



21 June 2026

To Know, love and serve Jesus
by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission

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Homelessness In Australia

Rental stress, eviction, and mental health pressures drive homelessness, especially for youth and women.

On any given night, 36,724 people are experiencing homelessness across Australia, and the reasons often sit behind the same doorway in very different ways. With fuel,

the cost of living and rental prices higher than ever, an unexpected bill, the loss of a job or a relationship break down can be enough to push someone into homelessness. For more and more people, homelessness is just one sudden crisis away.

OUR VISION Everyone in our community should have a stable, safe and healthy place to call home. If someone's housing is at-risk or they are in crisis, they should receive timely, person-centred support to sustain their housing, and where needed, rapid access to emergency accommodation. For people with long and recurring histories of homelessness, they should not only be supported to secure a permanent home that meets their needs, but they should also receive the flexible help they need to successfully sustain their home and improve their quality of life. The St VdeP fundamentally believes in this through the social principle of dignity of the human person, which enables life and flourishing. Through this, we can work towards reducing the risk of homelessness, and where it does occur, ensure that experiences of homelessness are rare, brief, and not repeated.

On any given night across NSW around 35,000 people are experiencing homelessness, a 27% increase over the last decade. And the numbers of people sleeping rough has increased by 69% in just the last two years, While the cost of living continues to soar and social housing supply stagnates, more and more people will find themselves in precarious housing situations and at-risk of homelessness. This risk of homelessness is even higher for certain population groups including First Nations people, women & children fleeing domestic and family violence, refugees and people seeking asylum, and people living with disability. This means that thousands of people in crisis are going without a safe place to sleep each night.

THE IMPACT People who are homeless are more likely to experience poor mental and physical health and be at increased danger of abuse and violence. Australian studies suggests people sleeping rough are more likely to die 30 years earlier than the general population with a median age of death around 50 years. Without a stable home and with poor health and safety, people experiencing homelessness find it difficult to work or study, and are often trapped in a cycle of poverty.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Society NSW's homelessness reports and submissions
- National Council's Housing and Homelessness Policy

Your generous gift today can help people at risk of or experiencing homelessness get the support they need to find and keep a safe place to stay.



TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

First Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah 20:10-13

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35.
R. v.14

Response: Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:12-15

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 10:26-33

Communion Antiphon
The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

NEXT WEEK
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First: 2 King 4:8-11. 14-16

Resp Ps 88:2-3. 16-19.
R. v.2

Second: Rom 6:3-4. 8-11

Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

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

Children's Mass: 5th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

Arabic Mass: 2nd Sunday of each month at 7pm

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

Eucharistic Adoration on 1st Sunday of each month at 6 to 7pm

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: meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

Bible Study & Reflection Group: meets Monday at 10am.

Children's Ministry will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm

Ascent Youth Ministry: meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday from 6.30pm.

Pastoral Care Team meets on 4th Tuesday at 1.30pm

Grief Support Group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10am

Vinnies winter appeal this weekend and sleepout on Saturday 27 June after 6pm Mass: Our Parish undertakes a Winter Appeal each year including a Community Sleepout.

This offers an opportunity for our community to live out our Vision for Ministry/Service—Giving of ourselves- *“seeing their life as a part of Jesus’ mission and being responsive to the needs of the society in which we live, our community enables every member to use their unique gifts and skills in ministry, giving of themselves in the service of other”*.

With an experience of what it is like to sleep out for the night, encourages people to learn more about the problem they’re helping others with.

By getting involved with the Sleepout, our community will play an active role in raising vital funds and awareness of this crisis, faced by many Australians who do not have secure housing or accommodation and life’s needs.

You can donate to the winter appeal this weekend and/ or sponsor one of our parishioners who will be sleeping out next weekend.

Expressions of Interest for New Altar Servers “Want to deepen your understanding of and appreciation for the Mass? Have you considered becoming an Altar Server?”

The Servers Ministry is currently seeking new members. If you have felt called to serve, or have simply wondered whether this ministry might be for you, we encourage you to pray about it and speak with one of our current servers to learn more.

Training for both junior and adult altar servers will be offered in the coming months. At this stage, we are inviting expressions of interest from anyone who would like to explore this rewarding ministry.”

Fundraising meeting will be held on Monday at 7.30pm

Pastoral care team meeting will be held on Tuesday at 1.30pm

Children's ministry gathering will be held next Sunday at 3pm

The Youth Choir will be singing at 5pm Mass next week. I encourage the youth and young adults to join this mass and support the youth choir.

"Gardens" Retreat Day - Saturday 27th June *“Grieve not as those who have no hope...” 1 Thess 4:13.*

Spend a day reflecting on how while we experience pain, grief and loss in life, we can also discover in such moments that God is renewing us and doing “a new thing” (Rev 21:4) within us. The day will begin with mass at 9am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish hall and end at 4pm. Afternoon & morning tea provided. BYO Lunch Cost: \$25 . Please rsvp at <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBD> or contact us on 0402 602 520

Ageing with Confidence 2026 is a free CatholicCare event for older people, families, and carers that focuses on ageing with dignity, confidence, and choice. It provides practical guidance on navigating care systems, raises awareness of ageism, and offers tools, support, and local connections to help people age well at home in the community. Campbelltown Catholic Club on 22 July 9am -1pm. Registration required at catholiccare.dow.org.au/events.

Mount Carmel Catholic College 40th Anniversary Open Day on Saturday 25 July:

ATTENTION ALL ALUMNI AND EX STAFF! You're invited back to MCCC to celebrate **40 years of memories, milestones, & community**. Whether you walked these halls in the early days or were part of the journey somewhere along the way, this is your chance to reconnect, reminisce, and rediscover the place that helped shape so many lives.

Come and see how MCCC has grown, transformed, and reimaged itself over the decades — from new facilities and programs to the vibrant community that continues to thrive today. Join us for a day of stories, laughter, familiar faces, and a few surprises.

Join Our Mission – Diocesan Director Opportunity Caritas Australia is still seeking a successful candidate to fulfill the Diocesan Director for Diocese of Wollongong. This paid casual position averages 3.75 hours per week across the year, with extra hours during our Project Compassion appeal (February–May). If you're committed to social and ecological justice, we'd love to hear from you!

2026 Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass: If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, you are warmly invited to the Significant Marriage Anniversaries, celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on Sunday 6 September 2026 at 2pm at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre Conference Room. Registration is essential and must be completed online at dow.sh/ma26 by no later than Monday, 17 August 2026. Any enquiries please email helen.bennett@dow.org.au

The Journey – Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast for parishioners in the Diocese of Wollongong. Each week it brings you great music, formation in faith, with an array of fantastic presenters from our Diocese and around Australia. Just go to www.jcr.org.au and we will send it to you each week.



FIESTA: We're excited to announce that our Parish Fiesta will be celebrated on Sunday, 19th July. In preparation for this joyful occasion, Novenas will be held from the 10th to the 18th of July. We invite all parishioners to mark their calendars and join us in prayer and celebration.

As we prepare for the Fiesta, we are also looking for volunteers to help with the various activities and arrangements. (Set up, pack up, food donations)

We are also looking for performers from the Parish community to perform and showcase their talent at the Fiesta. Come give a helping hand and share your talents to make this a great day!

Please see a Fiesta Committee member after Mass to sign up or contact the Parish office. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

Pat Cullen, Mary Ponnappalam, Myra 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, Mercy Espiritu, Vladdy Mher Peralta, Bill Scibberas, Bernie Briscoe, Stephen & Kathleen Mitrovics, Jadwiga Doomalewska
May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently departed

Pausumu Olaaiga, Dorothy Forland
Anniversaries that occur at this time:
 Damien Champion, Maurice Spillane, Benito Cossettini,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,

ROSTERS

28 June 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Gabriel, Myra	Martin, Violeti, Paul	Beatrix, Michael
Altar Servers	Andrew, Dianne, Sebastian	Orly	Michael, Nathan
Readers	Richard & Tracey	Gabriel, Laura	Celia, Fev
Refreshments	Tracey, Richard, Venessa F	Irene, Tina, John, Meg	C/ 5 pm Choir
Altar Linen	Berna	CLOTW: Rhonda & Konrad	
Flowers	Tracey, Richard	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	Richard & Volunteer	Church Foyer	Parish Office
Choir	C/ Nick	c/ Karen	c/ Youth Choir



Contact Us

Parish Priest:
Fr Shane Kelleher OCD

Deacon:
Rev Stuart Lake

Parish Associate
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

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The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 10:26-33

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops. 'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

'Do not be afraid' is one of the most commonly repeated sentences in the Bible. In one form or another, the command to 'be not afraid' or 'fear not' appears several hundred times throughout the Old and New Testaments. Today's gospel passage is part of the sending out of the Twelve that occupies all of Chapter 10 in the gospel. It follows a little later in the chapter from last week's reading in which Jesus called the Twelve and sent them out as Apostles. The remainder of the chapter provides an extended teaching on what it means and what it costs to take the message of Jesus out into the world. Jesus teaches the Twelve that the message they bear will not always be well received and there will be those who will seek to silence the Apostles through violent means. But then the teaching comes to the section of today's passage and Jesus commands the Twelve, 'Do not be afraid'.

The message to not be afraid is as much for the original intended audience of the gospel as it was for the apostles. The community for whom this gospel was written were on the verge of being 'squeezed out' and forced into secret. The passage reminds them to have courage and to have the courage of their convictions; to shout from the house-tops their message, not whisper it in darkness. It is a reminder of the abundant love of God who cares for them and sees all their efforts to continue to live out the message and ministry of Jesus.

It is equally a message for us, today. We are called to continue the spread of the gospel message; continuing the work of those early Christian communities, the Twelve and Jesus himself.

When scripture uses the term fear, it tends to fall into one of two meanings. When used in the context of 'do not be afraid' or 'fear not', it is a command to not be daunted by the woes and trials that the world imposes. The other use tends to be a command that we should fear God. In this context, the word does not mean to be frightened of God but rather to show proper reverence. To fear God is to stand in wonder and awe rather than to cower and hide. So, fear God, but do not be afraid!

One of the messages of Jesus to his disciples and, through him, of Matthew to the original community, is to have courage and to have pride in their belief. No matter what threat or persecution they are to endure, the command is to proclaim the message of Jesus from the house-tops. They are to be proud of what they believe and be prepared to share it with others. In a world today that is not always open to the message of Jesus, we too are called to be proud of what we believe and not whisper it in the darkness.

This gospel passage that appears at Mt 10:26-33 is virtually reproduced in the gospel of Luke (12:2-12) but does not appear in the gospel of Mark. Both the gospels of Matthew and Luke draw extensively on the Gospel of Mark as a source for their writing but scholars have also deduced that they shared another unknown source.

The content of this lost source can only be deduced by the identification of parallel passages such as this one that appear in Matthew and Luke but not Mark. The undiscovered document is known as the 'Q source' after the German word, *Quelle* (source).



FEAR NOT, YOU ARE OF
MORE VALUE THAN
MANY SPARROWS

MATTHEW 10:29-33