

18 October 2026

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

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World Mission Sunday

The 2026 theme for World Mission Sunday has been released: “One in Christ, United in Mission.” Chosen by Pope Leo XIV, this theme carries deep significance as 2026 marks 100 years since the establishment of World Mission Sunday by Pope Pius XI. This centenary celebration will be held on the 18 October 2026, as a moment of gratitude and reflection for missionaries around the world, highlighting the Universal Church’s enduring commitment to support the life-giving work of mission.

Pope Leo XIV highlights the importance of unity in Christ as the foundation of our missionary calling.

“The theme of World Mission Day 2026, which in its first part recalls the motto chosen by the Holy Father for his Pontificate, ‘In Illo uno unum’, recalls the unity of believers in faith, based on the unity with Christ con the Father, and the consequent common mission of evangelisation,” was shared in the official media release.

Rooted in our shared faith, we are One in Christ, United in Mission. This unity calls us to see one another as sisters and brothers, working together to bring the Good News to life in every corner of the world. In a world often marked by division and isolation, mission invites us to build bridges of compassion, solidarity, and hope.

As one body in Christ, we are called to journey together, to listen, to serve, and to share the love that transforms hearts and communities. Whether near or far, each act of faith and generosity strengthens our communion and reveals the face of Christ among us.

“During 2025, guided by the theme Missionaries of Hope among all peoples, we have walked alongside many communities, especially those in the Mpika Diocese, Zambia,” shared Peter Gates, Deputy National Director. “We have witnessed the power of hope at work, sharing in the joys, struggles, and aspirations of the people. Together, we have built bonds of trust, resilience, and faith, fostering shared growth. As this journey continues, Missionaries of Hope among all peoples becomes beautifully intertwined with One in Christ, United in Mission, reminding us that true mission begins when hearts meet and hope is shared.”

Together, we embody the Church’s universal mission: to make God’s love known and lived , so that all may experience the joy of being one family, united in mission.

“The first step in the preparation of World Mission Day 2026 will be the dissemination, in the first months of the year, of the Holy Father’s message. This will become the guiding thread of the many initiatives of animation and formation in the spirit and of missionary responsibility in all the faithful throughout this significant year,” was highlighted in the official message.

As we prepare to celebrate this milestone year, Catholic Mission invites all communities across Australia to join in prayer, reflection, and action. Through your support, you help continue the missionary work that brings hope, dignity, and faith to those most in need. United in Christ, may we keep building a world where love is shared, lives are transformed, and mission continues to flourish.

Catholic Mission

We will have a collection this weekend for Catholic Mission.

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 45:1.4-6

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

Response:

Give the Lord glory and honour.

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1:1-5

Alleluia!, Alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:15-21

Communion Antiphon

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass:

1st Sunday at 12 noon

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

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

Parish Notices

Divine Mercy Devotion will be held in the church today at 3pm.

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 .

Adoration and Confession on Friday 23 October from 6.30pm; We warmly invite our entire parish community to join our parish youth for an evening with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at 6:30pm on Friday 23rd October as we celebrate three years of ASCENT Youth and give thanks for the many blessings shared along the way. The evening will begin with refreshments and fellowship, followed by a short testimony and a Holy Hour. Confession and Prayer Ministry will also be available. All are welcome!

Preparation for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation – The sessions will begin on the 24th October 2026 4-6pm. The ceremony will be 21 November 2026 at 4pm. If you would like to register your child please contact the Parish Office.

Car Boot Sale Market on Saturday 24 October has been cancelled

All Souls Day Outdoor Mass on Monday 2 November at 7.30pm

We will be holding our annual Mass in the Columbarium, honouring and remembering our dearly departed loved ones. All are most welcome.

This year, for November, you are invited to bring in a photo if you have experienced the loss of a loved one this year. A photo sized 4 x 6" or 5 x 7" will be displayed in the church for the month.

Alpha sessions will commence on Saturday 24 October at 10am and continue weekly till December. Is there someone who is enquiring about their faith, or is considering joining the Catholic Faith through RCIA. Register via the Parish Office.

2026 Cash Raffle to be drawn on Thursday 26 November. This is a major fundraiser for our parish. Books of tickets are available for you to take home and sell to family & friends. Please ask at the welcome desk after Mass or call the parish office to collect a book of tickets. Tickets cost \$5 each and a book of tickets cost \$50. Your support of our parish is invaluable.

Banns for Sacerdotal Ordination of Rev. Anthony Joseph Lisone, OATH (Oblate Apostles of The Two Hearts), and is scheduled to receive the **Sacred Order of Presbyter on Nov 21, 2026** at Cathedral Parish of St. Paul the First Hermit, San Pablo City, Laguna, Phillipines. Should anyone know of any canonical impediment that would prevent the candidate from receiving the Sacred Orders, please inform the Parish Office. Br Anthony grew up in this parish and we wish him well in his vocation. Va'a & Katalina have been parishioners in this parish and we congratulate them in supporting Br Anthony on his studies.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL 2026 Thank you to everyone in our parish who generously supported the Bishop's Annual Appeal last weekend. Through the special collection, together with donations made online, our parish community has helped support the retirement and health of clergy and the sound and holistic formation of seminarians. Our parish has contributed \$1200 to the Appeal. Tax-deductible donations are still being gratefully received at dow.org.au/giving or call (02) 4222 2400.

Renewed & Sent: Parish Renewal Summit has now concluded, bringing together around 650 participants, 120 clergy and five bishops for three days of prayer, reflection, formation and conversation about the renewal of parish life and mission.

Feedback from the Summit has been overwhelmingly positive, with a strong sense of hope and a practical desire to see meaningful renewal across the Australian Church. The gathering provided an opportunity to reflect on how we can move from maintenance to mission, strengthen missionary leadership and explore practical pathways for renewal in our parishes.

We extend our sincere thanks to the priests of our Diocese who participated and to all the wonderful volunteers from Eagle Vale, Varroville and Campbelltown Parishes, whose generosity, hospitality and practical support helped make the Summit possible. Their service was a beautiful expression of the spirit of welcome and missionary discipleship we hope to foster in our parishes.

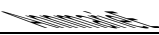
Survey of Catholic Couples The Australian Catholic Bishops want to hear about the experience of Catholics in their first 10 years of marriage. The information gathered will help inform the development of pastoral responses and resources for this vital stage of married life. Any couple married in the last 10 years, where at least one spouse is Catholic, can contribute their valuable insights via <https://thepmrc.org/survey>. All answers are anonymous and confidential, and participants can contact the researchers directly with any questions via the survey link. Your contributions would be highly valued.

Vocaris Youth October 2026 Do you have a high school-aged young person who you would love to see grow in their faith, discover the beauty of the Catholic faith and make like-minded friends? Then they won't want to miss VOCARIS Youth - a free, fun and faith-filled day for students in Years 7-12 on Saturday, 31 October, 10:00am-3:00pm at Wilton Community Centre, featuring a Cookie Station, Sausage Sizzle Lunch and Ice Cream Topping Bar! For more information or to register, visit <https://dow.sh/VocarisYouth>

What's on around the Diocese? Check out upcoming Diocesan events and courses - too many to list in one place. Subscribe here and we will keep you in the loop dow.sh/stayingconnected about what's happening around our Diocese!

A Vocation View "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Our lives ultimately belong to God; let His love shine through all that you do. (Matthew 22:21) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

Our Rosters

25 October 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Estela, Cecilia	Bianca, Antony, Laura	Terry, Maree
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail, Austin	Orly	Robert, Nathan
Readers	Loretta, Gerard	Irene, Lee	Celia, Bev
Refreshments		Irene, Tina, John, Meg	
Altar Linen	Ann Maree	CLOTW:	
Flowers	Maria, Estela	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	George, Digna, James	Church Foyer	Parish Office
Choirs	C/o Ryan	C/o Karen	C/o Grace



Contact Us

Parish Administrator:
Fr Sunny Abraham OCD
Deacon:
Rev Stuart Lake
Parish Associate:
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm
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Website: varroville.dow.org.au

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

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

Stephen Skocylas, Liliana
Jaroveski, Peter MacKenzie

Anniversaries that occur at this time

Les Stewart

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



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:15-21

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection by Nick Brodie

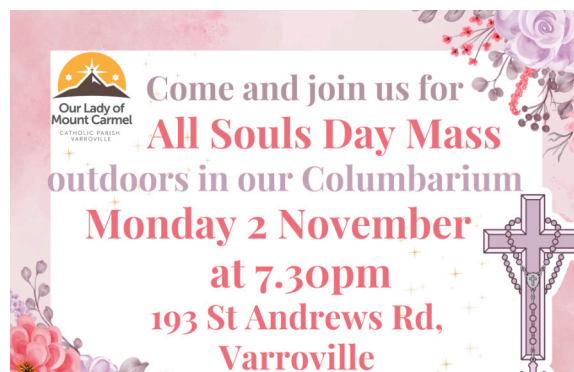
Leo's Lens 'Our time is in great need of precisely this', Pope Leo says, 'men and women who have the courage to do good even when it comes at a cost.' As Jesus showed us: sometimes we are forced to make a choice, but we need not respond in the way the world expects. Our way is a surprising one. 'Draw near to those who are alone, support those who are weary, seek out those who have drifted away', the Pope says. 'Have the courage to forgive, to begin anew and to engage in dialogue. Goodness is not always recognised and often demands sacrifice; yet it is precisely this daily courage of charity that makes our proclamation of the Gospel credible.' Indeed, as we draw ever closer to Christ, we learn 'the joy of our vocation and learn to love as he loves.' The Pope encourages us to be 'a church that walks together behind the same Lord, listening, welcoming and recognising in the other a brother or sister and a companion along the way, never a rival.' Unlike those who seek to sow division, we are called 'to discover that following Christ does not diminish freedom, but brings it to fulfilment; that faith does not restrict life, but opens it to a greater horizon.'

Francis Focus

'You hypocrites!', said Jesus, before asking 'Why do you set this trap for me?' These days there are plenty of attempts to catch Christians out with tricky questions. Even Popes gets awkward queries, seemingly designed to force a controversial 'yes' or 'no' answer.

When critics questioned Pope Francis about the Synod in Rome, he wisely responded that the asking of such questions revealed a desire to work with him. Speaking of today's Gospel, Pope Francis once pointed out that 'Jesus places himself above the controversy.' Turning the Pharisees' intended trap into a teaching, Jesus shows his followers that we cannot cut ourselves off from wider society, nor should we too easily fall into conflict with it. But, as the Pope further elaborated, Jesus' point is bigger than that. Jesus uses the opportunity to remind everyone to focus on giving 'to God what belongs to God.'

Part of what this means, Pope Francis reminded us, involves love of neighbour. The flipside of the image of the state is the image of God. And who is made in the image and likeness of God? Me, you, us! This Gospel story isn't just about avoiding conflict, its deeper message steers us back to the commandment to love God and each other. And a big part of that involves listening to each other sincerely, and not striving to catch each other out.



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.