



JUBILEE OF CONSOLATION

The Jubilee of Consolation is an invitation for those who are experiencing a time of pain and affliction, due to illness, bereavement, violence or abuse together with their families and friends.

“What is spiritual consolation? It is an experience of interior joy, that lets us see God’s presence in all things. It strengthens faith and hope, and even the ability to do good. The person who experiences consolation never gives up in the face of difficulties because he or she always experiences a peace that is stronger than the trial. It is, therefore, a tremendous gift for spiritual life and for life in general... and to live this interior joy. “Consolation is an interior movement that touches our depths. It is not flashy but soft, delicate, like a drop of water on a sponge (cf. St. Ignatius of Loyola, Spiritual Exercises, 335). The person feels enveloped in God’s presence in a way that always respects his or her own freedom. It is never something out of tune that tries to force our will; neither is it a passing euphoria. On the contrary, as we have seen, even suffering — caused for example by our own sins — can become a reason for consolation. “Consolation is that type of peace, but not one in which we remain sitting there enjoying it, no.... It gives you peace and draws you toward the Lord and sets you off on a journey to do things, to do good things. In a moment of consolation, when we are consoled, we want to do so much good, always. Instead, when there is a moment of desolation, we feel like closing in on ourselves and doing nothing. Consolation spurs us forward in service to others, society, other people.”

Child Protection Week 2025 is here!

We hope you have all had a blessed and happy start to the week.

This week and in particular this Sunday, being **Safeguarding Sunday**, is an opportunity to engage children and adults in the context of safety in the Parish. We encourage you to create a fun environment this weekend at your parishes where adults and children can participate in this theme of **'Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversation into Action'**.

The **Diocesan Safeguarding Commitment** is being launched this week during Child Protection Week. If you would like to discuss this further or receive more details, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding via safeguarding@dow.org.au or on (02) 4222 2428.

Safeguarding Sunday, 14 September Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church.

In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised.

Who are the “silent” ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY • 14 SEP 2025

WE ARE A SAFE, HOPE-FILLED AND WELCOMING CHURCH



14 September 2025 The Exultation of the Cross Year C

Entrance Antiphon

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

First Reading from the book of Numbers 21:4-9

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7

Response: Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to John 3:13-17

Communion Antiphon

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

NEXT WEEK

Twenty-fifth Sunday
Year C

First: Amos 8:4-7

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 112:1-2. 4-8. R. see vv.1. 7

Second: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass: 1st Sunday of October 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.

Reconciliation

every Saturday at 11am

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

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 6.30pm.

Parish Notices



The Alpha Team would like to thank all those parishioners who make Alpha possible with hospitality in the form of great food and prayers. A special thanks to Beatrix for coordinating our hospitality for Alpha. We continue the Alpha journey on Tuesday at 7pm and Friday at 530pm in the Parish meeting room.

Altar Server Training will be held on 4 Saturdays for new and existing Altar Servers 20 & 27 September; 4 & 11 October at 4pm. For more information contact the parish office

Raffle Tickets are available after each Mass at the door of the church. Please take a book of tickets home, sell them to family & friends, then return the tickets and money to the parish office before 27 November, when the draw will take place.

Filipino Mass on Sunday 21 September at 11.15am

Book club on Wednesday 17 September at 10am.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal special collection will be held next weekend 20/21 September. To find out more or make a tax deductible donation please visit www.dow.org.au/giving, or call (02) 4222 2400 to make a donation over the phone.

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 Continuing 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.

Vocaris: Testimony Night! Saturday, 4 October (6pm to 10pm)

Wilton Community Centre: Main Hall, 20 Broughton Street, WILTON
Inviting all young adults (over the age of 18) to our next VOCARIS, a testimony night – a powerful evening of faith, testimonies, and community, brought to you by the Vocations Promotions Team! Whether you're a regular at events or brand new, you're so welcome here. What's for Dessert? HOT CHOCOLATE STATION. For more details and registration visit: dow.sh/4mIVvrD

Caritas Australia – Season of Creation: The Season of Creation's call for Peace with Creation aligns powerfully with the Turn Debt into Hope campaign, as communities burdened by debt are often those facing the worst environmental challenges. This Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October), Caritas Australia is inviting parishioners to stand in solidarity with vulnerable communities in need of sustainable development and ecological renewal by:

- ☐ signing the Turn Debt into Hope petition, either online or by downloading and printing a hard copy – caritas.org.au/debt
- ☐ committing to practical, everyday actions that promote ecological sustainability and care for creation by registering to become a Catholic Earthcare Household - caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/

Blessing of Animals, Monday, 6 October at 9:30am. As usual, the Blessing of Animals will take place at the Parish of Saint Michael, 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Thirroul on the Monday of the long weekend, 6 October at 9:30am. The blessing takes place in the courtyard next to the church. All animals under 800kg and their carers/handlers are welcome, though please keep the larger pythons on a tight leash. The feast of St Francis of Assisi is on Saturday, 4 October, and there will be a special Mass at 9:30am

– animals are welcome at that Mass.

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral & ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

The Age of Authenticity: A New Path to Renewal, Thurs 18 Sept 6pm-7pm.

Venue: Online Cost: Free In today's world, personal authenticity is often seen as the highest good. But what does this mean for the Church's mission in a culture shaped by secularism? Together, Bishop Mark Edwards and Sr Kathryn Kingsley, MGL will explore this cultural shift through the lens of Charles Taylor's A Secular Age—a work that has shaped how many understand belief and unbelief in modern times. Find out more and register: <https://www.dow.org.au/events/the-age-of-authenticity-a-new-path-to-renewal/>

Palms International Volunteering: Opening our hands to the World

A number of overseas communities in Asia and the Pacific are seeking Australian Catholics for Global Mission. For those of the faithful who hear the call we are offering an opportunity to live and use their professional expertise to mentor others in an overseas community. Palms is holding a webinar on **Thursday 30 October 7pm – 8.30** for all those interested to know more of the mission life. As an online session we expect parishioners will find this easier to fit into their busy schedules.
e: palms@palms.org.au web: www.palms.org.au

The Way of Hope – National Alpha Catholic Conference 2025, Fri 31 Oct – Sat 1 Nov 2025, Liverpool Catholic Club, Sydney

Join with Peter Gilmore and others from the Diocese of Wollongong, as we will gather for inspiring talks and testimonies, opportunities to connect with others from across Australia and be inspired to be missionary disciples, using the Alpha tools as vibrant resource and being inspired to discern what God is doing in your life, your parish, your school, and our Church. Your conference ticket will include all plenary sessions, breakout sessions, panel discussions, time of prayer including Mass and Adoration, two morning teas, two lunches, & dinner on Friday evening. Earlybird pricing ends 15 Sept. Find out more and register here <https://www.dow.org.au/events/alpha-catholic-conference-2025/>

The Journey is the weekly podcast for parishioners in the Diocese of

Wollongong. Each week it brings you great music, formation in faith, with an array of fantastic presenters from our Diocese and around Australia. Just go to www.jcr.org.au and we will send it to you each week.

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

May Whitlock, 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 Pavlovic,

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

For our recently departed

Maurice Laroche-Coralie,
John Rogan. Marie Atkins

Anniversaries that occur at this time:

Edna Malin, Tracey Bautovich,
John McDermott, Joe Farrell,
Anne Migus

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

Our Rosters

21 September 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Tracey & Richard	Bianca & Antony	Beatrix & Michael
Altar Servers	Berna, Christian, Elijah & Austin	Orly	Stuart & Nathan
Readers	Loretta & Gerard	Gabriel & Irene	Gloria & Leah
Altar Linen	Ann Maree	CLOTW: Rhonda & Kon	
Counters	George & Tess	Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family



Contact Us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

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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 John 3:13-17

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.'

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



The Triumph of the Cross: Gospel Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Ours is a peculiar religion, a very peculiar religion indeed. What other religion would have as its central symbol two rough hewn planks of wood fashioned into an instrument of torture on which our Founder, Jesus of Nazareth, was cruelly done to death?

And yet, today, we speak of 'The Triumph of the Cross'. Where is the triumph? Where is the cause for celebration? The triumph and cause for celebration lie in the fact that the vertical plank of wood, grounded in the hill of Calvary, unites earth to heaven. The triumph and cause for celebration lie in the fact that the horizontal plank of wood stretched out the arms of the One who was able to embrace the whole of humanity.

But, why the Cross? Why the cruellest of deaths to enable the earth that we inhabit and the realm of God's merciful love to be united? Why the Cross, why the cruellest of deaths to enable those of every race, every tribe, every nationality, every tongue to find their common humanity in the embrace of Jesus Christ?

Let us rid ourselves of one terrible answer: that our heavenly Father willed that Jesus Christ should suffer that tortured death. To the absolute contrary, God never wills suffering or the wrenching pain of death for any creature, any human being, let alone the divine presence embodied in Jesus Christ.

It is the anniversary of my mother's death this week. If I believed for one moment that the Creator ... the one we call 'Our Father' ... willed her suffering and wrenching death I would give up Christianity instantly. What sort of cruel despot would I be called on to worship if that were the case?

So, why the Cross? What his Heavenly Father willed was that Jesus Christ should remain steadfast in the face of adversity, should remain true to his mission. His mission was to teach and embody the mercy, the forgiveness, the all-inclusive love of God for every human being.

For our Lord Jesus Christ, this meant that: he invited prostitutes and collaborators to share meals with him; he healed the sick, even on the Sabbath; he challenged the ideology of violence which underpinned the rule of the occupying power; he enabled hungry crowds to be fed outside the rules of the market economy.

To live whole-heartedly in that way was to invite confrontation with the religious and secular authorities of his day. And they knew of only one way to deal with this revolutionary who threatened the rules of the society which they administered to their advantage.

The Roman occupying army knew exactly how to deal with rebels: crucifixion. This is what St Paul is speaking of in the second reading. Writing in the mid 50s, St Paul incorporates the first Christian poem which runs:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God, but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. St Paul presents a picture of our Lord accepting death on a Cross as a result of a profound *humility*. In English, we can see the connection with the word 'humus': nourishing earth. When God freely decides to be earthed, to be grounded in human history, the Cross is the way things will end up. Our Lord Jesus Christ accepted that consequence rather than betray his mission to love us with unbounded compassion. Death appeared to have won the battle to ensure a death dominated world.

But three days later, our Lord appeared in victory. Death was done to death. 'Death where is thy sting, death where is thy victory?' As we know from the incident with Saint Thomas, Jesus Christ bore the marks of the wounds of the Cross on his resurrection body.

There is the cause for celebration. The Cross is indelibly marked on the victorious body of Jesus Christ: the body of Christ which itself unites heaven and earth; the body of Christ which itself can incorporate the whole of humanity. That is victory, that is triumph. A victory and a triumph in which we are all called to share.