



Mary Immaculate Parish

Eagle Vale

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Under the care of the
Oblate of Mary Immaculate



Constitutions & Rules 1826 -2026

17th Sunday in Year A
26th July 2026



MESSAGE FROM HIS HOLINESS LEO XIV FOR THE SIXTH WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

I will never forget you (Is 49:15)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord promises that he will never forget any of us. He assures us that he has engraved our faces on the palms of his hands (cf. *Is 49:16*) and that his love is greater than a mother's love for her child (cf. *Is 49:15*). The prophet gives us a glimpse of an intimate and intense dialogue in which God addresses, in familiar terms, each person individually and the people as a whole. Even today, we can read these words as referring to each of us, and everyone can hear that "I will never forget you" spoken directly to them.

These are words that fill us with comfort and hope. They are the answer to an agonizing feeling that troubles the heart: "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me" (*Is 49:14*). How often in Sacred Scripture, especially in the Psalms, does prayer spring from the despair of those who feel that their lives are of no interest to anyone and are being neglected! The painful feeling of being forgotten is, unfortunately, shared by many people, and among them are quite a few elderly people.

God's love, which forgets no one, offers itself as an act of justice and a response to the anonymity in which human life all too often ends up lost. The lives of many elderly people, in particular, seem to be covered by a veil that blurs the features of their faces and shrouds them in oblivion. This is what happens in homes where loneliness reigns and also in those care facilities where each person's uniqueness risks being reduced to a bed number or an illness.

The celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to rediscover that the Church is called to be a mother to all and that at any age it is always possible to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God. May this day, therefore, be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young, to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them. Bring them, through this message and your presence, the closeness and affection of the Pope. Ensure that the words of the prophet, "But I will never forget you," take the form of a tender and affectionate encounter. "In an era that favors speed and fragmentation, the human person still yearns to receive care and recognition from attentive minds, kind words and hands capable of tenderness. The digital culture multiplies connections and offers new opportunities for interaction; yet, the human heart retains an irrevocable need for genuine closeness" (Encyclical Letter, *Magnifica Humanitas*, 239).

The Church understands the suffering of her elderly members; she knows full well that they are all too often viewed through the lens of stereotypes and considered a burden; she is aware that a profit-driven economy weakens family ties; she knows that many elderly people are left behind by children who are forced to migrate or, in some cases, to fight in wars. For each of these reasons, she joyfully proclaims the Lord's promise: "But I will never forget you!"

It is a joy, at any age, but especially when we are no longer young, to discover, as *John Paul I* said, that we are the recipients "of undying love on the part of God. We know: he has always his eyes open on us, even when it seems to be dark. He is our father; even more he is our mother" (*Angelus*, 10 September 1978). Even if it does not come naturally to think this way, the truth is that even in old age we do not cease to be sons and daughters; therefore, the invitation to return to the arms of God — whose love is both paternal and maternal — remains worthwhile at any age.

For many, the discovery of God's tenderness takes place over the course of their lives, sometimes even in its final stages. Indeed, unlike in the past, it is increasingly common to reach old age without having had a genuine experience of faith. In such cases, old age — beginning with the questions that arise with greater urgency during this season of life — can become the right time to begin or resume a spiritual life. On this new journey, one can recognize that God, as Saint Augustine says, "is a mother because he cherishes, because he nourishes, because he nurses, because he protects" (*Commentary on Psalm 27*, II, 18). It is an awareness that helps us not to feel ashamed of the fragility that emerges and also to understand that we are always in need of one another and in need of attention and care. To God, who draws near to us and whom we learn to recognize in his tenderness, we can now turn with filial trust in prayer. It is never too late to begin turning to him. It can be a great gift for everyone.

Dear elderly men and women, *Pope Francis* spoke of you as a "new people" (*Catechesis*, 23 February 2022), since the number of older adults has never been so large in human history. It is, therefore, more important than ever to reflect with you, this "new people," on what our vocation might be when fragility — the human person's companion from birth — seems to take over. I would like to say to you: do not be afraid of fragility! It is precisely this weakness that holds within itself a new potential that also illuminates the other stages of life. Indeed, when "we acknowledge our fragility, our hearts become open to supporting one another and to invoking the One who can grant what no human power can ensure: the profound reconciliation of hearts and, with it, true peace" (*Meeting with the Algerian community*, Basilica of Our Lady of Africa, Algiers, 13 April 2026).

This is how we can live out our old age as Christians: "fragile" yet at the same time "called." A man and a woman can, in fact, be born anew in old age (cf. *Jn 3:4-6*) and exclaim, with the prophet: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust

shall be your strength” (Is 30:15). This strength can become an invitation not to resort to the ways of arrogance and power to ensure human coexistence, but to the ways of reconciliation and true peace. In this time, so harshly marked by the violence of war and social unrest, many wonder what the world in which their grandchildren will grow up will be like. I urge you, dear friends, to join me in praying earnestly that peace may soon come to the whole world.

Dear elderly brothers and sisters, I thank you for supporting me every day with your prayers, especially when you recite the Holy Rosary. I return this gratitude from the bottom of my heart and leave you with this prayer: may the Lord always renew us in faith, hope and love — He who never forgets us!

LEO PP. XIV - *From the Vatican, 15 June 2026*

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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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.



Parish News



The Eagle Vale Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society

will be conducting its winter appeal at all the Masses this weekend

Donations can be made in cash or by card.

Thank you in advance to all who support our work, through your prayers and donations, in assisting those who need our help.



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.



SOUL-FIT SISTERS – Tuesday evenings 6.30pm

Ladies come and join us in the Parish Hall
Exercise & fun. –
Wear comfortable clothes & shoes.



Fr. Didier on leave.

Fr. Didier will return for the weekend August 15th /16th.

We keep him in our prayers that he will have a restful time with his family, and return to us refreshed.

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

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

MAJOR RAFFLE

TO BE DRAWN AT THE FOOD FESTIVAL

1ST PRIZE - \$3,000

2ND PRIZE - \$1,500

3RD PRIZE - \$750

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE FROM NEXT WEEK



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- CONFIRMATIONS - FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2026

Bishop Brian Mascord will confer the SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATIONS for those from GRADE 6+

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Parents should already have REGISTER their children, using the QR CODE.

OR by going to mipeaglevale.org &

FOLLOWING the LINK to 'SACRAMENTS' than SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026'



Parents must attend the 'Three Session for Parents'. These sessions are designed to give parent appreciation of the Confirmation in their lives and in the lives of their children. The sessions will be on:

11th August (at which Children's material will be given out); **18th August**; and **25th August**.

Each Session will begin a 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

PLEASE PRAY FOR-

THE SICK: Please pray especially for Fr Ross Naylor, 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 Fr Rick McCann, recently deceased, Rosa Zagari, Veronica Johnson, 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 AUGUST - For evangelization in the city
Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

MASS INTENTIONS 25 th July -1 st Aug.	
Sat Vigil 5:30pm	For a special intention
SUN 8.30am 10.00am 5:30pm	For the intentions of Ramona Veigues For Gayzle Guarin, Joy Guarin & Yasmin Baluyut for their birthdays. For the People of the Parish (Pro Populo)
Mon. 9.00am	For the intentions of the Mir Family
Tues. 9.00am	For the repose of Emmanuel Vella
Wed. 7:30 PM	For the repose of Fatima Pamenti (anniversary)
Thur. 9:00am	For the successful operation - Cooper
Fri. 9:00am	For Angelo Tusitala on his birthday
Sat. 9:30am	For the repose of Norman, Sadie & Samuel Mir (snr) George & Theresa Mir and deceased family members

Ministers for weekend 25 th /26 th July.	
Saturday 5.30pm	
Acolyte:	Julian Rookes
E. Minister:	Jean Whiting
Readers:	Emillie Racca Ramon Racca
Sunday 8.30am	
Acolyte:	Michael Arthur
E. Minister:	Teresa Rinkin Anna Maree Ve'e
Readers	Ogbeyelu Onyi Kirsty Simpson
Sunday 10.00am	
Acolyte:	Sam Kula
E. Minister:	Tony Rego Emilie Taeiloa
Readers:	Voltaire Taguinod Samantha Johnson
Sunday 5.30pm	
Acolyte:	Thomas Phillippe
E. Minister:	Michelle Fogarty
Readers:	Roy Rodriguez Aishwarja Jacob

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 1 st Friday Meetings - 4 th Friday @ 6.30pm (in Madigan room) HOLY HOUR PRAYERS First Saturday - After Mass
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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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