

## Happy Fathers Day

This Sunday is Father's Day—a day to celebrate the Fathers and father figures in our lives and give thanks to God for this most precious gift of fatherhood.

I must admit, I have had a complicated relationship with the Day since losing my own Father. On this sixth Father's Day since his passing, I am reminded of how many steps I have taken without my Dad. The moments I wished he was here to share. The questions I will never get to ask him. All the times I have wondered what he would think of the paths we have taken. Yet it is in mourning my Father that I am reminded of how much I have to be grateful for, and what an extraordinary blessing a good Father truly is.

In saying a good Father, I don't mean a perfect Father – for there is only one who is perfect. But in seeking to emulate our Heavenly Father, a good Father wholeheartedly dedicates himself to his vocation. He loves his children, is actively engaged in their lives, is concerned for their wellbeing, and does everything in his power to protect them from harm.

As children of good Fathers, we are given an insight into how deeply cherished we are by the source of all love. We witness an example of how to follow our own unique path to sanctity.

We find the archetype of a good Father in Saint Joseph. A man who embraced all that God asked, regardless of whether it was the life he had hoped for. A man who abandoned all that was familiar, dwelling as a foreigner in a strange land, to protect the child entrusted to him. A man who nurtured and taught our Lord in his formative years. A man whose life is largely unknown to us, precisely because of his complete dedication to the mission he was given.

Pope Francis wrote in his 2020 letter *Patris Corde*, "Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way, he becomes a father to that person."

I can attest to the truth of this statement, having watched several of my friends become Fathers. The boys I once knew have been replaced by men who give themselves, completely and enthusiastically, to their wives and children, serving and protecting their families with a chaste heart. They strive to be good Fathers by getting up and trying again with renewed commitment after every stumble.

I also see the reality of the Pope's reflection in our Spiritual Fathers. Every good priest must be a good Father to all those our Lord has entrusted to his care. Nourishing them with the Sacraments. Walking by their side and helping them navigate every challenge, trial, and heartbreak. Leaving the ninety-nine in search of the one who is lost. Rejoicing when his children grow into the saints they were created to be. I have witnessed and experienced how deeply our priests love and give themselves to their children.

So today, and every day, let us give thanks for every man who assumes the mantle of Father: those who are currently Fathers, those who hope to be Fathers, and those Fathers who have gone before us. You are each an incredible blessing and a revelation of the extraordinary love of God.



**7 September 2025**  
**Twenty-third Sunday**  
**Year C**

### Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and  
your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord  
with your merciful love.

**First Reading** from the  
book of Wisdom 9:13-18

### Responsorial Psalm

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

### Response:

In every age, O Lord, you  
have been our refuge.

**Second Reading** from the  
letter of St Paul to Philemon  
9-10, 12-17

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your  
servant, and teach me your  
laws. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Luke 14:25-33

### Communion Antiphon

Like the deer that yearns for  
running streams, so my soul  
is yearning for you, my God;  
my soul is thirsting for God,  
the living God.

### Next week:

**Sunday 14 September**  
**The Exaltation of the**  
**Holy Cross**

First: Numbers 21:4-9

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

Second: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: John 3:13-17

## 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

**On Saturday 13 September there will not be a morning mass at 9am and Adoration and Reconciliation 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.**

**Jubilatio Night of Praise on Friday 12th Sept at 7.30-9.30pm.** 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 For more info please contact the MGL Sisters on [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)



**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

**Filipino Mass** on Sunday 21 September at 11.15am

**Book club** on Wednesday 17 September at 10am.

**Compass: "Bush" family camping weekend Fri 12 – Sun 14 Sept**  
Guntawang - Wooglemai Catholic Camping Facility; These weekends bring Catholic families of all ages, including couples with or without children, single parents and grandparents, together to celebrate the incredible gift of family life. Enjoy shared meals, games, music, prayer, and Mass together. To secure your spot, register now. [dow.org.au/events/compass-bush-family-camping-weekend](http://dow.org.au/events/compass-bush-family-camping-weekend). Cost: \$50 per adult or \$100 per family; Register by Monday 8 Sept

### Catechist Retreat 2025: Growing in Faith, Hope and Love

As part of the Jubilee for Catechists, Growing in Faith, Hope and Love will be a joyful day of celebration and a special time to be nourished and refreshed. Wonderful facilitators: Jude Hennessy, Fr Bernard Gordon VG, and Sr Magdalen Mather OSB, will each lead us into a richer and more personal understanding of the theological virtues: Faith, Hope and Love. The retreat will be 9:30am - 2:30pm in two locations: Rosemeadow on Friday 26 September. Spouses are welcome. Morning Tea is provided. BYO lunch. To register go to: [dow.sh/catret](http://dow.sh/catret)

### Foundations: Moving in the Power of the Holy Spirit

CAMPBELLTOWN Tues 14 October, 7–9 pm & on ZOOM Wed, 15 October, 7–9 pm; Registration: <https://dow.sh/fpoc2025>; Cost: Free;  
"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8). When we try to do things in our own strength, we can quickly become burned out, resentful, or lose hope. Parish renewal is too big a task for any one of us. As St Paul reminds us, "we can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). It is God's Church,

God's mission, and God's power that we need. This formation will explore how we can grow in openness to the Spirit's presence, learn to recognise His promptings, and move confidently in His power. Together we will reflect on how the Holy Spirit equips us to persevere with joy, sustain hope, and bear fruit that endures for the renewal of our communities and the transformation of the world.

**menALIVE Growing Good Men Weekend;** Friday 5 – Sunday 7 December 2025, The Tops Conference Centre; A powerful weekend for fathers and their teenage sons (ages 12–17). Strengthen your bond, explore the journey into manhood, and share in engaging activities, reflection, prayer, and a memorable Rite of Passage. Places are limited – register early to secure your spot! \$500 per father & son pair (includes accomm, meals, activities & resources). For more information and registration, visit [www.dow.org.au/events](http://www.dow.org.au/events)

**Caritas Australia invites us to pray for the people of Gaza** The situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate, with severe shortages of food, safe drinking water, and emergency shelter. Gaza is the most dangerous place in the world for children. Caritas is calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

God of light, you meet us in the darkest places.

Every year, when we light our Easter candle, we pray 'may the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our minds and hearts.'

We pray today that all people may work with you to dispel the darkness of violence and war. May this fragile light be a sign of our hope for the people of Gaza. May they find healing and lasting peace. Amen.

If you are able to support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, please donate online at [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or phone 1800 024 413

**Marriage Enrichment Weekend:** We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 24-26 October 2025 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning; tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au).

**What's on around the Diocese?** [dow.sh/stayingconnected](http://dow.sh/stayingconnected) or [dow.sh/weeklybulletin](http://dow.sh/weeklybulletin)

## 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:*

Tracey Bautovich, John  
McDermott, Joe Farrell,  
Anne Migus  
*Eternal rest grant unto them,  
O Lord, may perpetual light  
shine upon them.*

## Our Rosters

14 September	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Glen, Arlene & Berna	Martin, Violeti & Paul	Maryanne, Jackie & Danni
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail & Austin	Vu	Robert & Nathan
<b>Readers</b>	Candice & Volunteer	Andy A& Caroline	Madonna & Tim
<b>Altar Linen</b>	Maria	<b>CLOTW: Rebecca &amp; Lee</b>	
<b>Counters</b>	Louise & Lina	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Tess & Effie



**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)  
Website: [varroville.dow.org.au](http://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 14:25-33

*All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.*

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.'

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord



### Gospel Reflection by Richard Leonard

For some weeks now Luke has been telling us about the cost of discipleship. As a commentary on what was happening in his community and a preparation for what was to come, today's gospel used the hyperbole of hatred to drive home the point. For the earliest Christians a choice for faith in Jesus could be this stark and dramatic: families split up and sometimes people who had loved each other turned their brother or sister, mother or father over to martyrdom. This is the context in which Luke's community produced this Gospel.

It is always good for us to recall that for some of our brothers and sisters beyond these shores the perils of public belief are still like those of Luke's community. Luckily for us the threat of death for our faith is only a very remote possibility. The power of this Gospel is that even if we are not faced with physical death, there are many other dyings that see us share in the cross of Jesus and follow in his way.

The verbs in this passage tell an interesting story: 'carry', 'follow', 'estimate', 'lay foundations', 'plan' and 'give up possessions'. It is a very tough list of things to do. Whatever our situation in life, this Gospel advocates that we figure out our priorities and live them out. In other words, we 'say what we mean and live what we say'.

We often think we could never live without most of the things to which we have become accustomed or attached. But we can. We know from people who have lived through some of the worst events of last century that there are very few things that are essential to a happy life: human dignity; meaning and purpose; love of others; a sense of security. These are the essentials. Each person has a right to them and we have obligations to do our bit to see that they enjoy them. Everything else, as good as it might be, is icing on the cake. The problem is that we 'want our cake and eat it too!'

As Christians we cannot have it both ways. We cannot say we are baptised into the life and death of Christ and not be prepared to sacrifice anything. If material riches come our way, with them come an even greater obligation to share with the poor. If we have talents and energy we are called to put them at the service of improving the world in any way we can. If we want the hope of the resurrection, we have to first carry the cross. So riches, a better world and hope come with a price.

Many of us, however, do not need to be reminded about all this because we carry crosses every day. For some it comes through mental, physical or spiritual ill health. For others it can be in our homes where we have to deal with illness, dysfunction or violence. It can be in our places of employment where we are overworked, undervalued or bullied. Whatever our particular crosses may be we are one with all those who have 'gone before us marked with the sign of faith' and who found Christ in the midst of their suffering. This Gospel promises us that Christ walks beside us bearing the burden of the struggle.

May this Eucharist give us eyes to see Christ present in our most difficult moments and make us more compassionate so we never add to the weight of another person's burden, but help carry it as best we can.