



23 August 2026

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

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Pastoral Care Sunday:

Reflection on Pastoral Care and Volunteers in our Catholic Community By Anon

Pastoral care lies at the very heart of a Catholic parish. It is the living expression of Christ's compassion made visible through the hands, voices, and presence of His people. On Pastoral Care Sunday, we pause to honour this ministry and the volunteers who embody it with such generosity.

Pastoral care is not merely a program or a roster; it is a way of seeing and responding. It begins with the simple act of noticing—recognising the lonely parishioner, the grieving family, the overwhelmed parent, the elderly neighbour who longs for connection. In every Catholic community, pastoral care reflects the mission of Christ the Good Shepherd, who seeks out the lost, comforts the broken, and walks beside those carrying heavy burdens.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of this ministry. They visit the sick, bring Holy Communion to those who cannot attend Mass, accompany families in times of sorrow, and offer practical support where life becomes difficult. Their ministry is rooted in charity, shaped by pastoral care, and strengthened by prayer. Many serve quietly, without recognition, yet their presence often becomes the difference between isolation and hope for those they support.

Pastoral care also strengthens the fabric of parish life. It builds relationships, fosters trust, and reminds us that the Church is not simply a place of worship but a community of belonging. When volunteers reach out, they extend the Church's sacramental love beyond the walls of the parish, making Christ present in homes, hospitals, aged care facilities, and everyday moments of need.

Today we give thanks for every volunteer who serves with compassion. Their ministry reflects the Gospel in action and reminds us that pastoral care is not optional, it is essential to who we are as Church.

RENEWED & SENT - PARISH RENEWAL SUMMIT 2026

1st – 3rd October - St Gregory's College, Campbelltown.

"And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land." (Ezekiel 37:14)

Renewed & Sent gathers priests, parishioners & parish leaders across Australia who believe parish renewal is possible and want to discern what it could look like in their parish.

A Quiet Renewal is Underway. Parishes are rediscovering their missionary identity

Leaders are finding renewed purpose

People are encountering Jesus, and lives are being transformed.

The Renewed & Sent Summit is about awakening what God had already planted.

What might it look like if your parish began to experience now life like this?

To secure your ticket to the summit please scan the QR code

If you wish to volunteer at the summit,

please contact May Ataya via text 0416 157 294 or email: may.ataya@dow.org.au



Twenty first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord,
and answer me; save
the servant who trusts
in you, my God. Have
mercy on me, O Lord,
for I cry to you all the
day long.

First Reading from
the prophet Isaiah
22:19-23

Responsorial
Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8.
R. v.8**Response:** Lord,
your love is eternal; do
not forsake the work of
your hands.

Second
Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Romans 11:33-36

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia!, Alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock
on which I will build my
Church; the gates of
hell will not hold out
against it. **Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel
according to Matthew
16:13-20

Communion Antiphon

The earth is replete
with the fruits of your

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.

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

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 of 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

Tuesday at 7.30p in meeting room

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

Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm

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

Legion of Mary every Saturday at 12.30pm

Parish Notices

Faith Circles small group will meet on Tuesday at 7.30pm in the meeting room. All are welcome to join in.

Faith Circles is a weekly resource to help individuals but mainly small groups to come together. In doing so it assists in the development of faith and community, a strong desire expressed in our Diocesan feedback from the National Church Life Survey. The weekly Faith Circles resource is available for free to download. It is easy to use with simple questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/ or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

Church Banners on the Back Wall”

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me about refurbishing the two banners at the back of the church. We will begin this work very soon. If you would like to share any further comments or questions, please contact Dawn on 0411 484 181 before 17 August 2026.

OLMC Knitting Group

“Wraps with love” is a charitable organisation that donates knitted/crocheted blankets to people affected by natural disasters. Anyone interested is welcome to attend on the **4th Tuesday** of the month at 9.30am-11.30am in the Parish Meeting Room. We need more volunteers, we teach you how to knit or crochet. Come along for a cuppa and chat while we knit for love. Please contact Theresa Almeida on 0421 221 542.

Confirmation Classes to commence on Saturday 15 August 2026 at **4.30pm** followed by mass at 6-7pm. Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday 20 September 2026 at 9.30am. Registration is available on our website or at the parish office.

RCIA Team Formation Meeting You are all aware that Christian Easter Baptism for Adult and Older children is an active ongoing process in our Parish. It's just so because we commit ourselves to reach out and share the love of God to anyone according to our Parish Vision – Mission, and as our way to respond to God's love and his flowing graces.

This year we have already enquiries by people discerning their faith life who need our guidance, so before we embark on a new journey, the Parish Leadership Team on Evangelization would like to invite the Parish Community to participate in a talk followed by discussion to gain awareness of the needs for this Parish mission.

You are invited to OLMC Parish gathering:

On Sunday 23 August at 11am-12:30 in Meeting Room

Agenda: Parish planning for building an RCIA team; lunch provided afterwards Hope you are available and could come to this important Parish Community life.

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 .

Homecoming Silent Retreat 28 – 30 August Carmel House, Varroville

“His father saw him, ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” Lk 15: 20 Your heavenly Father waits for you to come away with him for a weekend of silently soaking in his great love for you. Embrace this opportunity for encountering deep peace and serenity. This retreat is for men and women aged 18+. Hosted by the MGL Sisters. Choose from a weekend retreat or extend your time with a 5-day retreat option. w/e: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBK> extended: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBU>

Cursillo Diocesan Women's Encounter, Thurs 10 to Sun 13 September 2026
Carmel House Varroville Cursillo is a life changing experience providing a method to support and nurture our faith journey and enable us to live vibrant Gospel oriented lives. The weekend will include talks, discussions fostering friendship, daily Mass, spiritual direction, good music, fun and laughter. Cost: \$320 (payment options available) covers all meals, accommodation, resources and activities. Enquiries: Shirley Parker 0431 513 109 ; cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com dow.sh/cursillo

Fundraising News

Our Major Cash Raffle was launched at the Fiesta last week. Books of tickets are available to take home and sell. The tickets cost \$5 each and a book of 10 tickets will cost \$50. The raffle draw will take place at our thanks giving Mass on 26 November.



Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

Pat Cullen, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez, Vladdy Mher Peralta, Mercy Espiritu, Stephen & Kathleen Mitrovics, Jadwiga Doomalewska, Bill Scibberas, Bernie Briscoe

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

For our recently departed

Fr Rick McCann, Vlado Leko, Sr Heather Burke,

Anniversaries that occur at this time

Christian Boudan, Gladys Bergicourt

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

Our Rosters

30 August 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Estela, Cecilia	Beatrix, Irene, Sarah	Geoff, Margaret, Danni
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana, Elijah, Eliana	Orly S	Robert, Nathan
Readers	Bevina, Mark	Children's Mass	Fev, Volunteer
Refreshments	Emmarie, Berna	Karen B	Beatrix, Madonna
Altar Linen	Sr Jill	CLOTW: No Liturgy	
Flowers	Jeanne, Vaitafao	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	Jeanette, Vilma	Church Foyer	Parish Office
Choirs	C/ Nick and Amanda	C/ Maria- Children's Choir	C/ Youth Choir



Contact Us

Parish Priest:
Fr Shane Kelleher OCD

Deacon:
Rev Stuart Lake

Parish Associate:
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm

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The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.

Living the Gospel ... Who do YOU say I am?

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is a question he asks of all of us. How we answer that question reflects our relationship with Jesus. But more importantly, how we answer that question reflects the way we live our life in response to who we believe Jesus to be. If we truly say that we believe in Jesus as the son of God, then how do we live our lives in such a way that we act on that belief? The gospel shows us that an inadequate answer to that question leads to missing the point of all that Jesus is.

Gospel Focus

Jesus' words to Peter, 'on this rock I will build my church', are obviously the gospel writers' words and not the words of Jesus himself. (Jesus did not set out to build a church community; that did not emerge until later.) In fact they appear only in this particular gospel. The other synoptic gospels have Peter's confession of faith but not these words attributed to Jesus. The words are sometimes understood as asserting that Peter himself is the rock on whom the church will be built, rather than his declaration of faith being the rock. This has then sometimes become confused with the line of popes beginning with Peter.