

*Garden of Peace*  
Isaiah 32:14-18

# PEACE WITH CREATION

## SEASON OF CREATION 2025

**The theme for 2025, Seeds of Peace and Hope**

Catholics must respond to environmental injustice with prayer and concrete action. Ravaging the earth and creating environmental injustices are not what God had in mind when he entrusted creation to humanity, Pope Leo said. In fact, Pope Francis' teachings on integral ecology must be accepted as "the right path to follow", the Pope said in his message for the 2025 World Day of Prayer for Creation.

Nature itself is reduced at times to a bargaining chip, a commodity to be bartered for economic or political gain. As a result, God's creation turns into a battleground for the control of vital resources. Agricultural areas and forests peppered with landmines, "scorched earth" policies, conflicts over water resources, and the unequal distribution of raw materials, which penalizes the poorer nations and undermines social stability itself", are among the many wounds inflicted against creation and are the effect of sin.

"This is surely not what God had in mind when he entrusted the earth to the men and women whom he created in his image", he wrote in his message, which was released by the vatican on July 2.

The World Day of Prayer for Creation, which is celebrated on September 1, marks the start of the ecumenical Season of Creation. The Season concludes on October 4, the feastday of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology.

The theme for 2025, Seeds of Peace and Hope had been chosen by Pope Francis to be in harmony with the Holy Year dedicated to Pilgrims of Hope. In Christ, we too are seeds and indeed, seeds of peace and hope. Just as the Holy Spirit can make an arid and parched desert into a garden, a place of rest and serenity, prayer, determination and concrete action are necessary if this "caress of God" is to become visible to our world.

Environmental justice can no longer be regarded as an abstract concept or distant goal and it involves much more than simply protecting the environment. It is a matter of justice—social, economic and human. For believers, it is also a duty born of faith, since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed.

In a world where the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters are the first to suffer the devastating effects of climate change, deforestation and pollution, care for creation becomes an expression of our faith and humanity. Now is the time to follow deeds with words, Pope Leo wrote.

31 August 2025  
Twenty-second Sunday  
Year C

### **Entrance Antiphon**

Have mercy on me, O Lord,  
for I cry to you all the day  
long. O Lord, you are good  
and forgiving, full of mercy  
to all who call to you.

**First Reading** from the  
book of Ecclesiasticus  
Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Ps 67:4-7. 10-11. R. v.11

**Response:** God, in your  
goodness, you have made a  
home for the poor.

**Second Reading** from the  
letter to the Hebrews 12:18-  
19, 22-24

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! Take my  
yoke upon you; learn from  
me, for I am gentle and lowly  
in heart. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Luke 14:1. 7-14

### **Communion Antiphon**

How great is the goodness,  
Lord, that you keep for  
those who fear you.

### **Next week**

#### **Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C**

First: Wisdom 9:13-18

Resp Ps

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

Second: Philm 12-17:Phlm 9-  
10, 12-17

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

## 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

**Working Bee will be held next Saturday 6 September from 9am.**

Come for an hour or two. There is general gardening and cleaning up to be done. We have a permit to burn some of the garden clippings and if you have some time during the week to help supervise the fire, please call me to arrange a time.

**On Saturday 13 September there will not be a morning mass at 9am and Adoration because the Confirmation Mass will be held on Saturday 13 September at 10am.**

**Bishop Brian and Fr Bernard will be blessing and opening of our renovated foyer is on Saturday 13 September at 12 noon.**

**All are invited but RSVP is essential.**

Significant Anniversaries Mass was held at the cathedral in Wollongong last Sunday. Congratulations to Josephine and Henry and Paul and Lori from our parish.



### VINNIES WINTER APPEAL & SLEEP-OUT 2025 THANK YOU!

Thank you for your love shown through your giving to the St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies) Winter Appeal. Immense gratitude to the 24 people that sought sponsorship and slept out. To their families, relatives and friends and all that donated to their sleep-out, your generous giving is truly humbling.

Our Parish's total fundraising for the Vinnies Winter Appeal totalled \$11,000. Our St Vincent de Paul Conference will use this fund to assist those experiencing homelessness, poverty, and inequality in our local communities. On behalf of those in need we thank you. From Fr Shane Kelleher (Parish Priest) and Terry Reilly (OLMC Vinnies Conference President)

**Jubilatio Night of Praise** Join us MGL Sisters in the Church for a powerful night of praise and worship, preaching, testimony, prayer ministry, and reconciliation. It's a time to encounter his presence, to build community and strengthen our faith on Friday 12th Sept at 7.30-9.30pm. For more info please contact the MGL Sisters on [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Formation Pathway Wednesday, 3 September - 7-9pm ONLINE ONLY!

Foundations: Primacy of Evangelisation (Module 114); A renewed parish is built on three things - the primacy of evangelisation, empowering leadership, and moving in the power of the Holy Spirit. Evangelisation is not simply first on the list and equal amongst the other foundations. It should be given prime consideration in the life of a community. A parish that is actively involved in and trying to evangelise will redirect all efforts to reflect this fact.

This formation will explore how we can prioritise evangelisation in our use of

time, talent, and treasure, to make sure that the Great Commission doesn't become the Forgotten Suggestion. To register: [www.dow.org.au/events](http://www.dow.org.au/events)  
 Note: This formation will only be available online via Zoom.

**Parish Finance and Payroll Officer:** The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong is seeking a full-time Parish Finance and Payroll Officer to join the Office of the Bishop (Finance Department). Reporting to the Financial Controller, this role supports parishes and clergy by managing payroll, assisting with bookkeeping and audits, and providing guidance on financial and sacramental systems.

Applications close 5 September 2025. For a detailed position description or to apply, please contact Nick Dyball (Financial Controller) by email ([nick.dyball@dow.org.au](mailto:nick.dyball@dow.org.au)) and a detailed position description will be emailed to you or you can apply via Seek

**Catechist Creative Storytelling and Craft Morning In-service**

Build up your confidence in storytelling and create anticipation in your lessons using simple visual items and techniques. We'll draw from the spirit of Advent and our upcoming Saints as role-models to guide us. On Friday 5 Sept 10am-1:30 at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Meeting Room, 80 Demetrius Rd, Rosemeadow. Morning Tea will be provided. Click here to register at either location: <https://dow.sh/45ne1hV> . Enquiries: Sue Clark 0457 427 583

**St Joseph Camino Walk for Men:** Join men from around our Diocese for an overnight St Joseph walk praying for the needs of the Church, our families and the world. The Camino begins on Friday 5 September with 8pm Mass at St Joseph's, Como, concluding with 7am Mass at St Aloysius on Saturday 6 September and then hot breakfast and drinks. Overnight walk will see us visit 6 churches, with Catechesis and Adoration. Cost \$35 and booking via: [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com); For more information regarding Wollongong Diocese Involvement, please email [jude.hennessy@dow.org.au](mailto:jude.hennessy@dow.org.au)

**Rosemeadow Jubilee Pilgrimage Day on Saturday 6 September 2025**

The Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians 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!

**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 Perosh 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:**

Margaret & Joe Farrell, Anne Migus

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

**Our Rosters**

7 September 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Gabriel & Myra	Sarah Jeanne & Jessica	Terry & Maree
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Ryan , Amana , Elijah & Eliana	Orly	Michael & Nathan
<b>Readers</b>	Richard & Tracey	Martin & Tess	Fev & Stuart
<b>Altar Linen</b>	Berna	<b>CLOTW: Lee &amp; Asinate</b>	
<b>Counters</b>	Richard & Michael	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	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  
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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.

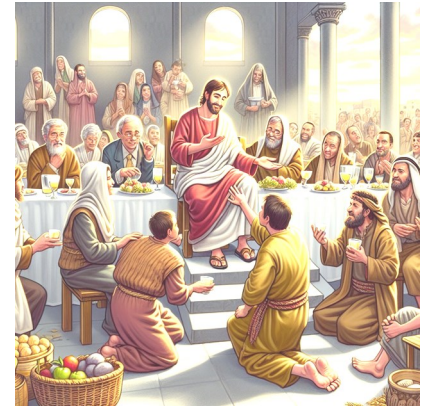
## Holy Gospel according to Luke 14:1. 7-14

*All who exalt themselves shall be humbled and all who humble themselves shall be exalted.*

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

The Gospel of the Lord



### Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus is accused of eating with sinners and tax collectors (Lk 15) and we have an image of Jesus as always eating with the marginalised. However, today's gospel account is a more common occurrence: Jesus eating with a leading Pharisee and people of social importance. Although Jesus is depicted as frequently dining in the houses of these well-to-do people, he was probably never invited a second time! As in today's account, Jesus made a habit of accepting the hospitality of such people and then giving them a lecture about how they should behave and reminding them who was not gathered around the table with them. Certainly the sort of actions that don't see too many follow-up invitations!

The message he dishes out to the Pharisees on this occasion is about not thinking you're more important than you really are. He tells them that it is far better to assume a lower status and to be lifted to greater prominence than it is to assume too much and have to be asked to step down to your proper status. In first century Jewish society, eating was as much a political act as it was a social one. Who you ate with was a reflection of your social and political position. To be invited to the head of the table would reflect very positively on a guest whilst being asked to assume a lower seat would be humiliating.

Jesus' final teaching in this account would have been outrageous to his audience. The thought of inviting to a meal people who were in no position to reciprocate was absolutely ridiculous. But Jesus encourages his audience to give to those who cannot repay – to be graciously generous just as God gives without expecting anything in return.

In the first century, hospitality carried with it certain rules and expectations. If you were the recipient of hospitality, there was an obligation on you to return hospitality if it were within your means. Hospitality meant more than feeding people. It meant extending welcome to people even if you didn't know them. There was an obligation to extend welcome and hospitality to anyone who asked for it. Travellers knew that they could enter a village and ask for a meal and a bed and they would be provided. Jesus reinterpreted this obligation of hospitality and extended it to anyone in need.

Jesus' comments about taking the place of honour at a table are introduced as being a parable. Because it is identified as a parable, we know that there is a richer meaning below the surface. In talking about places at a feast, Jesus is referring to the kingdom of God. We know that Jesus has already identified that the lowly in this world will be in a place of honour in the kingdom. His message is that those who humble themselves in this world and give hospitality to the lowly will be lifted up – exalted – in the kingdom.

Jesus' message about humility is as relevant today as it was in the first century. It is part of human nature to want to fit in and to want to belong. Sometimes we are tempted to seek this acceptance at any cost. When our sense of belonging is achieved through the harming, humiliation or exploitation of others then the price is too high. When our desire for the latest fashion comes at the expense of others being able to simply live, then the price is too high. When we lift ourselves up by putting others down, then the price is too high.