethical purchase, sharing with a neighbour, or listening to those who are marginalized, can be acts of resistance against the seduction of pride, riches, and power.

True dignity, as Jesus shows us, has little to do with status or possessions. It arises from recognizing the image of God in every person, especially those the world tends to overlook. As Fr Pedro Arrupe once said, the Eucharist cannot be truly celebrated while others go hungry. Our worship, then, must overflow into action, a commitment to building a world where all have enough and all are respected.

Let us not blunt the sharp edge of the Gospel but allow it to cut through our indifference. May it open our hearts and minds, so that we may live generously, uphold the dignity of others, and become true agents of God's justice and love.



3 August 2025
Eighteenth Sunday
Year C

Entrance Antiphon

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

First Reading

from the book Ecclesiastes
1:2; 2:21-23

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1
(R.) In every age, O Lord,
you have been our refuge.

Second Reading

from the letter of St Paul to
the Colossians 3: 1-5, 9-11

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is
theirs!

Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

according to **Luke 12: 13-21**

Communion Antiphon

You have given us, O Lord,
bread from heaven,
endowed with all delights
and sweetness in every taste.

Next week

**Nineteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year C**

First Reading: Wisdom
18:6-9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps
32:1. 12. 18-20. 22. R. v.12

Second Reading: Hebrews
11:1-2, 8-19

Gospel: Luke 12:32-48

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

Friendship Group will meet this Tuesday 5th August 2025 after 9am Mass in the Meeting Room. The theme is "Multicultural". Please bring a plate to share. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Extraordinary Minister Training will be held Saturday 9th August 2025 in the Meeting Room @ 4pm for all who are new, just learning more or want to refresh their skills in this ministry. Please contact the Parish office for more information.

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

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 arrange appropriate catering for the light lunch which will follow the 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>

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 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 Bish-

Parish Notices

op 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

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

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.

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

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: 13-21

To whom will all this wealth of yours go?

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do; I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'



The Gospel of the Lord.

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Richard Leonard S.J.

One of the themes running through the gospels is that wealth can be an obstacle to entering fully into relationship with God. It is not wealth in itself that is problematic but rather valuing material riches above everything else and the constant desire to accumulate more and more. We have the story of the rich young man who asks Jesus what he must do to inherit the kingdom and Jesus tells him to sell everything he has and give away the proceeds. The young man goes away sad because he thought that with his great accumulation of wealth he'd be able to buy anything that he needed to gain the kingdom. We also have the saying of Jesus that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.



The parable in today's gospel depicts a man who has so much grain that he decides to build bigger barns to store it all. The parable follows Jesus' teaching that 'a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.' The point is about having more than we need. What good is served by one person having more than they need while others do not have enough to meet their needs? The rich man who had the abundant harvest could have stored up all that he needed and still been able to share the abundance with others.

Liberation theology introduced the catch phrase, 'live simply so that others may simply live'. The call was for those in wealthier countries to simplify their wasteful and indulgent lifestyles so that others may be able to meet their most basic of needs.