



MINISTRY DRIVE

This is the last weekend of our ministry drive.

Thank you to all the parishioners who have shared their personal stories and informed us about their particular ministry during the past six weeks.

While it looks as though we have a thriving parish with many ministries and groups meeting regularly and helping to keep our parish active, it is very clear by listening to the leaders of the ministries that every ministry operating within our Parish is in need of helpers.

In the Parish Pastoral Plan (2024—2029) for our parish, Our Parish Pastoral Council invited all parishioners to contribute to our mission by:

- * Being active members of our community.
- * Celebrating the Eucharist with us every Sunday.
- * Using our gifts in the service of others.
- * Supporting our mission financially.
- * Sharing the Good News: reaching out to the poor and suffering.
- * Praying our parish prayer, that our parish might be all that the Lord is calling us to be.

A flyer of our parish pastoral plan is available at the door of the church if you wish to take a copy home.

You have had time to consider all the different ministries alive in our parish. Now, it is time to return the ministry sign up form. If you haven't yet completed this form please collect one today as you leave Mass. Each person has something to offer and your commitment is essential for our parish to flourish into the future.

Our Companions team are available to help you discern the ministry where you will be suited, based on your skills and spiritual gifts. And also members of our Parish Leadership Team and Parish Pastoral Council are available to assist you with any concerns you have about ministering in our parish.

26 October 2025
Thirtieth Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year C

Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Let the hearts that seek the
Lord rejoice; turn to the
Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

First Reading from the
book of Ecclesiasticus
Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:2-3, 17-19, 23. R. v.7

Response: The Lord hears
the cry of the poor.

Second Reading from the
second letter of St Paul to
Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to
reconcile the world to
himself; and the Good News
of reconciliation he has
entrusted to us. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Luke 18:9-14

Communion Antiphon

We will ring out our joy at
your saving help.

Next Week
The Commemoration of
All the Faithful Departed
(All Souls' Day)

First: 2 Maccabees 12:42-45

Resp Ps: 62(63):2-6,8-9

Second: Phil 3:20-21

Gospel: Luke 7:11-17

All Saints Day is Saturday 1 November Mass at 9am

Some confusion has arisen about whether a parish Mass on the Saturday evening should be celebrated for All Saints, or for All Souls' Day which this year falls on the Sunday.

While All Saints is a Solemnity and would usually take precedence over All Souls, the expectation of the faithful attending on Saturday evening is that they are gathering for the Sunday celebration.

For this reason, the Saturday evening Mass on 1 November should be for All Souls' Day - that is, the usual Sunday Mass.



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

Ministry Drive: In the past few weeks we have heard wonderful testimonials from parishioners who are involved in ministry in our parish. Please consider prayerfully, where your gifts and talents can best serve our community. I especially encourage young adults and families to make a commitment to our parish. You are the future of our church. Also, please return your commitment forms as soon as possible.

Working bee will be held on Saturday 1 November from 9am to freshen up the gardens and set up for the Mass in the Columbarium.

All Souls Day Mass in the Columbarium. This year All Souls day will be on Sunday 2 November. We will celebrate the outdoor mass at 5pm.

Friendship Group will be having their Melbourne Cup luncheon on Tuesday 4 November commencing at midday: There will be Melbourne Cup sweeps, fun and games before watching the race. You are welcome to wear a hat or fascinator and please bring a dish to share.

Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew: The new liturgical year will begin in December. It will be Year A when the Gospel reading for Sundays are mainly from the Gospel of Matthew. The session will commence at 10am on each of the 4 Thursdays of November: 6, 13, 20, 27; You can attend one or more sessions as each will not be dependent on the previous sessions.

Raffle tickets are still available to take home and sell. Please ask the welcomer for a book of tickets or call in at the parish office to collect. Sold tickets can be returned at any time.

Dinner Dance: Disco theme on 8th November from 7pm onwards in the Parish Hall. We have a catered dinner and entertainment featuring The Chillers & DJ Calvin. Tickets Available: Adult \$50; Child \$20; Family of 2 adults & 3 or more children \$150. Booking is Compulsory. For more info contact the Parish Office.

Parish Advent Retreat will be held on Saturday 29 November; Save the date and more information will be provided in coming weeks.

What's on around the Diocese? dow.sh/stayingconnected or dow.sh/weeklybulletin see everything that is on around our Diocese!

Formation For Instituted Ministries of Acolyte and Lector will take place at the Xavier Conference Centre Wollongong on 30 November from 9.30am to 1pm including the celebration of Eucharist in the Cathedral at 10.30am. To register: dow.sh/im25.

Two Formation Opportunities in Liturgy will take place on Saturday 1 November at Holy Family Parish, Ingleburn. Following Mass for All Saints at 9am, the first session for Lectors will run from 9.45am to 10.30am. After a break for morning tea, the second session will focus on Lay Leadership in the absence of a Priest and the ministries involved, finishing around midday. Please register for the session/s that applied to you: Lector Formation Day: dow.sh/lectors_nov25; Lay Leadership Formation Day: dow.sh/layleadership_nov25

The Pilgrimage of the Migrant Jubilee Cross is an initiative of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office. It is an exciting opportunity for the Catholic Church in Australia to mark the Jubilee of Migrants October, and to continue to acknowledge and celebrate the faith, gifts, contributions, and resilience that migrant communities bring to our local Church. The Diocese of Wollongong is excited to be hosting the Cross, which contains sacred relics of the **Holy Family** and **St Mary MacKillop**, between **15 and 23 November**. All parishioners are welcome to attend any of the pilgrimage events. For more info and resources, visit: <https://acmro.catholic.org.au/jubileecross>

Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity – Special Film Screening; You're invited to a special community screening of the acclaimed documentary film Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity at the Empire Cinema, Bowral. In 1531, on a quiet hill near Mexico City, a heavenly apparition changed the course of history. The Virgin Mary appeared to a humble indigenous peasant named Juan Diego, and left behind a miraculous sign: her image imprinted on his cloak, known as the tilma. To this day, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe remains perfectly intact and on display, defying time, science, and logic. The tilma, made of cactus fibre, should have disintegrated in just 20 years — yet it has endured for nearly five centuries. Even more astonishing, the image on the tilma contains an entire codex of hidden messages, has survived an acid spill and even a bomb blast. Based on true events, Guadalupe: Mother of humanity; explores the miraculous image that defies explanation, the extraordinary events and miracles that have followed, and the enduring message of love and hope. Because some miracles refuse to fade! Thursday, 13 November, 6:00pm at the Empire Cinema, Bowral All tickets \$15 – Watch the trailer here or visit the official film website for more information.

Milton Overnight Young Adult and Families Pilgrimage

Young Adults and families from around the diocese are invited to join a special overnight pilgrimage at St Mary Star of the Sea, Milton as we approach the end of the Year of Jubilee. Experience festival vibes: camping on the hill, live music, overnight adoration, talks, a pilgrimage walk up to the Church, and Mass with Bishop Brian Mascord. A centrepiece of our pilgrimage walk will be carrying the Jubilee Migrant Cross from the ACBC an acknowledgement of migrant and refugee communities that contains relics of the Holy Family & St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. When: Saturday 15 November, 12pm arrival to Sunday 16 Nov 12pm (Campers can also arrive on Friday 14 from 5pm). At St Mary Star of the Sea, Corks Lane Milton. Buses will be available (numbers depending) from Campbelltown Cost: Free! BYO food - Dinner available for purchase on Saturday night & cheap BBQ Brekky / Coffee Van, after 7am mass, Sunday Morning. Guest Speakers: Bishop Brian Mascord, Elise Duval : Fr Michael Dyer; For more details, including schedule and registration: visit dow.sh/miltonp

Diocesan Annual Catechist Mass All active and retired SRE Catechists and those involved in the Sacramental preparation of children are warmly invited to the Annual Catechist Mass and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, 22 November at 9:30am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Join Bishop Brian Mascord, for this celebration, followed by a light refreshment. RSVP dow.sh/cm25 or contact Helen Bennett at helen.bennett@dow.org.au for more information

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 & Gabriel
Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez,
Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty,
Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib,
John Kajdryns, Pat Stewart,
Allan Marquinez, Richard
Scolyer, Angela Pavlovic,

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

For our recently departed

Fe Vertuccio, John Rogan,
Maurice Laroche-Coralie,
Marie Atkins

Anniversaries that occur at this time:

Alfredo Cortez,
Joe Spinnato, Rozalia Astalosh,
Edmund Stanley Gomez,
Mara Srebenovich

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

Our Rosters

2 November 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Estela & Cecilia	Sarah, Jeanne & Jessica	Terry & Maree
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana, Elijah & Eliana	Orly	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Bevina & Mark	Martin & Tess	Fev & Stuart
Altar Linen	Berna	CLOTW: Rhonda & Konrad	
Counters	Louise & Lina	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
Website: 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 18: 9-14

The publican returned to his home justified; the pharisee did not.

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else, "Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel passage flows on directly from last week's gospel and continues the teaching of Jesus about prayer. Whereas the preceding passage emphasised the need for persistence in prayer, this passage is about the way in which we come before God in prayer. It is the tax collector, whose simple prayer is 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner,' who goes home at rights with God. In this simple prayer, the tax collector recognises that he is not in right relationship with God and asks for God's mercy. This is a hallmark of the lowly and outcast in the gospel of Luke: they recognise their need and seek God's forgiveness and mercy. The model of faith that is depicted over and over again in this gospel is the one who recognises their need for God's loving mercy and asks for it. We are repeatedly reminded that God's mercy, forgiveness and abundant love are constantly out-flowing towards us and all we have to do is humbly desire and welcome them.

Humility is at the heart of this parable. The Pharisee is representative of those who are assured of their own rightness but who rely on comparison with others to make themselves feel righteous and justified. The actions of this man were not limited to Pharisees alone, nor are they limited to a particular time and place. This man's attitude of asserting his own faithfulness and religious observance by comparison with others can be easily seen in the world today. All faiths seem to be afflicted with these characters who assure themselves of their own 'goodness' by railing against those who are different. But, as the parable assures us, it is the humble who are exalted by God.

For the Pharisee, his prayer is a competition. He prays aloud so that others can hear him and be impressed. Perhaps he thinks that God is as impressed as those who look up to him? His prayer is also an opportunity to make himself look good at the expense of another. Certainly, prayer is a time to celebrate with God our triumphs and successes, but above all it is an opportunity to be truly honest with God and with ourselves. The prayer of the tax collector is the most honest of prayers. This honesty is what is impressive; not the competitive showing off.

Wouldn't you know it? I thought the Temple would be quiet at this time and I snuck in the back to whisper my prayer to God. But one of the great men, a Pharisee, was there praying. He proudly declared before God his good works. Every word he spoke reminded me of how I fail time and time again to do what is right with God. I realised that I didn't belong in that place. My prayer went out of my head and I muttered a few simple words. Why would God listen to me, a sinner?

We are told that the tax collector, after his simple prayer, went home 'at rights with God'. What does it mean to be *at rights with God*? It is nothing more and nothing less than the entire Judeo-Christian story.

The story of the Old Testament is the story of God calling the people to live in right relationship with God and with one another. The Gospels are the story of Jesus calling all people to a richer understanding of his compassionate Father so that they may once again be *at rights with God*. The story continues and it is our constant challenge to be at rights with God also.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

TICKET PRICE
\$50 ADULTS
\$20 CHILD (3-10 YRS)
\$150 FOR 2 ADULTS AND
FAMILY OF MORE THAN 3
CHILDREN

BOOKING
COMPULSORY

LET'S
DISCO

FEATURING
The Chillers
&
DJ CALVIN

SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER | 7 PM ONWARDS

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH, VARROVILLE

FOOD INCLUDED

B.V.O.G