

20 Sept 2026

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

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A reflection by Anon

Confirmation Sunday 2026 is a moment of profound grace for our parish community as we gather in faith, hope, and joy. Today we welcome Bishop Brian Mascord DD, Bishop of Wollongong whose presence reminds us that the Sacrament of Confirmation is never celebrated in isolation but within the wider Church. His leadership, prayer, and pastoral care strengthen our unity in Christ and encourage our young people to embrace their vocation as fully initiated members of the Catholic community.

This celebration is also a tribute to the parents, sponsors, Godparents, family, and friends who have walked with our candidates from the earliest moments of their faith journey. Parents first carried their children to the waters of Baptism, promising to raise them in the light of Christ. Today, they witness the fruits of those promises as their sons and daughters freely choose to deepen their commitment to the Gospel.

Sponsors and Godparents have offered guidance, encouragement, and example. Their presence today is a reminder that faith is strengthened through relationships—through people who model prayer, compassion, and Christian living. They stand beside the candidates not only as witnesses but as companions who will continue to support them in the years ahead.

Family and friends gather in love and pride, recognising that Confirmation marks a new chapter. The gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord—are not abstract ideas but real graces that will shape the candidates' decisions, friendships, and service.

As a parish, we rejoice in the commitment these young people make today. Their "yes" to God strengthens the whole community, reminding us that the Church is alive, growing, and continually renewed by the Spirit. We pray that they will be courageous disciples, confident in their faith and generous in their service.

May this Confirmation Sunday be a day of blessing for every household represented here, a day of gratitude for the journey so far, and a day of hope for all that God will accomplish through these newly confirmed members of the Church

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:6-9

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18.
R. v.18

Response:

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 1:20-24. 27

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia , Alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 20:1-16

Communion Antiphon

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass: 1st Sunday of each month 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 6.15 pm

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 7.30pm 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

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

Parish Notices

Fr Shane will be taking some well deserved leave from 1 October. He will be away from the Parish for 3 months. In his absence Fr Sunny will take over his duties as Parish Administrator.

Hospitality Ministries Gathering

Everyone serving in our refreshments, welcoming, cleaning, flower arranging and money counting ministry is invited to a gathering on Friday **25 September 2026, 7-9pm**. We will start with Pizza followed by formation and training. It is important that at least one of your team can attend. This way we all work together on the renewal of our parish. Please **rsvp Beatrix by 23 September** for catering purposes.

Grief and Loss support Group will meet on a monthly basis for people who have experienced grief and loss in their lives and who would like an opportunity to connect with others on a gentle environment. Please come along every 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10am after the 9am morning mass.

Our Major Cash Raffle 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.

St Carlo Acutis Relic and Display coming here in September! Our diocese is excited to be hosting the International Carlo Acutis Major Relic Pilgrimage in September. The relic will visit the parishes of Oran Park (Mon 14th), Rosemeadow (Tue 15th) Nowra (Wed 16- Thurs 17th), and the Wollongong Cathedral (Fri 18 - Mon 21), with opportunities for veneration of the first-class relic of St Carlo, participating in the sacraments, and visiting St Carlo's own Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition. Everyone, especially students and young adults will be amazed and drawn into a deep experience of faith in encountering St Carlo's story, relic and the display. Go to <https://www.stcarloaustralia.com/> for more information.

Why Foster Care Matters

A safe home can change everything. Right now, children and young people in our region need someone to step in with care, stability and hope. You could be the person who makes that difference.

Sadly, there are children in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Southern Highlands and Macarthur regions who can't live at home due to safety or wellbeing concerns. Many have experienced trauma and need patient, consistent care to help them heal.

Foster care gives these children a stable home, whether it's for a few nights, a few months, or longer. Through CatholicCare Diocese of Wollongong's Permanency Support Program (PSP), we match children with carers and provide the training, support and resources to help you both thrive.

You don't need to be perfect. You just need to be willing to show up with care, patience and consistency to a child who needs it.

People from all walks of life can make a meaningful difference, whether you can care for a few nights, a few months or longer. We'll be with you every step of the way.

Contact Catholic Care Diocese of Wollongong to learn more about foster care today at 1800 967 894 or fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

Come and join us on 9 – 11 October 2026 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

Handmade: Creative Healing Retreat October 16-18, Carmel House, Varroville
In his hand is the life of every creature” Job 12:10 Come away for a weekend of reflection on how carefully God has made and upheld your life through different creative prayer experiences. This retreat is for both men & women Hosted by the MGL Sisters. Registration link: www.trybooking.com/DIDCB

Renewed & Sent: Parish Renewal Summit Bishop Brian Mascord invites you to the Renewed & Sent Parish Renewal Summit, to be held at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown, from 1–3 October 2026. Join clergy, religious, lay leaders, ministry volunteers and parishioners from across the Diocese of Wollongong for three days of inspiring keynote presentations, practical workshops, prayer, and opportunities to connect with others who share a passion for the future of our parishes. This opportunity aligns with Bishop Brian Mascord's Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes, helping us to grow as communities where people encounter Jesus, become his disciples, and are sent to share the Gospel. Whether you come on your own or as part of a parish team, you'll leave encouraged, inspired, and equipped with practical ideas to help your parish grow in faith, mission, and community. For the full program and registrations, visit renewedandsent.com.au.



STALL HOLDERS WANTED - \$35.00 PER STALL
SAT - 24th October from 7.30am - 12.30pm
Hire a stall - Sell your treasures, Payment via Church office
GAZEBO NOT INCLUDED, BRING YOUR OWN TABLES, FLOAT AND SET UP ITEMS



CAR BOOT SALE - 24 OCT - 8AM
Find A Bargain - Pre loved goods, Clothes, Toys, Homeware
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND REUSABLE BAGS

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.

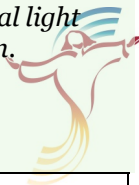
For our recently departed

Liliana Jaroveski, Fr Rick McCann, Vlado Leko,

Anniversaries that occur at this time

Joseph Farrell, Christian Boudan, Gladys Bergicourt

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



Our Rosters

27 September 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Estela, Cecilia	Chris, Margaret, Gabriel	Beatrix, Michael
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail, Austin	Orly	Robert, Nathan
Readers	Suzanne, Margaret McD	Irene. Lee	Celia, Fev
Refreshments	Emmarie, Berna	Irene, Tina, John , Meg	Grace Stagg
Altar Linen	Margaret McD	CLOTW:	
Flowers	Lorraine, Effie	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	Christine, Cirra	Church Foyer	Parish Office
Choirs	C/o Ryan	C/o Karen	C/o Grace



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 20:1-16

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter



On a first reading of this gospel story, the reader is probably struck by the unfairness of the situation. The landowner has employed day labourers at different times throughout the day to work in his vineyard. However, come the end of the day, the landowner pays all the day labourers the same amount. Not surprisingly, the labourers employed at daybreak to work the whole day are upset that those who have only worked the last hour of the day are paid the same amount. The landowner reminds them that he is paying them what they agreed at the start of the day, and yet the reader is left uncomfortable about the whole arrangement.

Of course, this is the purpose of Jesus' story! The key to the story is in the introduction. Most of the kingdom parables told by Jesus begin with a formulaic statement, 'The kingdom is like ...' and this one is no different. What follows is almost always a description of an everyday event that is turned on its head. In all of the kingdom parables recorded in the gospels, Jesus describes a world order in which people respond in unexpected and sometimes confusing ways. His message is that the kingdom, or reign, of God turns expectations upside down. In the kingdom, people who are treated badly in this world are held in great esteem; the balance of power is turned upside down; and the usual order of things is challenged. The landowner's final comment in the parable, 'the last will be first, and the first, last', is a perfect example of the challenging nature of Jesus' kingdom parables. In the kingdom, those who hold themselves to be first in this world will be brought down, and those who are treated as least in this world will be exalted.

Scriptural context – Kingdom parables

A feature of the kingdom parables that Jesus used is a challenging 'shift' to the unexpected. Jesus only ever uses parables to describe what the kingdom is like, and never says exactly what it is or isn't. In each parable he compares the kingdom of God to something that would be familiar to a 1st century audience but then he twists the familiar and makes the challenging shift by making the familiar, unfamiliar. (This 'shift' is sometimes called a 'discombobulating shift'.) Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God disrupts our normal way of thinking, it turns our expectations upside down and it completely challenges our 'normal' relationships.

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.