



Mary Immaculate Parish Eagle Vale

Parish Priest: Fr Leo Mifsud OMI

Assistant: Fr. Didier Indibi OMI

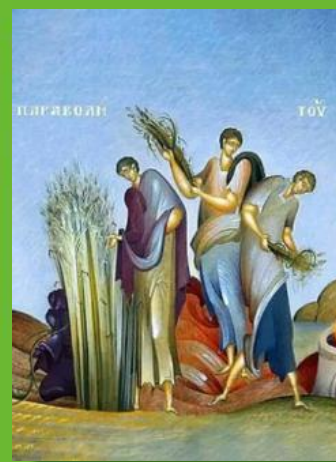
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Office hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9:30 – 3:30

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Under the care of the
Oblate of Mary Immaculate



Constitutions & Rules 1826 -2026

16th Sunday in Year A
19th July 2026

Our Sometimes-Stingy Hearts

Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI

John Muir once asked, “*Why are Christians so reluctant to let animals into their stingy heaven?*”

The same might be said of us as churches: why are we so reluctant sometimes to welcome others into God’s mercy and to our communion tables?

We certainly can’t use Jesus as our model in doing this. Looking at the Gospels, there is never a recorded incident where Jesus laid down some moral or religious condition to sit down at table with him.

Our model is rather the well-meaning disciples of Jesus, who, like us, tried to protect Jesus by sheltering him from various groups, including little children. But always in the face of this we hear Jesus saying clearly: *Let them come me!* Small wonder he sent his disciples away so he could have a meeting with the Samaritan woman who had been married five times.

What I am about to suggest is a risk since, admittedly, the issue of intercommunion is more complex than can be resolved simply by saying Jesus welcomed everyone (even as we may never ignore that).

Regarding the question of intercommunion: There is wide agreement theologically that baptism gives you access to the communion table. As Christian denominations, we recognize the validity each other’s baptisms. So why can’t any Christian go to any Christian church and be welcome at the communion table?

Because each denomination is its own family – *and normally families eat at their own tables*. Normally you go to your own denominational family for communion. But this is a pastoral consideration not a theological one. However, occasionally we do eat at someone else’s home and table. Most mainline theologies of the Eucharist draw on this distinction and distinguish between “*Occasional*” intercommunion (funerals, weddings, faith gatherings) and “*Regular*” intercommunion. The former makes sense pastorally, the latter doesn’t. You only eat regularly at someone else’s table if you are a member of the family or household.

Given that pastoral concern, churches have had varied norms, ranging from wide welcome to strict exclusion, depending on how their leadership accesses the situation. For example, in the Roman Catholic Church, throughout the nineteen sixties and seventies, Roman Catholics generally welcomed others to receive communion on special occasions. Then, during the nineteen eighties and nineties, more and more, those presiding the Eucharist on those occasions were asked not to publicly invite those from other churches to receive communion. Further, after the year 2000, those presiding the Eucharist were asked to publicly disinvite those from other churches from receiving communion. More recently, there has been a growing shift back to a more welcoming stance.

What’s to be said about this shift back and forth? First, that this is a pastoral rather than a theological issue, and pastorally it can be argued legitimately in different ways. Where there is common agreement is that everyone wants the various Christian Churches to someday be one family with one communion table for all. The disagreement is on how to get there.

Some believe and argue that having to “fast” from intercommunion will make us hungrier to become one Church and will help motivate us to work more proactively for ecumenism. Others disagree and argue that being more welcoming about intercommunion will motivate us to work proactively for ecumenism. Who’s right?

There’s a logic in both arguments, but I confess that my heart lies with the latter group. In my experience, excluding each other from the Eucharist table tends to harden rather than soften our divisions, just as welcoming each other at the Eucharist table tends to soften the suspicions of each other, we have nursed for the last five hundred years since the Reformation.

THIS IS IMPORTANT

A government funded 'night club/art venue' has opened in Sydney boasting the make a mockery of Christian/Catholic services complete with "" weekly Sunday Mess—a messy take on the Sunday ceremony, presented by Doom Juice.""

If they were mocking a Jewish Synagogue or a Muslim Mosque, there would be mayhem in the streets.

But because it's Christian/Catholic, then the government deems it 'fair game'.

So tired of the hypocrisy and double standards.

PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION and MAKE A STANCE



World Youth Day Seoul 2027 – Diocesan Pilgrimage

Applications are now open for the Diocese of Wollongong's pilgrimage to World Youth Day Seoul 2027!

If you're interested in joining thousands of young Catholics from around the world for this once-in-a-lifetime experience of faith, community and pilgrimage, visit dow.org.au/wyd27 for information on the itinerary, costs, travel arrangements and FAQs.

Not ready to apply just yet? Join our mailing list at dow.sh/wyd27 to receive the latest updates and announcements.

15 AUGUST

THE INDIAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

The Indian community invites you for the solemn Mass on the feast of "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary" & celebration of India's Independence Day on the 15th of August at 12 noon. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at Mount Carmel Parish Varroville. Please bring a plate (finger food only)

15 AUGUST

VOCARIS – Testimony Night:

Young adults (18+) are invited to an profound evening of faith featuring the testimonies of a deacon (soon to be ordained priest), a religious sister and a married couple, each sharing the joy of discovering God's unique call in their lives. Join us on Saturday, 15 August, from 6:00pm–9:30pm at the Wilton Community Centre (25 minutes from Macarthur and Wollongong).

Go to dow.sh/Vocaristestimony or use the QR code for more information or to register.



28-30th August,

Homecoming Silent Retreat

This retreat is for men and women aged 18+. Hosted by the MGL Sisters. AT Carmel House, Varroville

Choose from a weekend retreat or extend your time with a 5 day retreat option. w/e: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBK>

extended: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBU>

31 AUGUST

Medjugorje Pilgrimage - Vatican Approved | Harvest Journeys

COMMENCES MONDAY 31 August 2026 Queen of Peace - 8 Days / 7 Nights.

Medjugorje (7 Nights) • Dubrovnik day. Optional 4-night post-tour extension to Rome. Accompanied by: Fr Joseph

Photehnpampil For full details, including itinerary and booking information,

please Click QR code to download brochure



10 – 13th September

CURSILLO – Diocesan Women's Encounter

Cursillo is a life changing experience ... nurture our faith journey and enable us to live Gospel oriented

lives. Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon: Carmel House 345 St Andrews Rd Varroville

Cost \$320 (payment options available) Covers all meals, accommodation, resources and activities.

ENQUIRIES: Shirley Parker 0431 513 109; cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com; dow.sh/cursillo



10 -13th September

Be The Witness — THE MUSICAL.

With the support of Bishop Vincent Long (letter attached), Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, together with more than 100 volunteers from across the Diocese, is presenting the musical Be The Witness which brings the story of Jesus to life through the eyes of St Peter and the disciples. Tickets are now on sale - visit our website bethewitness.com.au or **Riverside Theatre's Ticketing Page** - Be the Witness - The Musical < Riverside Theatres

21 September 2026

Great Saints of Italy – Catholic Pilgrimage

Join Fr Patrick Vaughan on a 12-day pilgrimage journey through Italy.

Uncover the sacred heart of Italy — a land where a rich tapestry of faith, history, and culture comes alive.

Walk where Saints walked, & explore timeless villages nestled among the hills. Stand in awe before

majestic cathedrals, walk beneath the frescoed heavens of the Sistine Chapel, and behold masterpieces

born of divine inspiration. For more information and bookings,

VISIT: <https://www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/great-saints-of-italy/>

Marriage and Relationship Education CatholicCare's Marriage and Relationship Education support couples to strengthen and renew their relationship. Choose 'Prepare' for couples planning marriage or 'Enrich' to deepen and strengthen your bond.

To learn more or register, scan the QR code or call 1800 967 894



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On FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2026 Bishop Brian Mascord will confer the SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATIONS for those from GRADE 6 +

IMPORTANT

Parents are required to REGISTER their children, using the QR CODE OR by going to mipeaglevale.org and FOLLOWING the LINK to 'SACRAMENTS' than



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026'

In addition, Parents must attend the 'Three Session for Parents', where they will also receive further information and the material needed to guide their children in preparation for the sacrament.

21st JULY – Tuesday

Formation Pathways

Raising Up Leaders, will explore how priests, parish leaders, and ministry leaders can help people discover and live the gifts and calling God has given them.

Please come and consider inviting others from your parish.

Campbelltown Catholic Club - Tuesday 21 July, 7-9pm

Wednesday 22 July, 7-9pm - **Zoom Only** - Registration is essential.

<https://form.jotform.com/261536788650872>

Encouraged to attend especially if you have not attended previously.

24th July - Friday

CEILIDH/ BUSH DANCE

- Friday 247.00 in the Parish Hall.

No experience necessary as all dances will be called.

Gary Elford from Christchurch NZ visiting us again to present a Ceildh/bush dance.

The night promises to be a night of fun and laughter. Come along for a family fun night.

Bring a plate with food to share for supper, nothing that needs to be heated.

Tea and coffee to be provided-



26th July – Sunday

Mary Immaculate Youth Group. - For Year 7 to Year 12.

- After the 10:00am Mass.

Meeting in the parish hall. Every 4th Sunday of the month. For information text.

Ben. 0478 662 655. Or. Jade. 0414 293 500.

Parents registration essential. Please complete the form to enrol.



ENVELOPES for PLANNED GIVING
are ready for pick up in the foyer.

SOUL-FIT SISTERS – Tuesday evenings 6.30pm

Ladies come and join us in the Parish Hall
Exercise & fun. –

Wear comfortable clothes & shoes.



Mary Immaculate Parish Food Festival
SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

MAJOR RAFFLE – DRAWN ON THE DAY
 • First Prize – \$3,000
 • Second Prize – \$1,500
 • Third Prize – \$750

FOOD COFFEE VAN ICE CREAM TRUCK FACE PAINTING KIDS' GAMES POCKETS OF HEAVEN TEMPLE CLOTHING

28th July 7:00pm F.R.E.S.H.MEN A Gathering for the Men

An invitation for all men to come, join us for a night of fellowship. BYO, snacks and drink to share.

WHERE: At the presbytery, on 2 Aquamarine Drive, Eagle Vale
For more information contact the parish office (462643055)

Friendship
Recreation
Encouragement
Strengthening
Healing
MEN

Fr. Didier on leave.

After overcoming some visa problems Fr. Didier is finally able to take leave. Unfortunately, he was unable to go the planned pilgrimage, however he will be able to see more of his mother, family and friends.

We pray that he will have a restful time and return to us refreshed. He will return for the weekend August 15th /16th



Habib Ataya

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PLEASE PRAY FOR-

THE SICK: Please pray especially for **Felisa Orca, Jake Valte, Thomas Howell, Jennifer Doran, Fr Brian Egan, Lourdes Collaco, Irwin Emmanuel, Phillip Whitehouse, Willow Morrison, Lisa Farnhill, Adrian Banks, Christine Debski, Ana Villagonzalo, Pinky and Evelyn Arenas, Lachlan Abood, Charbel Aziz, Margaret Roberts. Teodoro Racca**

THE DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Rosa Zagari, Veronica Johnson** recently deceased, **John Cilia (Snr), Joan Rookes, Elizabeth Christian, Josefina Farolan, Grace Torres, Natalia Pascual, Robert Wallace** whose anniversaries occur at this time and all Holy Souls. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

Pope Leo’s monthly intention for JULY For respect for human life
Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

MASS INTENTIONS 18 th – 25 th July.	
Sat Vigil 5:30pm	For the repose of the souls of Joan Rookes and Elizabeth Christian
SUN 8.30am 10.00am 5:30pm	For the People of the Parish (Pro Populo) For John Mafi Jr and Apolo Taeiloa on their birthdays For Mary Veronica Johnson recently deceased
Mon. 9.00am	For the 10th anniversary of death of Josefina Farolan
Tues. 9.00am	For the 1st anniversary of death of Grace Torres
Wed. 7:30 PM	For Mateialuna Pameti and Anga Kuluka on their birthdays
Thur. 9:00am	For the anniversary of death of Natalia Pascual
Fri. 9:00am	For the anniversary of death of Robert Wallace
Sat. 9:30am	Available to book

Ministers for weekend 25 th /26 th July.	
Saturday 5.30pm	
Acolyte:	Robert Squires
E. Minister:	Anne Sheldrick
Readers:	1. Veronica Roson 2. Tricia Manjon
Sunday 8.30am	
Acolyte:	
E. Minister:	Teresa Rinkin Kirsty Simpson
Readers	1. Jacqueline Luis 2. Tina Morell
Sunday 10.00am	
Acolyte:	Jacqueline Kho
E. Minister:	Kathy Gong Charles Morell
Readers:	1. Youth Group 1 2. Youth Group 2
Sunday 5.30pm	
Acolyte:	Roy Rodriguez
E. Minister:	Orpha Rivero
Readers:	1. Aishwarya Jacob 2. Con Vink

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil 5:30pm
Sunday 8:30am | 10:00am | 5:30pm.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon & Tue: 9:00am / **Wednesday:** 7:30 pm
Thurs. & Fri 9:00am / **Saturday:** 9:30am
FILIPINO MASS – 2nd Sunday- 4:00pm.

RECONCILIATIONS:

Saturdays 10:00am to 11:00am (with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

DEVOTIONAL TIMES

ROSARY: BEFORE the weekday Masses.
DIVINE MERCY Chaplet- Fridays after 9am Mass with Benediction on 1st Friday
Meetings - 4th Friday @ 6.30pm (in Madigan room)
HOLY HOUR PRAYERS First Saturday - After Mass

RENEWED & SENT - PARISH RENEWAL SUMMMIT 2026
1st – 3rd October - St Gregory’s College, Campbelltown.

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

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

A Quiet Renewal is Underway. Parishes are rediscovering their missionary identity
Leaders are finding renewed purpose
People are encountering Jesus, and lives are being transformed.

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

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

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



If you wish to volunteer at the summit,
please contact May Ataya via text 0416 157 294 or email: may.ataya@dow.org.au

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