

Sunday of the Word of God

On September 30, 2019, on the liturgical memorial of St. Jerome, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (In Australia, it is the Fourth Sunday) would be celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. The inspiring full text of his Apostolic Letter, "Aperuit illis: Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God" is available to read at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu_proprio-20190930_aperuit-illis.html.

In the Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass, we are reminded of the role of the Word of God in the life of the Church:

In the hearing of God's word the Church is built up and grows, and in the signs of the liturgical celebration God's wonderful, past works in the history of salvation are presented anew as mysterious realities. God in turn makes use of the congregation of the faithful that celebrates the Liturgy in order that his word may speed on and be glorified and that his name be exalted among the nations.

Whenever, therefore, the Church, gathered by the Holy Spirit for liturgical celebration, announces and proclaims the word of God, she is aware of being a new people in whom the covenant made in the past is perfected and fulfilled. Baptism and confirmation in the Spirit have made all Christ's faithful into messengers of God's word because of the grace of hearing they have received. They must therefore be the bearers of the same word in the Church and in the world, at least by the witness of their lives.

The word of God proclaimed in the celebration of God's mysteries does not only address present conditions but looks back to past events and forward to what is yet to come. Thus God's word shows us what we should hope for with such a longing that in this changing world our hearts will be set on the place where our true joys lie.

In this week's Gospel, it is hard to be a peacemaker in an age of conflict and division, but this is just what we are all called to be. One of the best ways for us Christians to be peacemakers is, as Pope Leo says, 'to love and nurture fraternity'.

'Fraternity', the Pope points out, 'stems from something deeply human.' As he suggests, 'it is certain that our humanity is best fulfilled when we exist and live together.' Fraternity is a calling, written in our being by our Maker.

Jesus shows us how to fulfil that calling. As the Pope says, 'to overcome the shadows that threaten it, we need to go to the source, and above all to draw light and strength from Him who alone frees us from the poison of enmity.'

Following his predecessor, Pope Francis, Pope Leo also encourages us to look to the witness of St Francis of Assisi whose approach to others was 'the inclusive way'. St Francis of Assisi 'placed all human beings on the same level, precisely because he recognised them in their common destiny of dignity, dialogue, welcome and salvation.'

As the Pope affirms, the welcoming of others signifies 'a universal fraternity', and thereby 'expresses an essential feature of Christianity'.

Jesus' call to his followers is to become a blessing for others, proclaimers 'of the Good News destined for the salvation of all.'

[Quotes from *General Audience, 12 November 2025*: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2025/documents/20251112-udienza-generale.html>] "Pope's Lens" by Nick Brodie

1 February 2026
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon
Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading
from the prophet Zephaniah
2:3; 3:12-13

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

Response: Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Second Reading
from the first letter to the Corinthians
1:26-31

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad; Your reward will be great in heaven. **Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel according to Matthew
5:1-12

Communion Antiphon
Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

Next Week
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A

First: Isaiah 58:7-10
Resp Ps: 111:4-9. R. v.4
Second: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16



Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass: 1st Sunday at 12 noon

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 first Sunday of February is Word of God Sunday in Australia.

Pope Francis encouraged everyone to carry a copy of the Gospel with them to read each day. He said to read it for at least five minutes a day because the Word of God touches our hearts and changes our lives. The Piety Stall has copies of the Gospel of Matthew *NIV translation* for \$2.50 this week.

Friendship Group will be meeting on Tuesday 3 February 2026 after the 9am Mass in the Meeting Room. All are welcome to attend and bring a plate to share. The theme for February is Valentines Day. For further details please contact the Parish Office. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeanne Haldar for her great leadership of the group.

Monday Bible Study will resume on Monday 2 February 2026 at 10am in meeting room. Come along & bring your Bible to share the Word of God. For further information please contact the Parish Office.

Important dates this year

- Ash Wednesday will be on 18 February 2026
- Easter Sunday is on 5 April 2026
- Our Annual Parish Fiesta is on Sunday 19 July 2026

Upcoming triple ordination to the diaconate for our diocese!

Bishop Brian Mascord warmly invites you to attend the upcoming ordination to the permanent diaconate of Stuart Lake (Varroville), John Mortimer (Albion Park) and Ryan Suares (Rosemeadow) at 10:00am, Saturday 28 February 2026 at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral (1 Cabbage Tree Lane, Fairy Meadow) All are warmly invited to share in this joyful celebration, praying for and supporting these three men and their families as they are ordained to serve our diocesan community.

RSVP by 20 February at rsvp.dow.org.au. Parking will be available at the Fraternity Club (11 Bourke Street, Fairy Meadow).

Our Parish is arranging a bus and carpooling to the Ordination.

Please complete the sign up sheet after Mass or online as soon as possible. You will need to be here at the parish at 8am on the day and travel to Fairy Meadow. The bus will return in the afternoon.

As Stuart, John and Ryan enter these final days of preparation, we keep them close in prayer, trusting in the Holy Spirit's guidance as they draw near to their ordination.

Prayer for the ordinandii

Heavenly Father,

we give you thanks for the gift of vocation and for the call you have placed on the lives of Stuart, John and Ryan.

As they prepare to be ordained to the diaconate, fill them with courage and trust in your presence.

Strengthen them to serve with humility, fidelity and love, after the example of your Son, who came not to be served but to serve.

Through the intercession of St Stephen, the first deacon and martyr of the Church, may they be faithful ministers of your Word, generous servants of your altar, and compassionate witnesses of charity in the world.

Keep them steadfast in prayer, gentle in service, and courageous in faith, that in all things they may glorify you and build up your Church.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Car and Bike Show on Saturday 14 March from 8am Car & bike enthusiasts will be meeting here to showcase their vehicles. A special day has been organised and will include demonstrations and prizes will be awarded. There will be live entertainment and a family atmosphere. Refreshments will be available to purchase.

This is a fundraising event for the parish and I encourage you to come along and bring your family & friends to be a part of the fun.

Our fundraising team are also reaching out for some assistance on the day. We need some traffic wardens and assistance with setting up and cleaning up. It will be an opportunity for our ministries to reach out beyond the parish. Also there will be an opportunity for your ministry to set up a stall for something such as facepainting or religious sales. We need some helpers for cooking

a BBQ and having a cake stall. Please call Patricia for further information on 0409307246.

Communication Team meeting on Wednesday 4 February at 7pm. We hope to form a small team that will assist the parish office and oversee our communications; that is parish promotions for the website, facebook, instagram, etc. Please come along to this meeting and share your expertise.

Our Pastoral Care Team visit people who cannot attend Mass any longer due to ill health and age. If you know anyone who would like to have a home visit and Holy Communion please call the parish office and submit the persons contact information. **The Pastoral Care Team will meet on Tuesday 10 and 17 February at 2pm.**

Readers Retreat will be held on Monday 16 February at 7.30pm. Fr Gerard will give a talk on the readings proclaimed at the Easter Vigil Mass for the Ministers of the Word in our parish on 16 February 2026 at 7:30 pm. All are invited to attend as Fr. Gerard's talk will help our whole parish community appreciate the beauty of the liturgy, especially the Easter Vigil.

Car Damage in carpark. A few weeks ago a vehicle was damaged whilst the owner was in Mass. If anyone has seen any incident please call the parish office.

Friday Faith & Supper will commence again this year with a Lenten Theme on Friday 20 February from 6pm. The evening will commence with refreshments, followed by a talk and discussion with Fr Sam.

Ascent Youth Group: "Ever felt like you were alone in your faith? Have questions about God & life?"

Come along to ASCENT Youth, returning on Friday 13 Feb at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall! All young people aged 12–17 are invited to a fun and faith-filled evening with games, food, friendship and opportunities to grow together and explore life's big questions. Bring a friend and help us kick off 2026! Contact Caroline for more info: 0481 469 262"

Catechist Level 1 Course: The Level 1 course is essential for all new volunteers to the catechist ministry and is also helpful as a refresher for experienced SRE Catechists. On the first day of the course, Safeguarding and Classroom Management training will occur, which must be revisited by SRE Catechists every three years to remain active in the ministry. The course will run from 9.30am till 1:30pm in Rosemeadow on Fridays: 6, 13, 20, 27 February and 6 March.

To register for the 5-week Level 1 course: dow.sh/ccd_one. Alternatively, register for the Safeguarding and Classroom Management update only: dow.sh/ccd_sg

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

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 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 Shirley Wrightman

Anniversaries that occur at this time Hilda Young, Mark Thompson

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

Our Rosters

8 February 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Estela & Cecilia	Nelia, Anita & Francia	Geoff, Margaret & Danni
Altar Servers	Andrew, Diane, Sebastian & Eliana	Orly	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Richard & Tracey	Gabriel & Laura	Gloria & Leah
RefreshmentsA	Josephine & Glenda	Samoan Choir Community	Fev, Maree & Patricia W
Altar Linen	Berna	CLOTW:	Lee & Clara
Flowers	Tracey, Richard & Vaitafao	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	Louise & Lina	Church Foyer	Parish Office



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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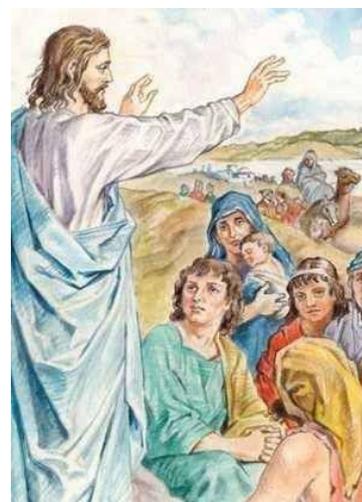
We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.

Holy Gospel according Matthew 5:1-12

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

To follow Jesus does not mean merely that one travels with him from place to place. It means that one learns from him, that one follows his manner of life and his way of thinking. To follow Jesus means to follow his example in the way he respects himself and other people, in his use of the things of the natural world. It means that one listens to what he says, and asks for an explanation when what he says is not understood. All of this requires that the disciple be a learner, one who can learn from the life of Jesus as well as from his teaching.

The first lessons that the disciples must learn are found in the beatitudes. The same lessons are placed before us, the modern-day disciples. The setting of Jesus’ teaching is so serene; a mountain apart, a teacher with his disciples gathered around him, simple statements that are coupled with glorious rewards. However, the reality of the lessons is in stark contrast with this tranquil scene. These beatitudes, these blessings call for profound inner transformation.

The gospel outlines the kind of person the disciple is to become; the psalm sketches the program to which the learner is called. The disciples of Jesus are not merely his followers; they also continue the work that he began. In whatever circumstance of life we find ourselves, as disciples of Jesus we work to sustain the good that is in the world and to transform whatever needs transformation.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate The Beatitudes ... A Call to Action

Jesus doesn’t start in a fantasy dream world of perfection. Jesus looks at the world as it often is for many people, perhaps for most people around the world: ‘the poor in spirit’, ‘those who mourn’, ‘those who are gentle’, ‘those who hunger and thirst for justice’.

Jesus astonishes the crowd by saying that such people are ‘Blessed’. How can this be? The answer lies in our Lord’s emphasis on the new community he is establishing under the reign of God: what he calls ‘the Kingdom of God’.

Those in such wretched circumstances will have things set right, but only if followers of Jesus do everything possible to lift the poor out of the poverty which crushes their spirit, do everything possible to comfort those who mourn, do everything possible to make sure the gentle share the earth’s resources, do everything possible to satisfy the craving for justice.

We could pause for a moment to pray the ‘Our Father’ pledging ourselves to help construct this new society where the Beatitudes can come true:

‘Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’