



Remembering our Loved Ones

Every year on November 2, Catholics around the world pause to remember those who have passed away. Known as All Souls' Day, this special day isn't just about sadness for our losses—it's a chance to reflect, pray, and celebrate the lives of our loved ones.

The tradition of praying for the dead goes back to the early Church. From the very beginning, Christians believed in the communion of saints, the spiritual bond between the living and the departed. By the 10th–11th century, St. Odilo of Cluny, a French abbot, officially established November 2 as a day to pray for all the faithful departed.

All Souls' Day follows All Saints' Day (November 1). While All Saints' Day honours those already in Heaven, All Souls' Day focuses on those still on their journey toward God—those in Purgatory. Over time, different countries have added local customs: in Mexico, it blends with the festive, Dia de los Muertos, while in Europe, people light candles on graves and offer prayers.

Catholics believe in the power of prayer, charity, and Mass to help souls on their journey to eternal life. All Souls' Day reminds us that death doesn't break the bonds of love—we can still care for those who have gone before us.

How Catholics Celebrate

- Attending Mass: Offering the Eucharist for the souls of the departed.
- Visiting Cemeteries: Praying, leaving flowers, or lighting candles.
- Prayers at Home: Some families create a small altar or light candles for their loved ones.
- Acts of Charity: Performing good deeds or offering prayers for the benefit of the deceased.

All Souls' Day is ultimately about connection, prayer, and remembrance. It's a day to pause, honour the lives that shaped ours, and trust in God's mercy for those who have passed.

2 November 2025
**The Commemoration of
all the faithful departed**
All Souls Day Year C

Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Just as Jesus died and has risen again, so through Jesus God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep; and as in Adam all die, so also in Christ will all be brought to life.

First Reading from the second book of Maccabees
12:42-45

Responsorial Psalm
62:2-6,8-9

Response: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 3:20-21

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

according to Luke 7:11-17

Communion Antiphon
I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord. Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever.

Next Week

9 November 2025
**The Dedication of the
Lateran Basilica**

First: Ezekiel 47:1-2. 8-9. 12
Resp Ps: 45:2-3. 5-6. 8-9. R v5
Second: 1 Corinth 3:9-11. 16-17
Gospel: John 2:13-22



Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Catholic Parish Varroville

LET'S DISCO

FEATURING
The Chillers
&
DJ CALVIN

TICKET PRICE
\$30 ADULTS
\$10 CHILD (5-14 YRS)
\$150 FOR 2 ADULTS AND
FAMILY OF MORE THAN 3
* CHILDREN

FOOD INCLUDED

DRINKING COMPULSORY

SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER | 7 PM ONWARDS

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH, VARROVILLE

B.Y.O.G

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 because the rosters will be renewed during November

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.

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. The deadline for reserving seats is Wednesday.

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.

WorldWide Marriage Encounter Fundraising Trivia Night Saturday 15 November at 7pm; trivia begins at 7.30pm; Cost \$20pp; BYO nibbles & drinks; RSVP to book a ticket 0416 094 709 or wwmeastern@gmail.com

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!

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>

A vocation view: Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed The souls of the just are in God's hands because Jesus opened the gates of heaven. We pray for those who are unable to pray for themselves. If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

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.

CHARIS MASS - Guest Celebrant Fr Brian Steele (MGL) Sacred Heart Chapel, Stewart St Wollongong Fri 14 Nov. Join us for our last Charismatic Mass for the year, as we pray and give thanks to God for all He is doing in the renewal of our Parishes in the Wollongong Diocese. There will also be an opportunity for individual healing prayer after mass and cuppa. Everyone welcome. 7:00pm Praise and Worship. 7:30pm Holy Mass. Info: Gabriella De Battista 0414 205 404

menALIVE Growing Good Men Weekend 2025 Friday 5 – Sunday 7 December, The Tops Conference Centre; Great news! Thanks to a generous donation, the cost for this transformative weekend has been reduced to only \$400 per father and son pair. 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! \$400 per father & son pair (includes accommodation, meals, activities & resources). For more information and registration, visit www.dow.org.au/events

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.

Diocese of Wollongong Men's Prayer Breakfast Lunch Friday, 28 November 6:30am-8am; Guest Speaker: Peter Abela; Xavier Conference Room, 38 Harbour St Wollongong; Enjoy a breakfast buffet, prayer and inspiring guest speaker input. Be supported and inspired by other men, seeking to be authentic disciples on mission. RSVP: Monday, 17 November dow.sh/mpb25 Cost: \$20; The Men's Prayer Breakfast Series is organised by the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation and menALIVE in the Diocese of Wollongong

Jubilee Pilgrimage Day: Our Souls and Prayer The parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow invites everyone to our final Jubilee Pilgrimage Day. The day will include a catechesis that will explore God's plan for creation. Saturday, 6 December, the day begins with Mass at 10:00am, followed by the catechesis led by Elise Duval, a time of Eucharistic Adoration with opportunity for confession, and Benediction at 3:00pm. Please BYO lunch. Come and be renewed in God's mercy and hope!

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

May Whitlock, Pat Cullen,
Mary Ponnalam,
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 Kajdrys, 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

**Anniversaries that occur
at this time and all the
holy souls remembered in
the month of November**

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

Our Rosters

9 November 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Paul & Lori	Chris, Margaret & Gabriel	Maryanne, Jackie & Danni
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail & Austin	Vu	Michael & Nathan
Readers	Richard & Tracey	Irene & Lee	Madonna & Tim
Altar Linen	Maria	CLOTW: Rebecca & Josephine	
Counters	George & Tess	Church Vacuuming	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
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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 7:11-17

Young man, I say to you, to get up.

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry,' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up'. And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.' And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.



Gospel Reflection by Richard Leonard

A man died and went to the pearly gates. St Peter met him there. 'Before you meet with God,' St Peter said, 'I thought I should tell you that we've looked at your life, and you really didn't do anything particularly good or bad. We're not at all sure what to do with you. Can you tell us anything you did that can help us make a decision?' The newly arrived soul thought for a moment and replied, 'Yeah, once I was driving along and came upon a woman who was being harassed by a group of bikies. So I pulled over, got out my wheel brace, and went up to the leader of the bikies. He was a big, muscular, hairy guy with tattoos all over his body and a ring pierced through his nose. Well, I tore the nose ring out of his nose, and told him he and his gang had better stop bothering the woman or they would have to deal with me!' 'I'm very impressed', St Peter responded, 'When did this happen?' 'About two minutes ago!'

All Souls Day has its roots in the sixth century Benedictine tradition of praying to the dead. It was a way of recognising the human bonds which go beyond death. By the tenth century this feast was about praying for the dead, that they might know the merciful love of God.

It is appropriate today for us to think about what a soul is. In an increasingly secular society it's interesting to note that the word 'soul' persists in ordinary conversation. Many non-religious people use this most religious of terms to describe another person. We often hear how others are lonely, distressed, or lost souls. It can be said that someone has a 'beautiful soul' or that a piece of music, a painting or other work of art 'stirred my soul'. We describe mellow jazz as 'soulful' and still alert others to distress by an SOS, 'save our souls'. These uses of the word reinforce St Thomas Aquinas' teaching that the soul makes us human, and sets us apart from other animals.

Nearly all the great religions of the world believe in a soul, or its equivalent – something that survives the annihilation of the body in death. I have come to the opinion that whatever else might characterise the soul, memory is an integral part of it.

I have done several funerals of people who have suffered from Alzheimer's disease. These are rarely very sad occasions because the family invariably says that they 'lost' their loved one months or years before. Why? Because increasingly their loved one couldn't remember anyone or anything. We hold to caring for the body from the womb to the tomb, because we believe that human dignity must always be respected. There are now theories about how even the memories of the circumstances of our conception and birth have a bearing on the way we live our lives. It is also apparent that even when people seem to have lost their memory, or are unconscious, that there is some recognition of some things at a very deep level.

Soul as memory means that when I meet God face to face, I will remember who I am and how I lived, and God will remember me. It's also a comfort for us to think that we will be reunited with those we have loved who have died before us, because we remember each other.

And what is best about a 'remembering soul' is that it is purified. In the old catechism we used to say that heaven was the place where we are perfectly happy with God for eternity. If we think of purgatory as a stage rather than a place, then it's possible to reclaim it as a moment when we see the fullness of God's sacrificial love for us, and recall our sometimes destructive behaviour toward ourselves, others and the world. Purgatory can be a moment where our memory is purified so we can be eternally happy with God in heaven.

So let's remember at this Eucharist all those 'departed souls' we have known and loved over the years, that they might pray for us that we never forget God's saving love and live lives worthy of it.