

Mary Immaculate Parish

Eagle Vale

Parish Priest: Fr Leo Mifsud OMI

Assistant: Fr. Didier Indibi OMI

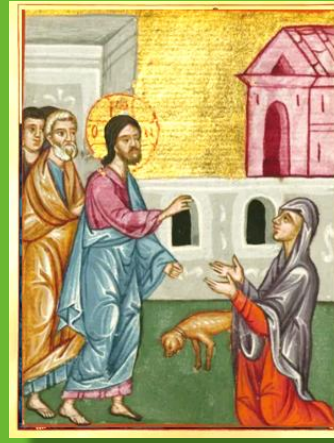
Parish Secretary: Mrs Vicki M^cHale

Office: 2 Aquamarine Drive, Eagle Vale 2558

Email: eaglevale@dow.org.au

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

Phone: (02) 4626 3055



Under the care of the
Oblate of Mary Immaculate



Constitutions & Rules 1826 -2026

20th Sunday in Year A

16th August 2026

A note from the Parish Priest. 

*be Disciples.
One.
Sent.*

WEEK 3

Theme: A Parish for All People.

The lead up to the event of today's Gospel is a discussion of what is 'unclean' according to the Torah because the Pharisees noticed the disciples did not ritually cleanse themselves before eating. This led Jesus to explain the difference between physically and spiritually clean.

The issue is an important one because it also relates to people. Lepers, public sinners and outcasts were said to be 'unclean'. According to Jewish custom, one could make themselves unclean simply by touching something OR SOMEONE who is deemed to be 'unclean'. Jesus argues that 'spiritual uncleanness' is something which comes only from 'within' a person, i.e., the intention from the heart.

The term 'Canaanite' used in today's Gospel evokes old biblical prejudice against the pagan groups who lived in the land before the Israelites. The Canaanite in this incident, both as a woman and a foreigner in a patriarchal, ancient world, therefore held very little social power to demand attention. She stood outside the covenant, the faith, and the immediate scope of Jesus' stated mission to the house of Israel.

Her initial approach to Jesus, calling him, "Son of David" is extraordinary because this title is messianic, i.e., she is calling him the Messiah. Not even the Pharisees and scribes would grant him this recognition. The Canaanite woman however is an outsider. The onlookers, including the disciples, were expecting that Jesus would deal with her as Joshua, of old, dealt with the Canaanites, who expelled them, in order to take possession of the land, which became Israel.¹

Jesus seems to comply to their expectations. He firstly remains silent. This silence is contemptuous. Jesus is not obliged to help her, after all she is a pagan, he is an Israelite. He must follow the code of honour. It is what the onlookers would expect. But she is not put off by his seeming disdain. She is desperate, persistent and irritating.

When she 'shrieks' at Jesus, she attracts a large crowd and in so doing threatens Jesus (and his disciples) with a 'loss of face'. The disciples want to get rid of her, and in answering them he goes further and exposes a deeper prejudice. He tells them that he was 'sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel' and rejects her verbally. By this response he indicates that he is not her messiah.

In a posture of worship, her third plea comes straight from the heart and echo the words of the psalms: 'Lord, help me'. Astonishingly (to us) Jesus treats her as Israelites treated all their enemies by comparing her to a dog (a greater insult in those days than now). Still, the woman persists. She agrees that she may only be a dog but asks for what even dogs are entitled, indicating that that would be enough.

This dialogue takes on the character of the dialogue between Moses and God, in the Book of Exodus, as he intercedes for the people when God threatened to destroy the Israelites for their rebellion. Moses reminds God of how he chose the Israelites and of his promised mercy. In so many words Moses said to God, 'this is who you are', don't change now'. And God relented because of Moses' faith.

Jesus too relents, but not because she embarrassed him or his disciples; and not to 'get rid of her', but because he had shown her to be the righteous one. She 'the outcast' was always going to be the hero of the story because she showed the disciples and the onlookers the type of faith which they lacked. The Canaanite woman represents the stranger in our midst, the outcast and the one in need. Like her, they all challenge us to be authentic Christians. Jesus holds up a mirror to the hypocrisy of our actions when we are silent or contemptuous of the needs of those who turn to us for human assurance. He also shows us what religious discrimination looks like i.e. using religion for our own advantage.

This can often be a confronting detail of parish life, because parishes can become organised

¹ There is a link between the names 'Jesus' and 'Joshua'. Both names are the same. 'Jesus' is the Greek rendering (the language used in the New Testament) of the Hebrew 'Joshua'.

around those already present. The community can become familiar, comfortable and inward looking without intending to be.

Jesus' lesson to us is that the Church is not just for the insiders. A parish that belongs to Jesus cannot become an exclusive club. Pope Francis used the metaphor of the field hospital: *The church must focus first on basic mercy, compassion, and healing people who are hurt by life rather than immediately judging them or focusing only on strict rules.*

A parish can send people away. Without saying those words. It can happen through unclear Welcome. Insider Talk. Unspoken expectations. Lack of follow, poor communication, or simply failing to notice who is missing. In the end it is always because they are treated as 'strangers'.

For Eagle Vale 'be sent' means the parish exists not only for those already here. It exists also for the poor, the abandoned, the searching, the disconnected and those who have forgotten or never encountered Christ.

REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

To become disciples 'on purpose' rather than by routine, we ask ourselves "Who is God asking us to notice? Who in our local area is poor, lonely, searching, disconnected abandoned or waiting to be invited?"

Fr. Leo Mifsud OMI

17th August: Last day to register for Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass - Sunday 6 September

If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, you are warmly invited to the Significant Marriage Anniversaries, celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on **Sunday 6 September 2026 at 2pm at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong.**

Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre Conference Room.

Registration is essential and must be completed online at dow.sh/ma26 by no later than Monday, 17 August 2026.

Any enquiries please email Helen Bennett helen.bennett@dow.org.au

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>

12th September Saturday ordination to the priesthood of Deacon Seth Harsh - Rosemeadow

All parishioners are warmly invited to share in the great joy of this day, celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord, on **Saturday 12 September 2026 at 10:30am at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, RSVP by 1st Sept to rsvp.dow.org.au**

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



15th September St Carlo Acutis Relic - Our Lady Help of Christians Rosemeadow

2:00pm onwards – Veneration of the Relic of St Carlo Acutis, private prayer and Eucharistic Adoration.

6:30pm - Holy Mass. Followed by devotional prayers and reflections - St Carlo Acutis devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

7:00pm – 9.00pm -Eucharistic Adoration, veneration of the relic, concluding prayers and departure of relic.

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.

Rosemary De Rauwe Skin Care Clinic

Beauty Therapist & Electrologist
Reflexologist & Paramedical
Dermal Aesthetician
Serving Macarthur since 1979

0475889943



- ✓ LAWN MOWING
- ✓ GARDEN YARD MAINTENANCE
- ✓ HEDGE TRIMMING
- ✓ GARDEN CLEAN UPS

L&L Lawn & Garden Services

RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND FRIENDLY LAWN & GARDEN CARE — ONE-TIME TIDY-UPS OR ONGOING SERVICE TO KEEP YOUR OUTDOORS LOOKING GREAT.

CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE

EDWIN -0435 716 156
LL.LAWNGARDENSERVICES@GMAIL.COM



Websites & Apps
Digital Marketing
Software Training

Creedx.com.au

Varghese Joseph
Founder & Lead consultant

Mobile 0426 576 218
Creedxconsulting@gmail.com

ABN:48127239835

Habib Ataya
Houseproud Cleaning, Glen Alpine

M 0405 712 935 T 1300 880 198
E glenalpine@houseproud.com.au

ABN 28 436 847 374

www.houseproud.com.au



**Cobb & Co
blinds**

Curtains | Blinds | Interiors

Marianne & Mark Nader
Phone: 02 4620 4014
Mobile: 0425 322 650

3/11 Blaxland Serviceway
Campbelltown 2560
Behind Bob Jane

ccblinds.com.au

@cobbccblindsccblinds
Cobb & Co Blinds

**- CONFIRMATIONS - FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2026**

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION By now all children will have been registered

Parents must attend the 'Three Session for Parents'.

Session 2 **THIS WEEK: 18th August; and 25th August.**

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

**20th August YOUTH CHOIR PRACTISE**

YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE – Thursday 20th August 6:00pm – 7:00pm for the Youth Mass
10am Sunday 23rd August.

**MAJOR RAFFLE**

TO BE DRAWN AT THE FOOD FESTIVAL

1ST PRIZE - \$3,000

2ND PRIZE - \$1,500

3RD PRIZE - \$750

TICKETS WILL BE NOW ON SALE.

Volunteer needed**Licensed Security Guards**

We are seeking **three parishioners** who hold a **current Security Guard Licence** to volunteer at our upcoming **Mary Immaculate Parish Food Festival**.

If you are available to assist by being present during the event, we would greatly appreciate your support. Your assistance will help ensure a safe and enjoyable day for everyone attending.

Please contact the Parish Office on: 02 4626 3055 if you are able to help or would like more information, or speak with Polly or May

RENEWED & SENT - PARISH RENEWAL SUMMIT 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.

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.



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

Eucharist28 Update – This is My Body, Given For You

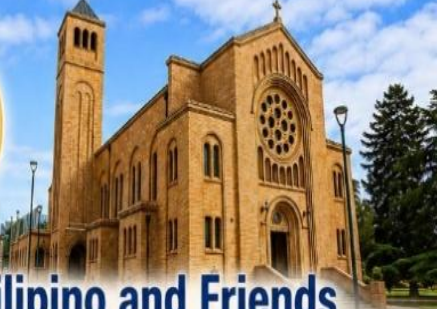
The International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028 ('Eucharist28') will be a global gathering of the Church centred on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be a festival of faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music – a truly 'once in a lifetime' experience, and a transformative moment for our nation.

The theme for Eucharist28 is 'This is My Body, Given For You', which invites us to reflect on the words that Christ spoke as he instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice. At each Mass, the priest repeats Jesus' words from the Last Supper, and the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

This miraculous change does not end with the gifts. As we receive the Body of Christ, we are transformed into the Body of Christ, carrying His presence into our homes, workplaces, schools, parishes and communities.

Just as He gave His life for us, we too are called to offer our lives in sacrifice and service to God and to those around us.

This national journey to Eucharist28 is an invitation for all of us to share in the breaking of the bread and allow Christ's presence to transform us. The journey begins now, in our own hearts and in our own parishes. For catechetical material to help your parish and community prepare for this moment, head to eucharist28.org/resources.



**The Filipino and Friends
Parish Community Association (FFPCA)**

invites you to

2026 Annual Pilgrimage

When:
September 19 2026

Where:
St Christopher Cathedral
55 Franklin St, Forrest ACT 2603

Activities :

- Healing Mass at 9am
- Side Trip to Floriade at Commonwealth Park

Assembly Time : 5am in front of Mary Immaculate Church, Eagle Vale

Departure from Eagle Vale: 530am
Departure from Canberra : 4pm

Cost: \$65 per pilgrim
Morning tea and light snacks to be provided;
BYO lunch and drinks.

To book seats, please contact any of the FFPCA officers.
Hurry, seats are limited.

Photo from saintchristopher.org.au

PLEASE PRAY FOR-

THE SICK: Please pray especially for: **David Maxwell, Luca Thistleton, Fr Ross Naylor, Felisa Orca, 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 **Mick Corbett, Jerome Montinola, Catherine Lothian, Angela Nesbitt, Juanita and Marilou Matinong** whose anniversaries occur at this time and all Holy Souls. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

Feast Day for the coming week. Thursday 20th **St Bernard**: Friday 21st **St Pope Pius X**: Saturday 22nd **The Queenship of Mary.**

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 15 th -22 nd Aug.	
Sat Vigil 5:30pm	For the repose of Mick Corbett (anniversary)
SUN 8.30am	For the repose of Jerome Montinola (anniversary)
10.00am	For the repose of Catherine Lothian (birthday anniversary)
5:30pm	For repose of Angela Nesbitt (anniversary)
Mon. 9.00am	For the people of the parish.
Tues. 9.00am	For the Souls in Purgatory
Wed. 7:30pm	For the repose of Juanito & Marilou Matinong
Thur. 9:00am	
Fri. 9:00am	For Ranil Peiris (Thanksgiving on his 50 th birthday)
Sat. 9:30am	

Ministers for weekend 22 nd /23 rd August.	
Saturday 5.30pm	
Acolyte:	Robert Squires
E. Minister:	Anne Sheldrick
Readers:	1. Ramon Racca 2. Emillie Racca
Sunday 8.30am	
Acolyte:	Michael Arthur
E. Minister:	Chandrika Fernando Kumar Fernando
Readers	1. Janelle Hains 2. John Hains
Sunday 10.00am	
Acolyte:	Lafi Tuigamala
E. Minister:	Kathy Gong Charles Morell
Readers:	1. Youth Group 1 2. Youth Group 2
Sunday 5.30pm	
Acolyte:	Roy Rodriguez
E. Minister:	Michelle Fogarty
Readers:	1. April Alhambra 2. Jeanne Alhambra

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil 5:30pm

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon & Tue: 9:00am / Wednesday: 7:30 pm

Fri 9:00am / Saturday: 9:30am

FILIPINO MASS – 2nd Sunday- 4:00pm.

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES by appointment.

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 Thurs. & Meetings - 4th Friday @ 6.30pm (in Madigan room)

HOLY HOUR PRAYERS First Saturday - After Mass



Lord Jesus Christ,
make Mary Immaculate Parish
a God centred community,
alive in faith and united in love.
Form us as disciples
who know you and live your way.
Make us one body
where every person is known,
welcomed, valued and needed.
Send us out to serve.
invite and to share the Gospel,
especially with those
most in need.
Mary Immaculate,
First Disciple and
Mother of the Church – pray for us
St Eugene de Mazenod – pray for us.



TEENS (16+) | YOUNG ADULTS | YOUNG COUPLES

"BUT YOU ARE A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, GOD PEOPLE, IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY PROCLAIM THE MIGHTY ACTS OF HIM WHO CALLS YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELLOUS LIGHT"

1 PETER 2:9

KLETOS

CHOSEN PRE-CONFERENCE

ENCOUNTER. CONNECT. WITNESS

SATURDAY, 22ND AUGUST

11AM - 3:30PM

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
CATHOLIC CHURCH
ROSEMEADOW

WWW.CHOSENCONFERENCE.ORG.AU | JESUS YOUTH AUSTRALIA | JY AUSTRALIA

Simplicity September

This September, simplify one thing in your life and discover what truly matters.

Sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to participate and raise money for **Palms International Volunteering**, Australia’s only Catholic lay organization that delivers international development and formation through long term international volunteering.

Join Australians across the country supporting Palms’ work in the Asia-Pacific. **02 9560 5333 / 0422 472 567**
www.simplicityseptember.org.au



Shawn Pizarro
Licenced Plumber & Gasfitter

0466 798 173

shawn@kaliburplumbing.com

ABN 84 625 361 421
Licence no. 391335C



Kenneally's
Funerals

Gerald Kenneally J.P.
Mob: 0418 221 054
gerald@kenneallysfunerals.com.au

100% Australian Family Owned & Operated