



# TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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FREE

APRIL 2025

## Ordinations

An Ordination to the Priesthood and three Ordinations to the Diaconate were celebrated at St. Michael's Cathedral.

See page 3...

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# BISHOP'S VOICE



TOGETHER  
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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## Divine Mercy Ablaze: Celebrate Carlo Acutis and Encounter Christ's Love

### Dear sisters and brothers,

"To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan." (Saint Carlo Acutis)

Imagine a day where your heart is touched, your spirit is uplifted, and your faith is renewed. This Divine Mercy Sunday (April 27th) promises to be such a day, an occasion of profound grace and joyful celebration at St. Michael's Cathedral Wagga Wagga. As the Church in Rome rejoices in the canonisation of Saint Carlo Acutis, we too will gather to honour his legacy and experience the boundless mercy of our Lord.

Following the 10:00am Solemn Mass of Divine Mercy, St Michael's Cathedral will become a vibrant hub of spiritual encounter.

### Embark on a Pilgrimage of Grace:

You might like to begin your day with a meaningful pilgrimage, perhaps walking in faith from your local Wagga church (or another convenient place) to the Cathedral. This act of devotion opens the door to a Plenary Indulgence, a special gift of God's mercy.

### Encounter the Passion of Carlo Acutis:

Be captivated by Bishop-Elect Peter Murphy's insightful talk on Saint Carlo Acutis, the young man whose love for the Eucharist is

igniting the world. Explore the exhibit designed by Carlo himself, a visual testament to his extraordinary life and unwavering faith.

### Savour Fellowship and Joy:

Share in the warmth of community with a sausage sizzle lunch – a moment of fellowship and simple joy.

### Immerse Yourself in Divine Mercy:

Participate in a powerful Holy Hour, filled with Jubilee Prayers, opportunities for Confession, and the awe-inspiring Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Conclude this sacred time at 3:00pm with the beautiful Divine Mercy Chaplet, a prayer that draws us closer to Christ's compassionate heart.

We are blessed to have a relic of Saint Carlo Acutis. In 2025, during the Jubilee Year of Hope, this relic will embark on a pilgrimage of its own, visiting every parish and school, inviting all to encounter the living Christ through Carlo's intercession. In the years to come, it will serve as a beacon of devotion to Saint Carlo and the Holy Eucharist.

The life of Saint Carlo Acutis, and his profound devotion to the Eucharist, continues to inspire countless individuals, particularly our youth, to deepen their faith and embrace the Eucharist



with renewed fervour. It is my heartfelt prayer that as this relic journeys throughout our parishes, touching more lives and fostering a deeper relationship with Jesus, Saint Carlo's legacy will remind us that sanctity is not a distant dream, but a reachable reality for each and every one of us.

Open your heart to the transformative power of God's

mercy and the inspiring example of Saint Carlo Acutis. Join us on April 27th and prepare to be inspired and filled with the radiant love of Divine Mercy!

***Yours in Jesus Christ  
and Mary Immaculate  
Mark Edwards OMI***

See page 9 for more  
on Carlo Acutis and  
Divine Mercy Sunday...

## PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL - PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

### For the use of the new technologies.

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Visit this link to hear the Pope deliver his monthly prayer:  
<https://thepopevideo.org/>



**Pope's Worldwide  
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Lord, Good Father, as I look at the world and see men and women working in it and beautifying it, a great "Thank You!" springs from my heart. The action of Your Spirit among us encourages us to grow in the progress of science and technology in the service of human dignity for integral and inclusive human development.

Because we know You desire the good of all, from the heart of Your Church, Your Son calls us to ensure that technology does not replace "person-to-person" contact, that the virtual does not replace the real, and that social networks do not replace social settings.

Help us develop the ability to live wisely, to think deeply, to love generously, without losing heart, promoting scientific and technological growth that increasingly aligns with human development in responsibility, values, and awareness.

Amen.

Good Father, I know you are with me.  
Here I am on this new day.

Place my heart once more next to the Heart of your Son Jesus, who is giving himself for me and who comes to me in the Eucharist.

May your Holy Spirit make me his friend and apostle, available for his mission of compassion.

I place in your hands my joys and hopes, my works and sufferings, everything that I am and have, in communion with my brothers and sisters of this Worldwide Prayer Network.

With Mary, I offer you my day for the mission of the Church and for the prayer intentions of the Pope and my Bishop for this month.

Amen.



# REVEREND JOHN BAPTIST NGUYEN ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD

On Saturday 15th March, in a grace-filled ceremony at St Michael's Cathedral, Rev John Baptist Van Thuy Nguyen was Ordained to the Priesthood by Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI.

**This sacred ceremony was a powerful expression of faith, commitment, and service to the Church.** Reverend Nguyen's ordination to the priesthood marks the beginning of his lifelong vocation to serve God and the community through the sacraments, preaching, and pastoral care.

Fr. John Baptist Nguyen shared the following words of thanks after his Ordination Mass:

**Dear Bishop Mark, Fathers and my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

My gratitude is firstly directed to Almighty God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It was He Who gave me life and planted this calling to the priesthood in my heart.



Above: Bishop Mark and Fr John Baptist Nguyen.



Above: Fr John Baptist Nguyen.



Above: Bishop Mark delivers his Homily.



Above: Fr John Baptist Nguyen delivers a word of thanks.



Above: Fr John Baptist Nguyen receives the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Secondly, Home is where my vocation began to take root. My heart is full of gratitude to my parents, my brothers and sisters and their extended families for loving me and their tireless support and encouragement in following my calling.

I take this opportunity to now thank you, Bishop Mark. I truly appreciate your generosity of spirit, in welcoming me to the diocese and ordaining me to the priesthood of

Jesus Christ.

Thank you to the former Rector of Vianney College, Fr. Peter Thompson, who received me into the seminary, and to Fr. Rick Micallef, for seeing me through to the end of my seminary formation. And also my spiritual director and seminary staff, past and present, for the formation you have contributed to me during my time in the seminary. Thank you also to the seminarians for your friendship. You have all

made an impression on me and on my formation. I would also like to thank the Saint Anthony Association and Confraternity Christ the Priest, who both contributed significantly to my formation journey.

My gratitude now extends to all of the priests and faithful people of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. Thank you for your support and guidance, especially to those with whom I was on pastoral placements: Howlong, St. Patrick's Church, Koorlingal and

St. Michael's Cathedral.

Many thanks to our MC's, Fr. Connell and Saxon, cathedral priests past and present, servers, St. Michael's cathedral choirs, who have contributed to this beautiful day.

**Thank you everyone for coming and sharing this wonderful day with me. May God bless you all.**



# ORDINATIONS TO THE DIACONATE

On Saturday, 15th March, Br. Joseph Hoat Nguyen, Michael Pham, and Xavier Nguyen were ordained to the diaconate at St. Michael's Cathedral in Wagga Wagga.

**The Ordination to the Diaconate of Br Hoat, Michael and Xavier is a significant step in their journey towards priesthood.** They will serve the Church through acts of charity, assisting in liturgical functions, and being messengers of the Gospel. The entire congregation rejoiced in this beautiful and historic celebration, praying for these new clergy members as they embark on their sacred missions.

## Brother Hoat Van Nguyen CCS

I was born and raised in a Catholic village (Thuan Nghia parish, Vinh Diocese). This is a place where faith is deeply rooted in family and community life. I think that my vocation was sown in that environment. Since I was a child, I have cherished the dream of dedicating myself to God, but I also had other ambitions. In the early years of my youth, especially after graduating from university, I had many thoughts about my future path. However, luck came when I met a priest of Confraternity of Christ the Priest, who invited me to his order and to this beautiful country. Those imprints helped me to be more confident in my vocation. Moreover, with the companionship and help of many people in this diocese, they helped me to reach the vocation of consecration. My mother shared that "you can serve anywhere, as long as you serve God and the Church." Those words have always been the guiding principle in my journey. I am



Brother Hoat Van Nguyen CCS

sincerely grateful to all those who have supported and accompanied me on this vocation of bringing God's love and Gospel to everyone."

## Michael Pham

My name is Van Anh Pham, born in Ha Tinh, Vietnam, and I grew up in a devout Catholic family with a strong sense of faith and community. After completing my high school education, I discovered my calling to become a Catholic priest and joined the Saint Anthony Association in 2009, where I helped the elderly, the sick, and promoted evangelisation. In 2016, I moved to Australia to study at Vianney College Seminary in Wagga Wagga, facing challenges such as hay fever and language barriers. Despite these struggles, I worked diligently to improve my English and engage in my



Above: Welcoming the new Priest and Deacons to the Presbyterate.

studies. During this time in Australia, I also participated in community service, visiting nursing homes and offering support. After seven years of formation, I am deeply grateful for the support I received and am committed to becoming a holy priest, dedicated to bringing people closer to God and serving others. I continue to rely on God's guidance throughout my journey of ministry.



Michael Pham

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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Above: The candidates lay prostrate, symbolising complete submission to God's will.



Xavier Sy Van Nguyen

I was born and raised in a Catholic family with five siblings in a small village within the Diocese of Ha Tinh, located in central Vietnam. My father was a high school mathematics teacher and the head of the deanery catechism, while my mother was a rice farmer. From a young age, my siblings and I were instructed in catechism by our parents, who also guided us in attending Mass and participating in parish prayer gatherings.

After completing high school, I entered a university in Hanoi the Capital, where I majored in Information Technology. Upon graduating, I lived with my spiritual director, Fr. Peter Tran Lai about four years. During this time, I

was actively involved in teaching catechism, engaging with young people, and volunteering within the parish community.

In 2014, I travelled to Australia to join the Confraternity of Christ the Priest and then studied at St. John Vianney Seminary, later transferring to the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

On March 15, 2025, I was ordained a deacon by Bishop Mark Edwards, Bishop of the Wagga Wagga Diocese.

As I prepare for ordination, I am profoundly grateful for this journey and eagerly anticipate embracing my role as a deacon, serving as a bridge between the Church and the community. I always give thanks to God for the countless graces He has bestowed upon me.



Xavier Sy Van Nguyen



Above: The laying on of hands.



Above: Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI, Bishop of Wagga Wagga.



Above: The newly ordained priest and deacons go forth to serve the church.



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ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Diocesan Outreach Assistants  
Aid to the Church in Need – Wagga Wagga

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is an international Catholic Charity offering spiritual and pastoral support to suffering and persecuted Christians. ACN is looking for Diocesan Outreach Assistants (DOAs) to help spread the news of this work in Catholic parishes in 2025.

The Diocesan Outreach Assistant role is a part time position which consists of delivering 12 weekends of parish presentations across a year. The role also requires the capacity to undertake administrative work (pertaining to booking presentations in parishes e.g. phone calls, emails, etc.)

The primary tasks of the Diocesan Outreach Assistant are:

- To Raise awareness of the suffering and persecuted Church by sharing the stories of our brothers and sisters who suffer or are persecuted for their faith. The DOA will encourage parishioners to sign up to receive the ACN's Newsletter.
- To invite parishioners to pray for the persecuted and suffering Church.
- To inspire parishioners to take action to support the suffering Church and to join ACN in its journey to keep the faith alive.

For more information and to view the full job ad go to  
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Commences 08 September 2025.  
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the pathways of some of the Church's greatest  
saints. In Rome, the Eternal City, we will cross the  
threshold of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica.  
Also departs October 2025.

Mary & the Saints

Fatima to Lourdes Pilgrimage



Land only from \$5190

Commences 10 September 2025. 11 Days.  
With Fr Damian Styles CSM. You are invited to  
participate in the world's most requested Marian  
journey as we explore the villages of some of the  
Church's most renowned saints. This will truly be  
a pilgrimage so full of grace. Optional 'Graces of  
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# UNITE AGAINST POVERTY THIS LENT

Each year, Caritas Australia's Project Compassion brings together thousands of Australians in schools, parishes and the community to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

For Project Compassion, let's *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*. Let's become a profound force for change. A force that partners with the world's most vulnerable to stand against poverty. As individuals we can have a powerful impact – but when we come together as a community through Project Compassion, our good becomes great. Our combined kindness becomes amplified. And when we unite with each other – and with people living in poverty – we can create BIG, lasting change.

## Irene from Democratic Republic of the Congo

Irene is a 25-year-old single mother of two boys living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Despite experiencing extreme poverty, she has become a skilled seamstress and can now support her children's education with her income.



***"Our lives are so different now. Before, women depended on men's income, but now, with our sewing skills, we can take care of ourselves."***

Irene

**Irene's childhood was marked by hardships. After her father died in a war, Irene along with her mother and siblings were displaced, and her mother became the sole breadwinner for the family.** Despite the difficulties for her mother to afford school fees, Irene persevered to attend school for as long as she could.

However, when Irene was a teenager, she became pregnant and the father of her child abandoned her not long after she gave birth. Irene's lack of education and in turn, limited job opportunities, further complicated her ability to support her family's basic needs.

Without the skills to find paid employment, Irene had a very

limited chance of escaping the cycle of poverty on her own.

Thanks to Caritas Australia's partners, Caritas Kongolo, Irene was able to join the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program and access resources that would give her a second chance to forge a brighter future for herself and her family.

Irene took up a sewing course offered by Caritas Kongolo, who also provided sewing machines and fabrics for sewing. In addition to this, Caritas Kongolo ran agricultural training sessions so that she can grow and produce food for her family.

At the end of the 6-month sewing course, Irene and her peers were provided with sewing machines so they could continue practicing

their skills and earn an income.

Irene's newfound skills not only provide financial stability to her family but have also enabled her to take on a mentoring role, training other young women to sew.

"With the earnings from this job, I can not only buy my own clothes but also for my family members... Regarding the children I send to school, there are my orphaned nephews from my late brother. I make sure to provide for all their

needs," Irene said.

Thanks to the program and the compassion of supporters like you, Irene has been able to break out of a cycle of poverty and can now forge a brighter future for her children.

**Watch Irene's story at:**  
**<https://youtu.be/N6e23H2tAY8>**





# Lam from Vietnam

Growing up in rural Vietnam, Lam dreamed of becoming a graphic artist but faced limited opportunities due to his physical disability.



When Lam graduated high school, many of his fellow students pursued their career aspirations at university, studying to become doctors, teachers and other vocations. But Lam's physical disability meant there were few vocations available to him. Without access to any employment opportunities, he stayed at home with his parents in their rural home in Quang Nam province in central Vietnam.

His future career prospects seemed limited, and he spent most of his time at home completing household chores with his family, harvesting vegetables, feeding chickens and cooking meals. Lam felt increasingly isolated and felt disconnected from his friends, from society and from his dream of becoming a graphic designer.

Around 6 million people live with a disability in Vietnam

Through the I-SHINE program, supported by Caritas Australia's partner in Vietnam, Catholic Relief

Services (CRS), Lam was able to pursue his dreams and become more independent. He enrolled in a six-month IT Technician training course in Da Nang that not only equipped him with professional skills but also rekindled his social connections and confidence.

As a person living in a small rural town, the prospect of commuting to the large city of Da Nang to study was initially daunting for Lam, who had never travelled that far from home. But despite his mobility challenges, Lam was excited to venture out into an urban city to pursue his dreams.

"When I got the chance to be a part of this program, I was over the moon – just bursting with excitement and joy," Lam said.

With the knowledge and skills gained from the course, Lam was able to kickstart his own freelance graphic design business from home.

Today, Lam is a successful graphic designer, freelancing for both local and international clients. He is able to make a stable

***"It's a struggle to feel like we fit into society, and our limited mobility makes it hard to access jobs or education."*** Lam

income from his job and he is an inspiration to other young people in his community facing similar challenges.

"Right now, I'm most proud of being less dependent on my parents. They can finally relax knowing I've found a fulfilling career that I'm truly passionate about," Lam said.

Lam's story shows what is possible when people with a disability are given the opportunity to thrive and fulfil their true potential. But there are still many other people in Vietnam and across the world who

still need the support of people like you so that they are not left behind.

Along with your generous support, this program is also supported by the Australian Government, through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

**Watch Lam's story at:**  
**<https://youtu.be/5kgDTWN4e6A>**





**UNITE AGAINST POVERTY this Lent**

*We're Supporting Project Compassion*



# ARE WE READY FOR THE GRACES OF SAINT CARLO?

Blessed Carlo Acutis, soon to be St Carlo Acutis, is called the “first Millenium Saint”. He is the first saint to be born of in the age of computers and the internet.

BY KATE HOBBS  
President of the Apostolate “Eucharistic Adoration and Veneration of Saints INC.”

**He was born just weeks before the internet was made available for the public. For the first time in history, we will see a saint dressed in jeans, sneakers and a sweater.**

Carlo’s life plan to be always close to Jesus brought him to want to share about Eucharistic Miracles with others. He was sure if people knew about these miracles they would come to believe in Jesus True Presence in the Holy Eucharist. From age of eleven he began to research Eucharistic Miracles in seventeen diKerent counties, visiting many of the places the occurred. He built a website and from this we have the Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles that has been displayed in thousands of parishes around the world on all five continents.

My husband Keiran and I are from Brisbane and have for the last 30yrs been involved in Eucharistic Adoration and for many years helping organise Perpetual Adoration. In 2008 learned about the “Vatican Internation Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition”, through the internet. After much searching to try to find a way to bring it to Australia we were sent a CD of high-resolution pictures that we could print and display. Keiran designed double sided panels on stands that could display these posters, in a way that could be easily transported and erected and we began to have the Exhibition displayed in Brisbane. A few years later as Carlo’s process for canonisation began, it become known that this was his work. After Bl Carlo’s beatification we were inspired to apply for a relic to be venerated with the Exhibition and received this early in 2022.

Until the announcement by Pope Francis of Bl Carlo’s canonisation

on the 23rd of May last year, there had not been much interest in the Exhibition or relic. However, since then I have hardly been home, travelling to fill requests to have the relic venerated and Exhibition presented in parishes and schools in dioceses all over Australia – Tasmania, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst, Sydney, Parramatta, Darwin, Canberra, Perth, Melbourne, and Maitland Newcastle. The requests continue to arrive.

Over this time seeing the response of people of all ages, I have come to understand Bl Carlo is not just a saint for the young. He resonates with all ages. Bl Carlo’s work of the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition draws everyone, believers and unbelievers. It is not unusual to see a light of belief turn on as people read the posters. Many people sit silently for a long time in veneration of his relic and tears are not uncommon. All ages have poured their hearts out in prayer petitions and thousands have been posted to Assisi to Bl Carlo’s tomb.

I believe Bl Carlo, and his Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition is a gift to us to evangelise our schools. I, and others who have presented to school students, have been surprised at the ease to speak of our Catholic faith, with a focus on Jesus Truly Present in the Most

Holy Eucharist, and astounded at the response of students. From Prep to year 12 Bl Carlo speaks to them. Often, we are asked “Can I get to Heaven”, “How can I get to Heaven”, “Why have we not been taught this”?

Thousands of holy cards, flyers on his life and novenas have been distributed. Hundreds of books on his life have been sold. Plans are underway for a shrine at Marian



Valley, Queensland. Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green has presented this apostolate to the Bishops Conference encouraging Bishops to obtain a relic and Exhibition for their Diocese. There are now several Bl Carlo first class relics in the country. Bishop Mark Edwards of Wagga Wagga is planning a “Year of St Carlo” following the canonisation and has a relic and Exhibition to travel to schools and parishes in his diocese. Eight priests have come together in Melbourne to finance an Exhibition and obtained a relic to travel to their parishes and schools. More dioceses are showing interest. It is our hope that our Church here in Australia will be prepared to take full advantage of these graces flowing from Heaven when Bl Carlo is canonised on April 27th, Divine Mercy Sunday in Rome in the Jubilee year of Hope.

So Bl Carlo is on the move in Australia! But are we ready?

From what I have already experienced, this is a powerful grace for the young, uncatechised, as well as a grace of Hope for the faithful. It can transform our Church.

Carlo taught children Catechism, and he would present them with his “9 Step Saint Kit.”

1. Desire with all your heart to be a Saint, and if do not have desire yet, ask for it with

- insistence
2. Go to Mass every day.
3. Receive Holy Communion.
4. Spend some time every day with Jesus in the tabernacle or in Eucharistic Adoration.
5. Recite the Holy Rosary every day.
6. Read a passage from Holy Scripture every day.
7. Regular confession, and if you can, confess every week, even for venial sins.
8. Make promises often to God and Mary to help others.
9. Ask your Guardian Angel, who must become your best friend.

Bl Carlo Acutis will soon be a saint which will enable him to be venerated by the Universal Church. He will be an example of how to live a consistent and generous way of Christian life in the modern world. How to strive to holiness in a daily life bombarded by technology and materialism. He will be the saint we have been waiting for, a saint for our times. One to show us a way, one to show especially our young people.

But are we as a church ready? How will our young people follow his “Saint kit”. Will they be able to access Mass, pray at the tabernacle,



or adore Jesus in a Monstrance? Regular confession?

Saint Carlo is not someone who we will be able to ignore. The secular press will promote him even if our local church does not. The internet will promote him. He is so accessible for our young to learn about his story, and his story always leads to Jesus in the Eucharist.

Is the Church ready? I don't think so. We need some changes. Churches are often closed, Mass times cater for the retired and elderly, and confession is limited. How will our young people be able to follow Carlo's example? How many will lose Hope when they cannot access a church? Confession? Mass? We know the adversary is always looming to take advantage of such disappointments.

We the faithful have work to do to co-operate with this tremendous grace that is beginning to be poured

out from Heaven. Some of this might be uncomfortable and inconvenient. Mass will need to be available earlier in the morning before school and work, or in the evenings. If we enjoy a later Mass time now, will we try to change to an earlier or evening time to enable more people to come to Mass? And Father may not be as available before or after Mass to make himself more available for confession, again in the morning or evenings.

What will be prepared to do to make our churches open? Start rosters ourselves to always have people present in the church so it can remain open? Rosters for Eucharistic adoration? Bl Carlo would say how quickly our desire to be holy would increase if we were to sit before Jesus in a monstrance each night instead of our televisions or other technology.

Jesus in the Monstrance on the Altars of our churches, through the intercession of St Carlo is Who will draw our young people. He will



Above: Bl Carlo Acutis celebrating his birthday.

become their "Highway to Heaven"

We in the Church who believe have some work to do, but in a short time we will have many others to bear the load. Our cooperation with

grace will cause new growth and deeper roots.

***This is not a program; it is a Heavenly grace!***

# Divine Mercy Sunday

at St Michael's Cathedral Wagga Wagga - 27th April 2025

## Carlo Acutis Canonisation Pilgrimage

**Embark on a Pilgrimage of Grace  
Encounter the Passion of Carlo Acutis  
Savour Fellowship and Joy  
Immerse Yourself in Divine Mercy**

- 10:00 am Solemn Mass of Divine Mercy, Cathedral
- 11:00 am Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Cathedral
- 12:00 am Veneration of St Carlo Acutis
- Arrival of pilgrims
- 1:00 pm Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles
- Sausage Sizzle Lunch
- 1:45 pm Talk on St Carlo
- 2:15 pm Holy Hour Devotions, Jubilee Prayers, Confessions, Exposition
- 3:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 3:15 pm Departure



**Join us on 27th April 2025  
Divine Mercy Sunday.  
Open your heart to the transformative power of God's mercy.**



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# THE ONE TRUE TEACHER: CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

In 2 Timothy 4:3-5, St. Paul warns that there will be a time when people reject sound teaching and follow their own desires, seeking out teachers who tell them what they want to hear. Instead of listening to the truth, they will be led astray by myths. As Christians, we are called to stand firm in our faith, endure hardships, and carry out our mission to evangelize.

BY FR THOMAS CASANOVA CCS  
Parish Priest, Our Lady of Fatima, Wagga Wagga

**Imagine if someone claimed to be a doctor and said, “You can trust me.” Would it make sense to trust that person if they were talking about medicine? Of course.** But what if that same person started making claims about the end of the world or religious matters? As Catholics, we turn to Jesus as our Teacher, who said, “You have only one Teacher, the Christ.” How does Christ teach us today? Through His Church.

The Second Vatican Council explains that the Magisterium, which includes the Pope and the bishops, is entrusted with safeguarding, teaching, and interpreting God’s revelation (both Scripture and Tradition). The Church communicates this truth through official documents, such as the

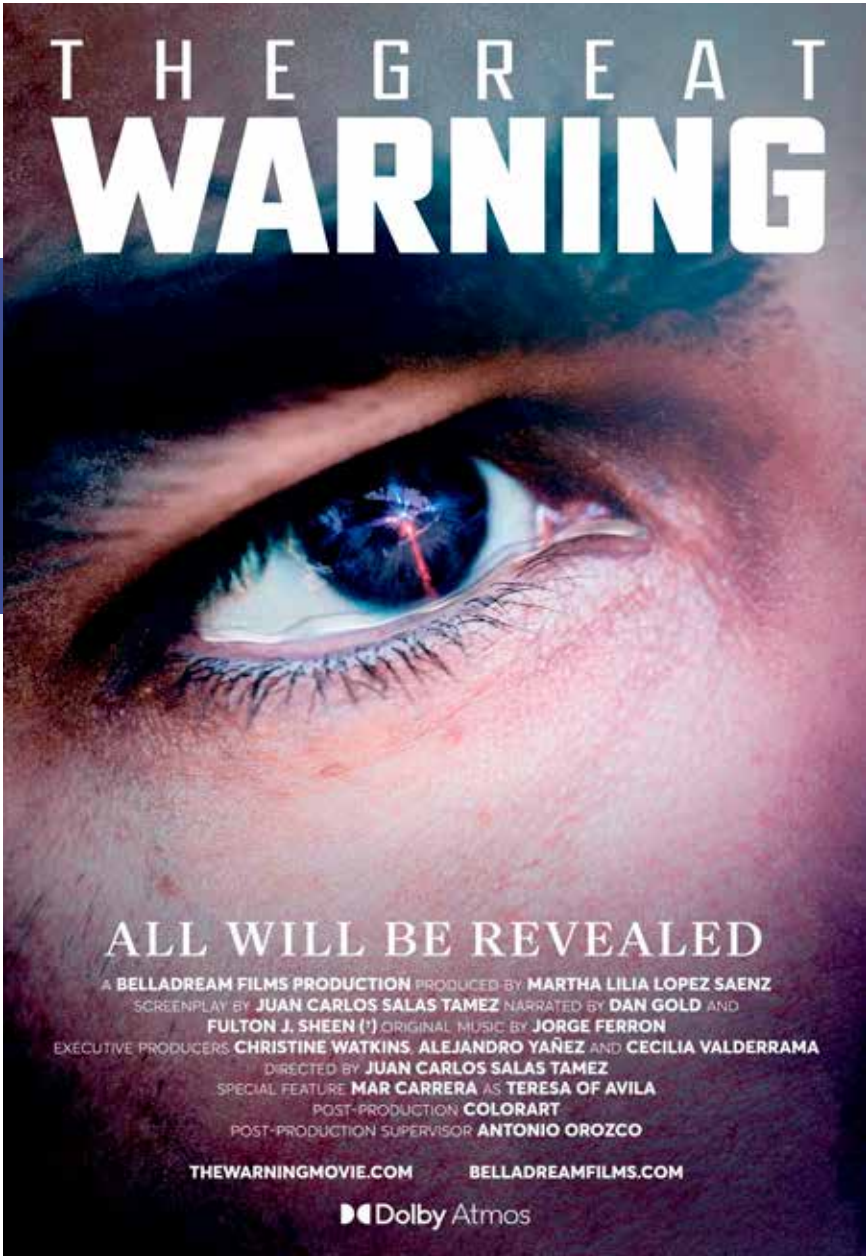
*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which serves as a clear guide to the Catholic Faith. The Creed, recited at Mass, also provides a concise summary of our beliefs.

St. Paul was deeply concerned about false teachings creeping into the Church. He warned, “If anyone comes to you preaching a gospel other than the one you received, let them be cursed!” (Galatians 1:9). The Apostle John also advised, “*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or even greet them*” (2 John 1:10). We must be vigilant against anyone teaching a version of Christianity that differs from what the Church teaches.

What should we do if a person with a charismatic personality and a reputation for holiness, maybe



Above: A scene from *The Great Warning*.



Above: *The Great Warning* recently screened in Wagga Wagga.

even a large following on social media, begins to teach something new or strange that the Church has not officially endorsed? Just like a child would be wise to avoid getting into a stranger's car, we must be cautious. We should respond, “I need to check with the Church first,” or “I don’t listen to those outside the Church’s authority.”

Even if someone claims to be an “official exorcist” or a “Vatican theologian,” this does not give them the authority to teach outside the Church’s established structure. Being an exorcist or studying in Rome does not make someone a teacher of the faith in the same way as a bishop or pope. Don’t let anyone deceive you into believing teachings that are not supported by the Church. Your faith is too valuable.

What if someone claims to have received new prophecies or revelations, especially if they make grand or frightening predictions? Should we be afraid to ignore them? No, we should not fear being prudent. Our focus should always be, “Is this teaching supported by the Church? Is it found in the Catechism? Is it endorsed by the

Pope?” If not, then it is not part of our Catholic faith.

For example, a film recently shown in Wagga Wagga, “*The Great Warning*,” claimed that there would be a worldwide, 15-minute illumination of consciences. This idea promotes a quick, dramatic solution to the world’s problems, but it also discourages the need for evangelization. If such an event were to happen, people would supposedly know the truth without anyone needing to witness to them. This is misleading and dangerous for the living of the faith. We must avoid the temptation to seek out more private revelations or sensational ideas.

Our primary task as Christians is to embrace the solid, guaranteed teachings of Christ, which are found within the Church, and to live them joyfully. We must repent of our sins, share the Good News, and witness to the world. **Instead of longing for new revelations, we are called to faithfully follow the teachings that have been handed down through the Church, trusting in the wisdom and authority that Christ established.**



# WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HOLY WEEK?

Whether Easter is a season of faith and adoration for you, or a time to relax and connect with others (and maybe eat some chocolate) Easter is a special time for many.

Holy Week this year runs from 13 April to 19 April 2025 and for a great number of Christians around the globe – well over two billion in total – the days leading up to Easter Sunday are sometimes known as Holy Week.

**What are the events of Holy Week and what is The Holy Week story?**

Holy Week is the most sacred time in the Christian calendar, marking Jesus’ final days on earth and his ultimate sacrifice for humanity. It is a time of deep spiritual reflection, reminding believers of his journey of love, suffering and redemption. The week begins with Palm Sunday, celebrating Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, followed by Maundy Thursday, commemorating the Last Supper where Jesus washed his disciples’ feet and shared a final meal with them. Good Friday is a day of reflection, remembering his crucifixion — a sacrifice made to redeem the world. Holy Week leads to Easter Sunday, a day of hope, celebrating Christ’s resurrection and victory over sin and death.

**Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday recalls the time Jesus last entered Jerusalem before his crucifixion. The day is called Palm Sunday, as it commemorates Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, as the crowds waved palm branches, threw cloaks on the path in front of him and shouted praises. They thought Jesus was coming as a king to overthrow Roman imperialism and had not yet understood that God’s plan was to establish an eternal kingdom to save all people.

At the time of Jesus’ last days and death, Jerusalem was full of pilgrims, celebrating the Jewish festival of the Passover. It was also a time of political turmoil and unrest, with Jerusalem and Judea under the control of the Roman Empire.

Jerusalem would have been buzzing with stories of Jesus that year – the preacher and teacher who taught with authority, cared for people who were marginalised and outcast, healed miraculously, challenged the hypocrisy of some religious teachers, claimed he was fulfilling prophecies and that he was the Son of God.

**Holy Wednesday**

Holy Wednesday, also known as Spy Wednesday, marks the plot by Judas, who was one of Jesus’ 12 close followers, to betray Jesus to the religious authorities (the Jewish chief priests and elders). Many of the religious leaders of the time were threatened by Jesus’ popularity and had been challenged by Jesus about their hypocrisy.

**Holy Thursday**

Holy Thursday is also sometimes known as the Last Supper or Maundy Thursday. It commemorates the final meal Jesus ate with his closest disciples. It was a special Jewish meal and ceremony called the Passover. Prior to the meal, Jesus washed his disciples’ feet – a job the lowliest servant would usually do. He was teaching them that leadership consists of humility and love. After the Passover meal, Judas betrayed Jesus to the religious leaders, for the price of 30 pieces of silver. Jesus was



then handed to the Roman authorities to be killed.

**Good Friday**

Good Friday commemorates a sad and dark day, full of hardship and hopelessness. The events leading up to Jesus’ death on Good Friday were filled with darkness and sorrow. Jesus experienced fear and anxiety about what lay before him, but he knew that his mission was to suffer and experience all of God’s wrath as a substitute for what humankind deserves. God is loving, but also a God of justice.

But in this moment of suffering and struggle, Jesus prayed to God, his Heavenly Father, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

Instead of stopping Jesus’ suffering, God gave Jesus the strength to endure the path to the cross. This was part of God’s greater plan of redemption for the people of the world who he loved so much.

Read more about Good Friday

**Holy Saturday**

This final day of Holy Week is also known as the Great Sabbath, Easter Eve, Joyous Saturday and more. It marks a day of anticipation, meditation and reflection,

and for some, preparations for Easter Sunday celebrations. It also marks the end of Lent (fasting) that many undertake in the leadup to Easter.

**Easter Sunday**

Happily, the Easter story doesn’t finish with Holy Week. The day after Holy Week, on Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate Jesus rising to life again.

Through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, Christians believe he brings light, hope and the chance for salvation and eternal life to the world.

On this day, Christians in many cultures happily greet each other with phrases such as “Christ is risen”, with the response, “He is risen indeed”. It is a day of hope, thankfulness and joy – and a day that billions around the world celebrate.

Jesus, who identified himself as the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for his sheep promises an abundant, meaningful life to those who surrender their lives to him and follow him.

***“I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows],”*** (John 10:10, AMP).

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# DARK NIGHTS OF THE HEART

There are times when our world unravels. Who hasn't had the feeling? "I'm falling apart! This is beyond me! My heart is broken! I feel betrayed by everything! Nothing makes sense anymore! Life is upside down!"

BY RON ROLHEISER  
[www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com)

**Jesus had a cosmic image for this. In the Gospels, he talks about how the world as we experience it will someday end: "The sun will be darkened, the moon will not give forth its light, stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken."** When Jesus says this, he is not talking as much about cosmic cataclysms as of cataclysms of the heart. Sometimes our inner world is shaken, turned upside down; it gets dark in the middle of the day, there's an earthquake in the heart; we experience the end of the world as we've known it.

However, in this upheaval, Jesus assures us that one thing remains sure: God's promise of fidelity. That doesn't get turned upside down and in our disillusionment we are given a chance to see what really is of substance, permanent, and worthy of our lives. Thus, ideally at least, when our trusted world is turned upside down, we are given the chance to grow, to become less selfish, and to see reality more clearly.

Christian mystics call this "a dark night of the soul" and they express it as if God were actively turning our world upside down and deliberately causing all the heartache to purge and cleanse us.

The great Spanish mystic John of the Cross puts it this way: God gives us seasons of fervor and then takes them away. In our seasons of fervor, God gives us consolation, pleasure, and security inside our relationships, our prayer, and our work (sometimes with considerable passion and intensity). This is a gift from God and is meant to be enjoyed. But John tells us, at a certain point, God takes away the pleasure and consolation and we experience a certain dark night in that where we once felt fire, passion, consolation, and security, we will now feel dryness, boredom, disillusion, and insecurity. For John of the Cross, all honeymoons eventually end.

Why? Why would God do this? Why can't a honeymoon last forever?

Because eventually, though not initially, it blocks us from seeing straight. Initially all those wonderful feelings we feel when we first fall in love, when we first begin to pray deeply, and when we first begin to find our legs in the world. These are part of God's plan and God's way of drawing us forward. The passion and consolation we feel help lead us out of ourselves, beyond fear and selfishness. But, eventually, the good feelings themselves become a problem because



we can get hung up on them rather than on what's behind them.

Honeymoons are wonderful; but, on a honeymoon, too often we are more in love with being in love and all the wonderful energy this creates than we are in love with the person behind all those feelings. The same is true for faith and prayer. When we first begin to pray seriously, we are often more in love with the experience of praying and what it's doing for us than we are in love with God. On any honeymoon, no matter how intense and pure the feelings seem, those feelings are still partly about ourselves rather than purely about the person we think we love. Sadly, that is why many a warm, passionate honeymoon eventually turns into a cold, passionless relationship.

Until we are purified, and we are purified precisely through dark nights of disillusionment, we are too much still seeking ourselves in love and in everything else. Therese of Lisieux used to warn: "Be careful not to seek yourself in love, you'll end up with a broken heart that way!" We'd have fewer heartaches if we understood that. Also, before we are

purified by disillusionment, most of the tears we shed, no matter how real the pain or loss, often say more about us than they say about the person or situation we are supposedly mourning.

In all this, there's both bad news and good news: The bad news is that most everything we sense as precious will someday be taken from us. Everything gets crucified, including every feeling of warmth and security we have. But the good news is that it will all be given back again, more deeply, more purely, and even more passionately than before.

What dark nights of the soul, cataclysms of the heart, do is to take away everything that feels like solid earth so that we end up in a free-fall, unable to grab on to anything that once supported us. But, in falling, we get closer to bedrock, to God, to reality, to truth, to love, to each other, beyond illusions, beyond selfishness, and beyond self-interested love that can masquerade as altruism.

**Clarity in eyesight comes after disillusionment, purity of heart comes after heartbreak, and real love comes after the honeymoon has passed.**



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# POPE APPROVES NEXT PHASE OF SYNOD, SETTING PATH TO 2028 ASSEMBLY

Pope Francis has approved a three-year implementation phase for the Synod on Synodality, focusing on integrating its conclusions into church life before an ecclesial assembly at the Vatican in 2028.

BY JUSTIN MCLELLAN  
www.usccb.org

**Pope Francis has approved the next phase of the Synod of Bishops on synodality, launching a three-year implementation process that will culminate in an ecclesial assembly at the Vatican in October 2028.**

In a letter published March 15, Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the synod, announced that the synod's new phase will focus on applying its conclusions at all levels of the church, with dioceses, bishops' conferences and religious communities working to integrate synodality into daily church life before the meeting at the Vatican in 2028.

"For now, therefore, a new synod will not be convened; instead, the focus will be on consolidating the path taken so far," he wrote in the letter addressed to all bishops, eparchs and the presidents

mandatory pastoral councils and continued study on women in ministry and seminary formation.

Over the next three years, dioceses, bishops' conferences and religious communities will work to integrate synodal principles into church life with the guidance of a Vatican-issued document scheduled to be published in May.

Evaluation assemblies at diocesan, national and continental levels from 2027 to early 2028 will assess progress before a final ecclesial assembly at the Vatican in October 2028, where church leaders will reflect on the synodal journey and discern future steps, the cardinal said.

According to the apostolic constitution "Universi Dominici Gregis," which governs procedures when the papacy is vacant, a council or Synod of



Above: Cardinal-designate Timothy Radcliffe, theologian and former master of the Dominican order, who has been serving as a spiritual adviser to the Synod of Bishops on synodality, speaks during a morning session of the synod in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican Oct. 21, 2024. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

key issues raised during the first session of the synodal assembly in 2023, such as the role of women in the church, seminary formation and church governance.

The study groups were scheduled to present their findings to the pope before June 2025; however, they can also offer an "interim report" then as they continue their work, Cardinal Grech said.

The cardinal added that a key

"helping the churches to walk in a synodal style." He explained that the church must continue "a path of accompaniment and evaluation" rather than treating the synod as a one-time event.

The cardinal encouraged local churches to engage in ongoing reflection on the insights of the synod rather than simply replicating past listening sessions, warning that the synod's

Below: Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the synod, speaks at a news conference at the Vatican Oct. 26, 2024. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)



Above: Pope Francis and members of the Synod of Bishops on synodality attend the synod's final working session Oct. 26, 2024, in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

of national and regional bishops' conferences.

Cardinal Grech told bishops that Pope Francis approved the three year plan March 11 at Rome's Gemelli hospital where he has been being treated since Feb. 14.

The final document of the synod on synodality, approved by Pope Francis in October 2024, emphasized synodality as essential to the church's mission and called for greater lay participation,

Bishops is immediately suspended when a pope dies or resigns. All meetings, decisions and promulgations must cease until a new pope explicitly orders their continuation, or they are considered null.

In the letter, Cardinal Grech noted that implementation phase of the synod "provides the framework" for implementing the results of the 10 Vatican-appointed study groups which, since March 2024, have been examining

component of the implementation process will be the strengthening of synodal teams, composed of clergy, religious and laypeople, who will work alongside bishops to accompany "the ordinary synodal life of local churches."

In an interview with Vatican News accompanying the letter's publication March 15, Cardinal Grech said that this phase of the synodal process is not about adding bureaucratic tasks but about

implementation "must not take place in isolation."

**The 2028 ecclesial assembly, Cardinal Grech said, will be an opportunity to "gather the fruits of the journey" and offer the pope "a real ecclesial experience to inform his discernment as the successor of Peter, with perspectives to propose to the entire church."**





# Jubilee 2025

## Diocese of Wagga Wagga Calendar of Events



### APRIL

**15 April**  
Chrism Mass

**28 April**  
Jubilee of Teenagers

### MAY

**4 May**  
Jubilee of Workers and  
Entrepreneurs

**25 May**  
Jubilee of Children

**30 May**  
Jubilee of Families,  
Grandparents and the Elderly



### JUNE

**24 June**  
Jubilee of Seminarians

**26 June**  
Jubilee of Priests

### JULY

**3 July**  
Jubilee of Parish Scretaries

### SEPTEMBER

**26-28 September**  
Jubilee of Catechists

**29 September - 12 October**  
Pilgrimage of Hope to Italy  
with Fr Paddy Sykes

### OCTOBER

**9 October**  
Jubilee of Consecrated Life

**12 October**  
Jubilee of Marian Sprituality

**20-24 October**  
Diocesan All-Clergy Retreat

**30 October - 2 November**  
Jubilee of World of Education

### NOVEMBER

**23 November**  
Jubilee of Choirs

### DECEMBER

**14 December**  
Jubilee of Prisoners  
(Junee & Mannus)

# Anzac Day Prayer

*God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks this day for the peace  
and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the courage and  
devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war.*

*We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain, but that  
their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come. That the  
liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and  
known in all the nations upon earth.*

*This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of  
the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

# Lest We forget





# CONSECRATION TO ST JOSEPH

“Devotion to St. Joseph is one of the choicest graces that God can give to a soul, for it is tantamount to revealing the entire treasury of our Lord’s graces. When God wishes to raise a soul to great heights, He unites it to St. Joseph by giving it a strong love for the saint.” So says St. Peter Julian Eymard in the book *Consecration to St. Joseph*, written by Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC, first published in 2020.



BY MARK MANNERING

**Consecration to St. Joseph, similar to St. Louis de Montfort’s *Total Consecration to Mary* developed in the early 1700s,** is a 33-day program designed to guide you through a commitment and devotion to St. Joseph, our Lord’s foster-father and the virginal spouse of the Virgin Mary. The Litany of St. Joseph, which was approved relatively recently by St. Pope Pius X in 1909, forms the basic structure of Fr. Calloway’s book. Most of the 33 days of the program focus on particular invocations or titles within the Litany of St. Joseph, such as Spouse of the Mother of God, Chaste Guardian of the Virgin,

First, we need the spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph (as well as the spiritual motherhood of our Blessed Mother) to help us protect marriage and the family. Second, the entire world, including baptised Christians, need to be re-evangelised, and St. Joseph, being the first missionary, can help us bring Jesus to the nations. Even if one has consecrated oneself to Our Lady, consecration to St. Joseph can be a wonderful, spiritual and complementary addition. St. Joseph’s role and mission could be considered the most important of anybody born on this earth, after Our Lady and her Son Jesus. However, relatively very little is written about him in the scriptures. Fr. Calloway’s book, with readings, insights and commentaries, and the consecration itself, will help you discover hidden treasures about St. Joseph. Whatever our position or vocation in this life, we are called to live St. Joseph’s many virtues, including strength, chastity and humility.

The consecration can be done either as an individual or in a group setting. When done as a group, members meet once a week for six weeks to discuss the previous week’s daily devotions as outlined in the book. The book also contains ‘lesson plans’ that outline the structure of the weekly meetings, suggestions for group discussion and sharing of insights, and thought-provoking questions on the previous week’s readings.

It is strongly recommended that the actual consecration day, day 33, whether done as an individual or in a group setting, falls on a feast day related to St. Joseph. Fr. Calloway’s book contains a chart to help you plan ahead to a particular feast day for the final consecration.

Terror of Demons, etc. The program is intended to help you live your life more closely connected to St. Joseph and his qualities and virtues.

There are two (2) main reasons to consider consecrating oneself to St. Joseph, as stated in Fr. Calloway’s book.

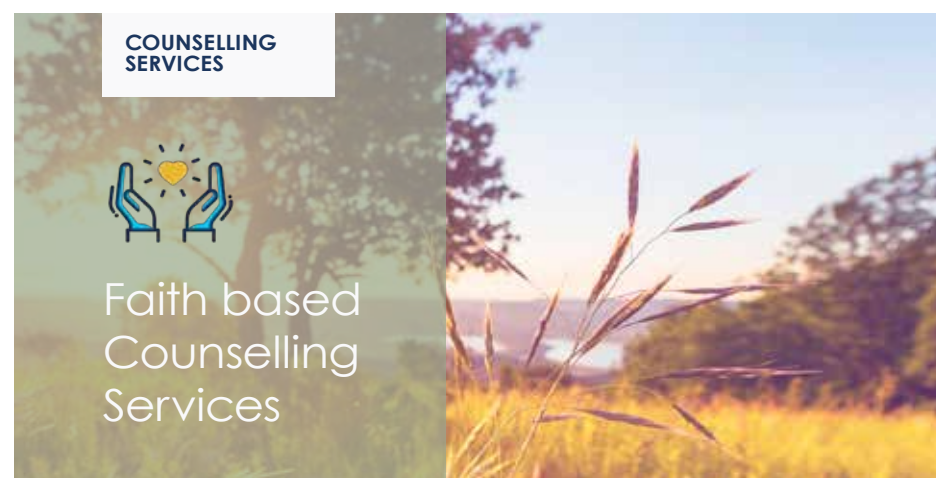
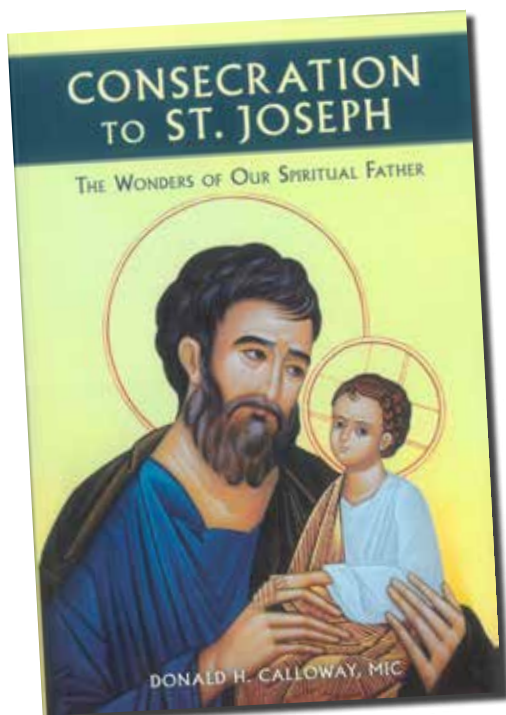
A group of men recently completed the consecration program in Albury, meeting each week at the Esencia Life

Centre. Their consecration day was completed on 19th March, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, and group first met for Day 1 in the middle of February. They shared and enjoyed many discussions and insights about the content of each previous week, and viewed related videos present by Fr. Calloway himself, which further unpacked the various topics and readings. A companion workbook was provided to each member for recording notes, answers to questions and much

more. It is planned to run the program in Albury again.

If you are interested in completing the consecration to St. Joseph as an individual, or if you would like to run your own group consecration, please contact me, Mark Mannering, on 0419-411-161 to discuss details and how to obtain Fr. Calloway’s book, the companion workbook and video resources.

***Ite ad Joseph!***



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**About our counsellor:**

Stina Constantine is an AASW accredited Social Worker with qualifications in Psychology and Social work. She has close to 10 years’ experience working with families of high conflict and family break downs and is trained in couple’s therapy. Her passion points in practice are working with couples and trauma counselling.

Stina is a practicing Christian who has been actively involved in her church community. Her extensive experience in Church ministry has allowed her to meet and work with a variety of people including clergy, adults, children, and families.

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# Centacare South West NSW



## TAKING CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

We place a high value on mental health and recovery at Centacare. We offer a range of psychological services to people across the southern and western parts of region.

Centacare South West NSW is registered with Medicare Australia to provide services under the Medicare Benefits Scheme. Our professional team of psychologists provide assessment and treatment for people with mental health problems.

Referral by a general practitioner under a Mental Health Plan is required.

Psychological Services are available in Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Albury and Mulwala. We specialise in areas including:

- Learning difficulties
- Autism spectrum disorders (ASD)
- Anxiety / Depression
- Family issues
- School refusal
- Grief and loss
- Trauma
- Social, emotional or behavioural difficulties.



info@centacareswnsw.org.au  
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**THERAPEUTIC** Depending on the individual's needs and preferences, our team use a variety of evidence- based approaches including:

- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Mindfulness
- Acceptance and commitment therapy
- Narrative therapy
- Motivational interviewing
- Positive psychology
- Strengths based approaches



## OUR GENERALIST COUNSELLING SERVICES

Throughout our lives we are all faced with stressful situations and difficult events, such as relationship problems (including family breakdown and separation), parenting stressors, the death of a loved one, school or work issues, mental health concerns and so on. We know that it can be helpful to talk to someone, such as a counsellor, who can support you through these challenging times.

At Centacare South West NSW we have professional and qualified counsellors at our sites in Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Albury and Mulwala. They work across the lifespan with individuals, couples and families with the overall aim of empowering people to achieve their goals and to improve their functioning and wellbeing.



## PARENTING & CHILDREN

We offer a wide range of parenting and education programs and services that focus on building skills, strategies and knowledge so you can enjoy positive relationships.

### Parent Education & Coaching

Helping parents understand their child's developmental, social and emotional needs by learning to navigate pivotal transitional phases throughout their child's life.

### Individual Parenting Support

Our Individual Parent Support Services helps parents understand their child's developmental, social and emotional needs by learning to navigate pivotal transitional phases throughout their child's life.

### Family Group Conferencing

Family group conferencing aids in the family-led decision making process to develop a plan of support for a child or young person.

### Children & Youth Support Services

Children and Youth Counselling and Support for children to better manage emotions and difficulties with interpersonal relationships with families and peers.



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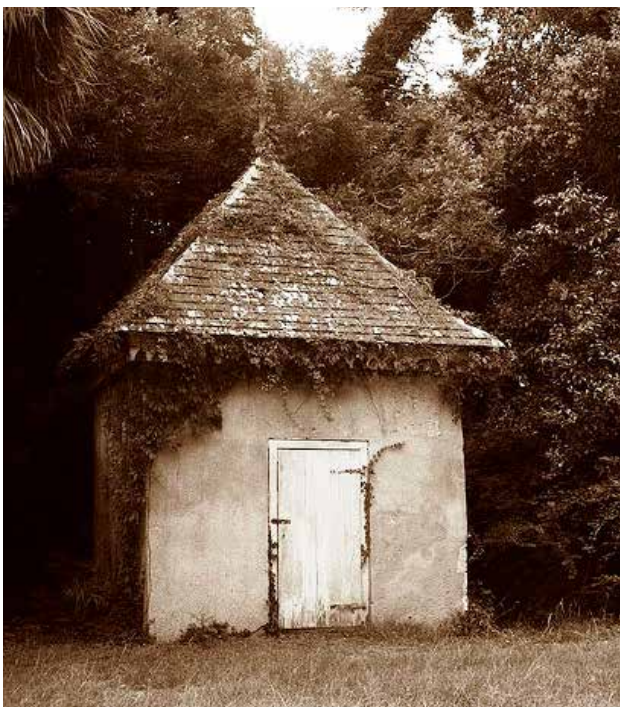


# THE RED HAND FILES

How do you manage to balance your creative life with your family commitments? I've been a 'hobby' painter for years, but since the first COVID lockdown, I have taken it way more seriously and have reached a point where it's all I want to do. I'm genuinely thrilled by what is happening at the end of the brush, but I am increasingly aware of the cost of hours and hours spent in my shed rather than with my wife and son. My desire to create feels like a compulsion, and I'm struggling to work out whether it's the purpose of my life or some kind of mental illness.

I'm in my 50s and still have a real job. I'm realistic about the unlikelihood of ever being able to paint full-time. But I believe, as much as I believe in anything, that this is the real thing and is of value. I want to spend every hour I can exploring this world. Any thoughts you have would be very welcome.

- John, Wellington, N.Z.



BY NICK CAVE  
redhandfiles.com

**Dear John,**

Often questions come in to *The Red Hand Files* that I don't feel I have the authority, expertise, or even understanding to address. Of course, this doesn't always stop me from attempting to respond, but it does give me pause. I had no such trouble with your question, John. I completely identified with it, and I know how to answer it. I am an expert in these matters.

You have a wife, a son, a shed, and a creative compulsion - what could possibly go wrong? My office was your shed, it was separate from the house and I would spend most of my time there. The house felt like a well-established and settled place, while the office was a mysterious and magical realm, a place where I transformed into the person I always believed I was meant to be.

You brilliantly capture the sensation of being inside the breathless rush of the creative process, where time holds no sway and the whole world seems to crystallise into a written word or a stroke of paint. Compulsive and charged with a devilish energy, you feel in your very bones that this is what you were destined to do.

You wonder whether this is a mental illness. I believe it is. The artistic impulse is an exquisite derangement - like drugs, like love, like faith, like grief - a complete and full-force commandeering of the body and the heart. It is a kind of possession, a thrilling seduction, an enchantment, as the ink and paint flow and dance. So demonically exhilarating is this sensation that we think - "This must be the purpose of life!"

But, John, *it is not*.

The creative urge is a gift not afforded to everyone, and those of us who possess it bear a responsibility to pursue that impulse wholeheartedly. However, there are other duties beyond those at the tip of your brush or nib of my pen - beautiful and sacrificial fidelities.

You have committed to your wife and son to offer them more than just the crumbs of yourself, the dregs of what remains of you after a day with the devil in the shed. You are in service to your creative impulses - and by the same token to God - but you are also in service to the world as it presents itself, and to those entrusted to you. This is a point of honour. It is with a hard-earned understanding, and the most profound regret, that I can tell you that no artistic endeavour, no matter how sublime it may appear, is worth denying your family or sacrificing those in your care.

My advice, John, is to cherish your wife and love your child with all your heart, and then go to your shed - in that order. I'm saving you a world of heartache, my friend. In the years to come, you will thank me.

**Love, Nick**



## Aged Care. Local care.

The Forrest Centre understands the Riverina community and Aged Care inside and out. We provide tailored support throughout the entire ageing journey.

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- Residential and respite care – Mary Potter Nursing Home and Loreto Home of Compassion
- Specialist support – dementia and continence care
- In-home help and support – Forrest Community Services
- Palliative care – The Forrest Centre Hospice



**The Forrest Centre**  
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**Lean on the locals.**

## Holy Spirit Parish Annual Bush Dance

**With the GMO Bush Band**

**Date:** Saturday 31st May, from 7 pm.

**Where:** Holy Spirit Parish Hall, Mutsch Street, Lavington

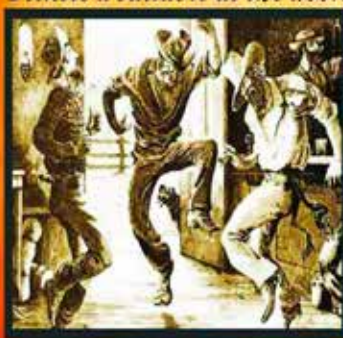
**What:** Bush-dancing, games, prizes, etc.

**BYO:** Supper, drinks; coffee/tea provided.

**Entry:** \$15 per person, or \$30 per family.

**More info:** Phone (02) 6025 1784


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*All ages welcome!*

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*EFTPOS payments available at the door for credit cards only.*





# THE OUTRAGEOUSLY BEAUTIFUL TRUTH OF THE CROSS

At the most recent Virtue Ministry retreat, Father Sean Byrnes shared an anecdote from the seminary classroom. During a lecture he posed the following question: “Whose sins did Jesus die for on the cross?” To which the seminarians dutifully reply, “Our sins.”

BY EMILY SHAW

Virtue Ministry Writer and Graphic Designer

**Again he repeats the question, receiving the same answer.** This, he reflected, can happen any number of times until eventually the penny drops and a seminarian answers: “My sins.”

He died for MY sins.

We Catholics can get caught in the collective, and lose sight of the individual. Yes, Jesus died for our sins, and those of the whole world. But he died for my sins, and for yours, individually.

Herein, observes Fr Byrnes, lies the “outrageously beautiful truth: he died for me.”

This reality, which we can become complacent about, is the most perfect and profound example of love that we will ever see or experience.

And yet, how easy it is to skip over the crucifixion and land on Easter Sunday. How easy it is to race out of the church after Mass instead of spending a few extra moments with Our Lord.

## Discipleship requires relationship

Saint Augustine is credited as saying that “God loves each of us

as if there were only one of us.” It’s a beautiful thought. But it raises a question in return: how much do I love God?

Don’t worry, I’m over here considering that I’m falling short of the mark too.

However, that can be rectified, through a little effort on our part and, more importantly, the grace of God.

G.K. Chesterton famously wrote: “Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair.”

He doesn’t mean this in the worldly sense of course. What he is encouraging us to is a relationship with God.

Relationship - the way in which two or more people or things are connected, or the state of being connected – is not a one-way street. We are all aware that relationships take effort, investment, time and often patience. We learn to accept people despite their faults, encourage them to be their best self and forgive them when they hurt us.

At least, that’s what we’re aiming towards.

None of us are perfect, but we should all be attempting to acquire



these virtues, to model healthy relationships with those around us, and most importantly of all, to build and invest in our relationship with God.

It is not enough to say our prayers out of obligation or routine. Saint Josemaria Escriva once inscribed in the cover of a book, gifted to a young architect: “May you seek Christ, may you find Christ, may you know Christ, may you love Christ!”

We can’t become more like Christ, and advance on the path to holiness, if we don’t know Him personally. We need to seek Him out; in meditative prayer that goes beyond rote recitation of prayers, sit in silence with Him in Adoration, and receive Him regularly in the Eucharist. We need to read and meditate on His life, reading the Gospel everyday.

We will only hear His voice in the silence. We will only learn

more about Him, to recognise His voice, if we are open to Him.

This is where the virtue of self-knowledge comes in – ask yourself, am I really open to hearing God’s voice or just my own? Do I make time to spend with Him each day in a deliberate and planned way, or do I go about my day without making time for prayer and thinking that I can ‘catch up’ another time?

How can I seek Him more? How can I get to know Him better? How can I love Him, as much as is humanly possible?

I don’t have all of the answers, but the Church does. It also has the Sacraments, the Saints and the deposit of faith.

**But, what if the most outrageously beautiful thing we could do for Christ was to seek Him, find Him, know Him and love Him?**

APRIL VIRTUE CHALLENGE:

self-knowledge  
Virtue  
MINISTRY

## GOALS

### WRITE DOWN:

3 practical and realistic ways in which you can grow in this virtue  
*as well as*  
3 obstacles you can foresee to growing in this virtue

### EVALUATE:

Check your progress every night and see how you went and where you can improve.

### SHARE:

Your progress with an accountability partner or with us on our Facebook page - we’re doing this challenge too!





# ENTER FULLY INTO HOLY WEEK WITH THESE RESOURCES:

BY EMILY SHAW

Virtue Ministry Writer and Graphic Designer

## Read: On the Passion of Christ by Thomas A Kempis and/or The Sacred Passion by Luis de Palma

Although many of us are familiar with St Thomas A Kempis’ *The Imitation of Christ*, this additional work of his sometimes flies under the radar. This slim volume has become my required Lenten reading during Holy Week over the last few years and you won’t need to read more than a page or two to see why.

Oriented around the events of Holy Week, and the sufferings of Our Lord, *On the Passion of Christ* is a provocative and consoling exploration of Jesus’ love for us. It is possible to read this book as a day-to-day reflection during Holy Week and it might just increase your love and appreciation for Our Lord!

Going into these recommendations I couldn’t go past *On the Passion of Christ* – I can’t recommend it highly enough – but a friend recently recommended Luis de Palma’s *The Sacred Passion* to me, and you might find this quieter yet insightful book a surprising contemplative aid. I haven’t finished it (by the time this goes to print I will) but so far, I am finding it excellent.

NB. If you’re not a big reader you can always watch Mel Gibson’s *The Passion*. It’s not for the faint of heart, of course, but a visual portrait of suffering for our salvation.

## Sing along to: That Old Rugged Cross

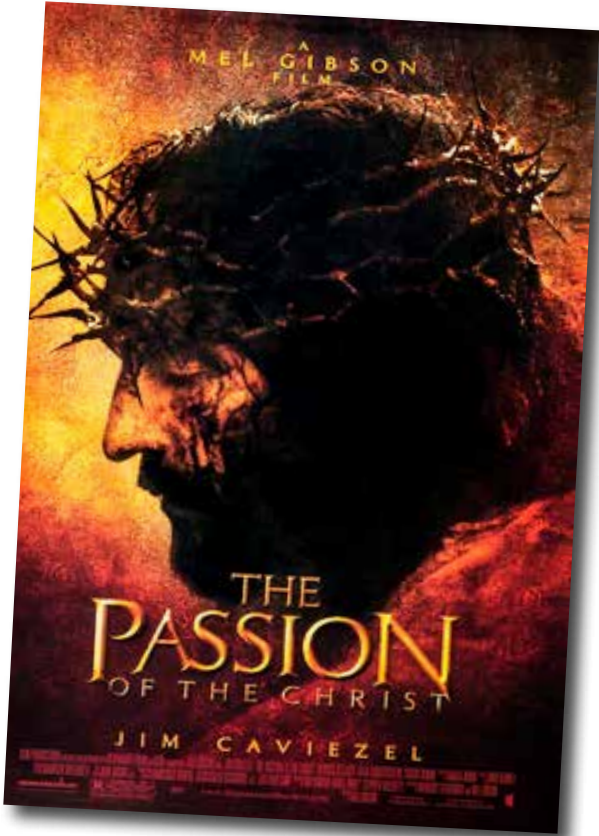
This has long been a favourite song for us. It features on our Lenten playlist (which, with 8 kids, ranges from Veggie Tales and Brother Francis ditties to more classical orchestral renditions of traditional hymns) and was, more recently, played at the graveside as we farewelled a dearly loved friend and local parishioner. The final verse and refrain a little bittersweet:

*To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear  
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away  
Where his glory forever I'll share  
So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown*

Now, as our family remembers ‘Mr. Craig’ we can’t help but hear this hymn and think of his simplicity, joy, and genuine love for everyone he encountered. It is a poignant recollection of a friend who, on his death bed, was excited because he was going to meet Jesus.

## Listen to: Living Fullness Podcast S03 E05 – Why ‘Good’ Friday?

Living Fullness hosts Father Sean Byrnes and Stina Constantine ask the question Why Friday? Why that day of the week? They find the answer to these question, and more besides, in an interesting place – the Book of Genesis. They also explore the Agony in the Garden, bolstered



by insights from Romano Guardini’s *The Humanity of Christ: Contributions to a Psychology of Jesus*. Some of these insights include: the agony was the hardest part of the Passion, and things got ‘easier’ from that point. Food for thought and well worth a listen!

# EASTER MASS TIMES

## St Michael's Cathedral

12th April - Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm  
13th April - PALM SUNDAY  
8:00am, 10:00am, 5:30pm  
15th April - HOLY TUESDAY  
7:00am, 11:00am CHRISM MASS  
NO noon Mass  
17th April - HOLY THURSDAY  
7:00pm Mass of the Last Supper  
Adoration till 9:30pm  
Confessions from 8:15pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY  
9:00am Confessions  
10:00am Stations of the Cross  
3:00pm Veneration of the Cross  
4:00pm Confessions  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY  
11:00am Confessions  
7:30pm Easter Vigil  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY  
8:00am, 10:00am, 5:30pm  
Note: No other Mass times this week outside of what is listed above

## Mt Erin Chapel

19th April -HOLY SATURDAY:  
1962 Missal Mass: 7:00pm  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY:  
1962 Missal Mass: 10:00am

## St Patricks, Albury

12th April - SATURDAY – 5pm Vigil Mass  
13th April - PALM SUNDAY  
8:00am, 10:00am, 5:30pm  
12:00pm 1962 Missal Mass  
17th April - HOLY THURSDAY  
6:00pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper  
Followed by Adoration until 10:00pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY  
10:00am Stations of the Cross  
10:00am – 12:00pm - Confessions  
3:00pm the Lord’s Passion  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY  
10:00am – 11:30am  
Confessions 5:00pm – 5:45pm - Confessions  
6.00pm Easter Vigil Mass  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY

8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm  
12:00pm 1962 Missal Mass  
Note: Weekday Masses during Holy Week –  
Monday and Wednesday at 7:00am, Tuesday  
7:00am and 5:30pm.  
No morning Mass Holy Thursday.

## Our Lady of Fatima, South Wagga

17th April - HOLY THURSDAY: 7.00pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY :  
10:30pm Stations of the Cross  
Passion of the Lord 3:00pm  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY: 6pm  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY:  
8:30am & 10:30am

## St Patricks, Uranquinty

20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 8:30am

## Syro Malabar Mission - Our Lady of Fatima, South Wagga

17th April - HOLY THURSDAY: 4:30pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY :  
9:00pm – Marian Hills  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY: 8:00am  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 10:30am

## Sacred Heart, Koorinal

15th April - TUESDAY - 7:30pm – Confessions  
– 4 Priests  
17th April - HOLY THURSDAY: 6pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY 11:00am Stations  
of the Cross - Passion of the Lord 3:00pm  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY: 9:00 –  
10:30am - Rosary & Confessions Easter Vigil  
Mass 5:45pm – RCIA Candidates  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 9:00am

## Sacred Heart, Griffith

17th April - HOLY THURSDAY: 7pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY :3:00pm  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY: 6pm  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 8:30am;  
10:30am;

## St Mary's, Finley

17th April - HOLY THURSDAY 7:00pm -  
Followed by adoration  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY  
9:00am Stations of the Cross

20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 10:15am

## St Brigid's, Howlong

17th April - HOLY THURSDAY: 5:30pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY: 11:00am &  
3:00pm Liturgy  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY: 6pm

## St Joseph's, Jerilderie

18th April - GOOD FRIDAY:  
3:00pm: Passion of Christ  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 8:30am

## St Peter's, Tocumwal

18th April - GOOD FRIDAY:  
9:00am Stations of the Cross  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY: 7:30pm  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 8:30am

## St Joseph's, Junee

12th April - SATURDAY: 6:00pm  
13th April - PALM SUNDAY: 9:30am  
17th April - HOLY THURSDAY 7:00pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY  
10:00am – St Joseph’s Primary School  
3:00pm Passion of the Lord  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY  
6:00pm Easter Vigil  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 9:30am

## St Mary's, Lockhart

17th April - HOLY THURSDAY: 7pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY:3:00pm  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY: 6:00pm  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 8:00am  
(Urana) ; 10:00am (Oaklands)

## Sacred Heart, North Albury

17th April - HOLY THURSDAY 6pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY 10:30am Stations  
of the Cross  
3:00pm The Lord’s Passion  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY 6:00pm Vigil  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY 9:30am

## St Mary's, The Rock

13th April - PALM SUNDAY: 7.30 am. (1962  
Missal form); 10.00am  
17th April - HOLY THURSDAY: 7.00pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY :3:00pm  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY: 7:00pm

20th April - EASTER SUNDAY:

8:00am (1962 Missal Form) & 10:00 a.m.

## Immaculate Heart of Mary, Thurgoona

19th April HOLY SATURDAY 6:30pm Vigil  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY 9:30am

## All Saints, Tumbarumba

17th April - HOLY THURSDAY: 6:00pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY :3:00pm  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY: 8:00pm  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 9:00am

## St Joseph's, Khancoban

20th April - EASTER SUNDAY 5:30pm

## Holy Trinity, West Wagga

17th April - HOLY THURSDAY 7:00pm  
18th April - GOOD FRIDAY  
10:00am Stations of the Cross,  
3:00pm Veneration of the Cross  
19th April - HOLY SATURDAY: 7:30pm  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY  
9:00am, 10:30am, 5:30pm

## Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, San Isidore

18th April - GOOD FRIDAY  
10:00am Stations of the Cross

## St Therese, Yenda

18th April - GOOD FRIDAY :3:00pm  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 8:00am

## St Francis, Yoogali

17th April - HOLY THURSDAY 7:00pm  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY 10:00am

## St Anthony's, Hanwood

19th April - HOLY SATURDAY: 7:00pm  
20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 9:00am

## Scalabrini

20th April - EASTER SUNDAY: 10:30am

## Vianney College Seminary

20th April - EASTER SUNDAY 9:00am

*For Mass times for Parishes not listed here,  
please contact the Parish directly.  
You can find Parish details via the ‘Find a  
Parish’ tab on our website.*



# DISCERNMENT IN MOSES’ FOOTSTEPS – OBEDIENCE WINS OUT

Stina Constantine never expected to be in ministry. She dreamed of being in a ‘caring’ profession and presumed that would be in the medical sphere. God had other plans though.

BY EMILY SHAW  
Vocations Committee Wagga Wagga

For someone who had never envisioned herself in ministry, as a public speaker or educator, this is where many people encounter her for the first time. There’s no doubting that Stina Constantine is a dynamic and energetic presenter.

But this is not what she expected to be doing. Her childhood desire to ‘help’ people has not eventuated in the way she first imagined. She is not a doctor, nor does she work in the traditional medical sphere.

But once she started saying yes to opportunities God put in front of her, her plans were transformed.

Poised to receive

It was in the midst of her own personal Virtue Challenge that Stina found herself open and receptive to virtue across the board. This was solidified through following the work of Sarah Swafford in the US.

Swafford, a notable speaker in her own right, is married to another notable Catholic in Dr Andrew Swafford. They have 5 children and spend much of their time in ministering to young adults. Emotional Virtue, possibly Swafford’s best-known work, erupted onto the young adult scene several years ago and continues to make waves today, just as it did for Stina.

To say that Stina devoured Swafford’s work would be an understatement. She freely admits to having animated discussions with herself about the concept of emotional virtue.

Part way through her virtue challenge, Stina was getting a sense of what it meant to be striving to be more like Christ, but in a feminine way.

It was through an opportunity in her professional sphere that Stina’s trajectory turned on a dime. Invited to be part of the all.u.re facilitators training week in Sydney, which was exploring authentic femininity

in a Christian world view, was invited to present on Swafford’s work.

“I went away and prayed and then messaged Sarah,” she admits. “I had never met her before. Dropping a direct message into an inbox of a Catholic celebrity is not something I had done before!”

Asking for permission to present on emotional virtue, and for Sarah’s blessing and prayers, Stina waited only a couple of days before hearing from Swafford who’s reply was along the lines of: “Absolutely! You go get it! Praying for you!!”

Stina then presented it to that small group of women from all over Australia.

“I wasn’t surprised by the fact that the content was landing,” she muses, “What I was surprised by was the conversations that followed. Pain in the past of these women encapsulated in the phrase: ‘if I had known then what I know now I would have made different choices’.”

The feedback from the other participants of the all.u.re week was resounding: “They said to me Stina, you need to do something with this! You should be the Australian version of Sarah Swafford,” Stina laughs.

“We bonded over this! All of us have remained in touch and we’re still in touch. Because virtue became part of that language.”

Moses-like doubt

Stina initially thought that God was simply calling her to present a package about virtue to the diocese so they could implement it to the youth. She knew that others needed to hear this message but felt that her own journey and experience to this point ruled her out as the one to present it to others.

“It’s a gift that I’m packaging it, adding pieces so that it’s more complete. The gift that God had put in my hands to give away. I didn’t know what that would look like but I knew that the young people in this



Above: Stina Constantine.

diocese needed it.”

In fact, after packaging the content together, she sought advice from trusted friends, then seminarians, Sean Byrnes and Stefan Matusiek. Two coffee meetings later, the first one alone taking over 2 hours, Stina was encouraged to present it to seminarians.

That was not what she wanted, had planned or even anticipated.

“Fear came in,” she admits, something Father Byrnes would later describe as being very ‘Moses-like’.

“I battled and battled. I knew that if God had called me to it then I would be obedient despite my fear.”

Stina took all of this back to prayer and met with then bishop of Wagga Wagga, Gerard Hanna. He affirmed what both seminarians had said and gave her his blessing.

From this point on the process became challenging. “I didn’t have a business background. There was a lot of planning. A lot of learning on the go. Constantly asking ok, now what do I do here? Where am I going to get money for this? I can’t afford people to set up a website. I don’t have a team around me. But people came out of the woodwork. It was hard but enjoyable.”

Still, she kept thinking, “I’m doing this out of obedience but not because I’m called to do it. Show me someone else to be the speaker, the director etc I’m still of the mindset that I’m to give this away.”

But God had other plans. And He unfolded them to her in His own time. Amidst the challenges she gradually built a team around her, a prayer tribe, a website,

blogs, seminars and a podcast. Nine years later, Virtue Ministry has presented around the diocese and at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

Despite being the stunning face of VM, Stina continues to refer to herself as the Managing Director because, “the person who directs this ministry is the Holy Spirit,” she says.

Learn to discern

“You can’t do discernment outside of relationships. To discern is to listen and if you’re not in a relationship you can’t listen.” Stina explains.

“It’s only as I get close that I begin to hear him clearly! You get to know your beloved – you can hear them from a mile away, you know their voice. Even if they’re not speaking you can hear their footsteps. And even if you can’t hear their voice you can sense them.”

Sounds easier said than done for some, but Stina admits, “My experience of discernment is almost like a virtue in itself.”

“Discernment doesn’t just come from our own strength it comes from the Holy Spirit doing His work, from God giving us the graces. It comes from being able to model Christ. Being able to be more like him. But it is a muscle in itself that we can learn to contemplate, that we can learn to be more docile to the Spirit which helps us to discern more clearly with less drama.”

“We just have to open up,” she says, “and the Holy Spirit does the rest.”



# MASS TIMES IN OUR DIOCESE

## WAGGA WAGGA - CATHEDRAL

**St Michael’s Cathedral**  
Church Street, Wagga Wagga  
Monday - Friday 7:00am, 12:45pm  
**Weekend Masses**  
Saturday - 12:15pm  
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm  
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am and 5:30pm  
**Confessions**  
Monday - Thursday 12:30pm - 12:40pm  
Friday 12:00-12:40pm & 6:30pm-6:45pm  
Saturday 11:00am-12:00noon & 4:30pm-5:30pm  
**Rosary times**  
Monday to Thursday 12:25pm and Saturday 11:55am (before Mass)  
**St Mary’s Chapel**  
Vianney College, 17 Durack Circuit  
Sunday - 9:00am  
**Mt Erin Chapel**  
Kildare Catholic College  
Edmondson Street, Wagga Wagga  
Sunday - 11:30am (1962 Missal Mass)  
Confessions before and after Mass.

## WAGGA WAGGA - KOORINGAL

**Sacred Heart**  
Lake Albert Road, Kooringal  
**Weekend Masses**  
Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm  
Sunday - 9:00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 5:30pm  
Tuesday and Thursday - 7:00am  
Saturday - 9:30am  
**Reconciliation**  
Saturday - 10:00am - 10:30am  
Changes to times will be on the Chapel door.  
**Anointing Mass:**  
Every second Thursday of the month at 10am in the Parish Church/Chapel  
**Mass at Caloola Court:**  
Every first Thursday of the month at 11:00am

## WAGGA WAGGA - SOUTH WAGGA

**Our Lady of Fatima**  
Bourke Street, Wagga Wagga  
**Weekend Masses**  
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm  
Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am & 5:30pm (Syro-Malabar Rite)  
**Weekday Masses - Our Lady of Fatima**  
Monday to Friday 6:00pm (Weds & Thurs Syro-Malabar)  
Wednesday - 10:00am

**Weekday Masses - Calvary Hospital**  
Monday-Friday - 8:00am (except public holidays)  
**Aged Care Facility Masses Forrest Centre**  
Every Thursday - 11:00am

**Monthly Masses**  
1st Tuesday 11:00am Signature  
Wagga Community Aged Care  
2nd Tuesday 10:30am RSL Village  
3rd Tuesday 11:00am Nan Roberts - The Haven  
4th Tuesday 10:30am Anointing Mass  
Henschke Hall  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 10:30-11:30am

## WAGGA WAGGA - WEST WAGGA

**Holy Trinity Church**  
Bardia Street, Ashmont  
Monday to Saturday - 7:00am  
Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am & 5:30pm  
**Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church**  
Benedict Avenue, San Isidore  
Saturday - 6:00pm  
**Home of Compassion**  
Tuesday - 10:30am

## ALBURY

**St Patrick’s** 515 Smollett St, Albury  
**Weekend Mass Times**  
Vigil (Saturday) - 5:00pm  
Sunday - 8.00am, 10.00am & 5:30pm  
1962 Missal Mass - Sunday 12 noon  
**Weekday Mass Times**  
Monday to Friday - 7:00am  
Tuesday - 5:30pm  
Thursday - 9:30am  
1962 Missal Mass - Monday 5:30pm in the Adoration Chapel  
1962 Missal Mass - Wednesday 7:00pm in the Adoration Chapel  
First Friday - 5:30pm  
Saturday - 9:30am  
**Confessions**  
Saturday: 8:20 - 9:20am and 4:00 - 4:45pm  
Every first Thursday: 9:00am - 9:25am  
Sunday: 30 mins prior to all Sunday Masses.  
Weekday Masses: Fifteen minutes prior to all Masses (ends 5 mins prior to Mass)  
Any other time on request.

## ALBURY - NORTH ALBURY

**Sacred Heart**  
Mate St, Nth Albury  
Saturday Vigil - 6.00 pm  
Sunday - 9.30 am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Wednesday & Fridays 9.30am or as printed in the weekly newsletter.  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 5.15 - 5.45 pm

## ALBURY - LAVINGTON

**Holy Spirit**  
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm  
Sunday - 8.00am, 10.00am  
St Mary’s Jindera - 9.00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - Friday - 7.00am  
Saturday - 9.15am  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 8.15am, 5.00pm  
St Mary’s Jindera - Sunday 8.30am

## ALBURY - THURGOONA

**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
20 Hartigan Street, Thurgoona  
**Weekend Masses**  
Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm  
Sunday - 9:30am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - 7:30am  
Tuesday - 9:30am  
Wednesday - 7:30am  
Thursday – 5:30pm  
Friday - 7:30am  
Saturday - 8:00am  
**Reconciliation**  
Thursday - 4:45-5:15pm  
Saturday 8:30 to 9:00am  
Saturday 5:00-5:25pm  
Sunday 9:00-9:25am  
Or anytime, just ask the priest.  
**Adoration with Benediction**  
Thursday 4:30pm - 5:25pm  
**Baptisms and Marriage** by appt.  
**Anointing of the sick Mass** 2nd Tue of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct & Dec.  
**Working Bee** Saturdays 9-11am

## BERRIGAN

**St Columba’s**  
4 Corcoran Street, Berrigan  
1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday Vigil 6:00pm  
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:00am  
**Weekday Masses** refer to parish notices.  
**Confessions** before weekend Masses.

## COOLAMON

**St Michael’s**  
Saturday 6.00pm  
Sunday - 8.00am  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 4.45 - 5.15pm

**Weekday Masses**  
Wednesday - 8.00am  
Thursday - 8.00am  
Friday -10.15am  
**Marrar**  
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm  
**Confessions** 1st Saturday - 5.30pm  
**Allawah Village**  
First Thursday of each month.  
Mass at 9.15am

## COROWA

**St Mary’s Star of the Sea**  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm  
Sunday - 9:00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Refer to Parish Bulletin available in the Church or on the parish website  
**Confessions/ Reconciliation**  
Saturday - 11:00am-12:00, 5:30-6:00pm  
**St Pius X, Coreen,**  
1st, 3rd Sunday - 10:45am Mass

## CULCAIRN

**St Patrick’s Culcairn**  
1st, 4th Sunday - 8:00am  
2nd, 3rd Sunday - 10:00am  
5th Sunday - Vigil Mass 6:00pm (Saturday)  
**Henty**  
2nd, 4th Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm  
1st Sunday - 10:00am  
3rd, 5th Sunday - 8:00am  
**Walla Walla**  
1st & 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Sunday)  
**Weekday Masses**  
Vary according to needs and are announced in the Sunday bulletin.  
Anointing of the Sick within Mass every 1st First Friday of the Month at 10:00am.  
**Confessions**  
30 minutes before each weekend Mass.

## DARLINGTON POINT

**DARLINGTON POINT**  
**St Oliver Plunkett**  
Hay Road  
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.30am  
2nd, 4th Sunday - 5pm (Saturday Vigil)  
**Weekday Masses**  
Mon-Fri - 8.30am  
**COLEAMBALLY**  
**St Peter’s**  
Cnr of Currawong Crescent & Kingfisher Avenue  
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10.30am  
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8.00am  
**Confessions** 15 minutes before any Mass or anytime by request.

## FINLEY

**St Mary’s**  
1 Denison Street Finley  
Saturday - 9:30am  
Sunday - 10.15am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Wednesday - 12:30pm  
Friday - 5:30pm  
Rosary and Confession before every Mass.  
**Adoration-Benediction:**  
Friday - 4:30 - 5:30pm  
Saturday - 10:00 - 10:30am

## GANMAIN

**St. Brendan’s Ganmain**  
Sunday Mass 10:00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - 5.30pm  
Tuesday - 5.30pm  
Saturday - 8.00am & 6.00pm  
**Confessions:**  
30 min. before all Masses.  
**Confessions:**  
30 min. before Mass

## GRIFFITH

**Sacred Heart**  
Warrambool St, Griffith  
**Weekend Masses**  
Saturday - 8.00am  
Sunday - 7.30am, 9.00am, (Italian), 10.30am, 5.30pm

**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - Friday - 7.00am, 5.30pm  
Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm  
**Confessions**  
Friday - 4.30pm to 5.30pm  
Saturday - 11.30am to 12.30pm  
**Marian Catholic College Chapel**  
185 Wakaden Street Griffith  
Sunday - 9.00am

## HOLBROOK

**Our Lady of Sorrows**  
145 Albury Street, Holbrook  
1st & 3rd Sunday - Saturday Vigil 5.30pm  
2nd Sunday - 8.00 am  
4th & 5th Sunday - 10.00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Vary according to needs and are announced in the Sunday bulletin.  
**Confessions**  
30 mins before Mass and/or by requests.  
Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday at 9:00am  
Anointing of the Sick within Mass every 1st Thursday of the Month at 10:00am.  
**St Francis De Sales Church of the Pioneers**  
Hume Highway, Bowna  
2nd Sunday - 11:30am

## HOWLONG

**St Brigid’s**  
Hovell St, Howlong  
**Church of the Good Shepherd**  
Queen Street, Walbundrie  
**Weekend Mass Times**  
Saturday - 6:00pm Vigil Howlong  
Sunday - 9:00am Walbundrie

## JERILDERIE

**St Joseph’s**  
Coreen Street, Jerilderie  
Sunday Mass - 8:30am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Wednesday - 9:15am  
Thursday - 5:30pm  
Friday - 5:30pm  
**Confessions** Before all Masses.  
**Adoration** 30 minutes before weekday masses.

## JUNEE

**St Joseph’s**  
21 Kitchener Street, Junee  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm  
Sunday - 9:30am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Tuesday - 10.00am Junee  
Correctional Centre  
Wednesday - 9:00am  
Thursday - 7:00am  
Friday - 9:30am  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 10:30-11:00am;  
Illabo and Junee Reefs Alternate  
Sundays - 8:00am

## KHANCOBAN

**Church of St Joseph the Worker**  
Contact Tumbarumba Parish for Mass times.

## LEETON

**St Joseph’s Leeton**  
Wade Avenue, Leeton  
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm Standard time  
6:00pm Daylight Saving time  
Sunday - 10:00am (First Sunday of the month is Italian)  
**St Patrick’s Yanco**  
Sunday - 8:00am  
Tuesday - 9:00am  
**Weekday Masses in Leeton**  
Tuesday (Yanco) - 9:00am  
Wednesday - 9:00am  
Thursday - 9:00am  
Friday - 9:15am and 5:30pm  
**Sacrament of Penance**  
Friday - 4:45-5:15pm  
Saturday - 4:20pm-4:45pm  
**Eucharistic Adoration**  
St Joseph’s Church Leeton  
Friday - 4:30pm

## LOCKHART

**St Mary’s Church**  
55 Ferrier St, Lockhart  
**Weekend Masses**  
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays - 6:00pm  
Saturday Vigil  
2nd & 4th Sundays - 7:45am Sunday  
**Weekday Masses**  
Tuesday - 9:00am  
Friday - 10:00am  
(Weekday Mass times are subject to change. Contact the Parish Priest.)  
**Confessions**  
Before Mass and any time upon request.

## MULWALA

**St Brigid’s**  
Havelock Street, Mulwala  
**Weekend Masses**  
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8:00am  
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm Saturday Vigil  
**Weekday Masses**  
Refer to parish notices  
**St Joseph’s**  
Barooga  
**Weekend Masses**  
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10:00am  
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8:00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Refer to parish notices  
**Confessions** Before weekend Masses

## NARRANDERA

**St Mel’s Church,**  
Audley St  
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm  
Sunday - 9:30am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Tuesday - 5:30pm  
Wednesday & Thursday - 7:30am  
Friday - 5:30pm  
Saturday - 8:00am  
(subject to changes announced in the Sunday bulletin)  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 8:30 - 9.30am  
**Grong Grong**  
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.00am  
**Galore**  
**St Kevin’s Church**  
2nd & 4th Sunday - 8:00am

## TARCUTTA

**St Francis Xavier**  
Sydney St, Tarcutta  
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm  
**Confessions**  
Before all Masses.

## THE ROCK

**St Mary’s**  
96-102 Urana Street, The Rock  
**Weekend Masses**  
Saturday - 8:30am  
Sunday - 8:00am (1962 Missal Mass)  
Sunday - 10:00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - 7:00am  
Tuesday - 6:00pm  
Wednesday - 7:00am  
Thursday - 8:30am  
Friday - 6:00pm  
**Confessions:**  
Saturday 4:30-5:30pm, and before all Masses.

## TOCUMWAL

**St Peter’s**  
Charlotte Street, Tocumwal  
Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm  
Sunday - 8.30am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Tuesday - 5:30pm  
Thursday - 9.15am  
**Confessions**  
Before all Masses.  
**Adoration Benediction**  
1st Sunday each month 3pm to 4pm



TUMBARUMBA

All Saints’  
40 Murray Street, Tumbarumba  
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm  
Sunday - 9.00am  
Weekday Masses  
Monday & Tuesday - 7:30am  
Wednesday-Friday - 5.30pm  
Saturday 9.15am  
Confessions  
Friday 4.30pm - 5.15pm  
Saturday - 8.00am - 9.00am  
And 30 mins before weekend Holy Masses  
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Tooma  
4th Sunday - 7.30am  
Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament  
Friday - 4.30pm & Saturday - 8.00am

URANA

St Fiacre’s Church 5 End St, Urana  
Weekend Masses  
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8:00am  
2nd & 4th Saturday - 6:00pm Vigil  
Weekday Masses  
Posted on church notice board each week.  
Oaklands - St Columba's Church  
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays - 10:00am  
2nd & 4th Sundays - 10:15am

Confessions  
Urana - Saturday 5:00-5:30pm  
and 20 minutes prior to each weekend Mass (Urana & Oaklands)

YENDA - YOOGALI - HANWOOD

Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii  
17 Edon Street, Yoogali  
Friday - 9:30am  
Sunday - 10:00am  
St Anthony’s - Hanwood  
Wednesday - 8:00am  
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm  
Good Shepherd Chapel - Yoogali  
Thursday - 11:30am  
Saturday - 10:30am  
St Therese’s - Yenda  
Tuesday - 5:15pm  
Sunday - 8:00am  
Confessions  
Hanwood - Saturday - 4:30pm  
Yenda - Sunday - 7:30am  
Yoogali - Sunday - 9:30am

Please note that Mass times were true and correct at the time of printing. For further clarification, please check parish bulletins and noticeboards closer to the date.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE PRIESTS WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OCCURS IN: April

These faithful servants, Lord, put their wholehearted trust in you - Grant that they may live in your love.

- 8 April 1920 Fr Michael O’Dowd
- 11 April 1974 Mgr Augustus Ambrose Lacey
- 13 April 1995 Fr Phillip Mel Roach
- 25 April 1930 Fr Maurice Hoyne (On Loan)
- 25 April 1976 Mgr Jeremiah Galvin
- 25 April 1977 Fr Joseph Dudley Dyson-Smith
- 30 April 1941 Fr Jerome Hennessy



Junior Legion  
Every Wednesday afternoon at 3:30pm at St Mary MacKillop Colleges.  
Senior Legion  
Every Thursday evening at 7:30pm at Bishop's House.  
All welcome!  
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FAMILY REFLECTIONS

13th April 2025  
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Cycle C  
Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week. During this week, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus' passion and death. During this week, your family might display a crucifix in a prominent place as reminder of salvation Christ won for us. This can also serve as the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.  
Because of the length and complexity of the passion narrative, it is difficult for children to remain attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can make it a tradition to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a “way of the cross.”  
Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as its focal point. The passion as found in Luke's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week:  
Sunday: Luke 19:28-40 (Gospel at the Procession with Palms)  
Monday: Luke 22:14-23  
Tuesday: Luke 22:24-38  
Wednesday: Luke 22:39-71  
Thursday: Luke 23:1-25  
Friday: Luke 23:26-49  
Saturday: Luke 23:50-56  
After reading from the Gospel each day, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude your prayer time together by praying the Lord's Prayer and/or singing an appropriate hymn, e.g., “Jesus, Jesus,” “Were You There?” or “What Wondrous Love is This.”  
Luke 19:28-40 Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm 22:8-9,17-20,23-24 Philippians 2:6-11 Luke 22:14—23:56  
20th April 2025  
Second Sunday of Easter, Cycle C (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)  
Our family life would no doubt be enhanced if we were able to transform Jesus' greeting into a central feature in our family's interactions. After his Resurrection, “Peace be with you” is the first thing that Jesus says to his disciples. This could be our daily family prayer for one another. In today's Gospel, we also hear that Jesus next breathed on his disciples and gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, each of us has received the gift of the Holy Spirit as well as the forgiveness of sins.

Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Our Baptism, then, invites us to share in the peace that Christ gave to his disciples and commissions us to share that peace of Christ by generously forgiving others as Jesus taught.  
As you gather as a family, think about gifts that you might receive together such as a coloring book and crayons, a book and bookmark, or an electronic item and batteries. Observe that Jesus also paired two gifts together in today's Gospel. Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, John 20:19-31. Discuss the two gifts Jesus gave to his disciples: peace and the Holy Spirit. Ask: What were the disciples to do with these gifts? (They were sent as Jesus was sent by the Father to forgive sins.) Recall that we have each received Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit at our Baptism and that peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Observe that since we also have received these gifts from Christ, we are also sent to be people who forgive others as Jesus taught. Determine an action that your family can do to share peace and forgiveness with one another. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit or the Peace Prayer of St. Francis.  
Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16 Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24 Revelation 1:9-11a,12-13,17-19 John 20:19-31  
27th April 2025 - Third Sunday of Easter, Cycle C  
Today's Gospel describes what we can easily imagine as a picnic on the beach. Just as Jesus' miracle at the wedding feast at Cana blesses the love between man and woman celebrated in the sacrament of marriage, Jesus' attentiveness to food and mealtimes raises the possibility that our meal gatherings can be sacred times. In families, the domestic church, our meals together are everyday opportunities to gather and recall Jesus' presence with us. As in the Eucharist, we bring the gifts that God has given us, which have been prepared especially for our Mass, and at our family meals we share gifts that God has given to us and that we have worked together to prepare. This includes the food on the table and also the people who gather around the table. We ask God to bless these gifts and to be present among us in all of our interactions.  
Consider a recent family meal: What food was served? Where did the food come from? Who prepared the food? Who served the food? Was mealtime a happy time? Why or why not? Observe that today's Gospel tells about a meal that Jesus shared with his disciples after his Resurrection. Read aloud today's Gospel, John 21:1-14. Reflect on the Gospel reading using the questions above. Talk about ways in which this meal that Jesus shared with his disciples might remind us of the meal we share at the Eucharist. You might choose to plan a special meal together as a family, encouraging each person to participate in the meal preparation. Pray

together that Jesus will make his loving presence known in your family life. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.  
Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32,40b-41 Psalm 30:2,4,5-6,11-12,13 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19 (short form.:John 21:1-14)  
4th May 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle C  
Not only can we recognize family members' voices, we can also read the tone of their voices and know something about how they are feeling. In our relationship with Jesus, we know Jesus' voice and are called to follow. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. Knowing Jesus means knowing the Father.  
Read with your family today's Gospel, John 10:27-30. Ask your family members to talk about some ways that Jesus brings them closer to God and closer to one another. Pray together the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.  
Acts of the Apostles 13:14,43-52 Psalm 100:1-2,3,5 Revelation 7:9,14b-17 John 10:27-30  
11th May 2025 - Fifth Sunday of Easter, Cycle C  
Is love the first word your family members use to describe their interactions? Love is difficult. Jesus' sacrifice for us is an example of this. Yet because of love, the glory of God is fully revealed in Jesus. God's glory is revealed in us when we act as the Body of Christ, as individuals and as a community. In the love we have for one another—difficult, challenging, sacrificial love—we find Jesus.  
Choose one or two occasions when your family was together during the week. Describe the family's interactions from an outsider's perspective. When is it less difficult to show love to family members? When is it more difficult? When love is difficult, what do we do?  
Jesus didn't just tell us to love one another. He showed us how to love one another. In what ways did Jesus show us how to love? (in his acts of healing and forgiving; at the Last Supper as he washed his disciples' feet; in the gift of the Eucharist; through his death on the Cross)  
Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27 Psalm 145:8-9,10-11,12-13 Revelation 21:1-5a John 13:31-33a,34-35



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