



Mary Immaculate Parish

Eagle Vale

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Under the care of the
Oblate of Mary Immaculate

20 YEARS

Constitutions & Rules 1826 -2026

26th Sunday in Year A

27th September 2026

A note from the Parish Priest.



be Disciples.
One.
Sent.

WEEK 9

Theme: Be Disciples. (Matthew 21:28-32)

Prior to today's Gospel Jesus drives out the sellers who were defiling the temple with their crooked dealings (vs. 12ff). Shortly after Jesus and his disciples encounter the 'barren fig tree' (vs. 18ff) It's leafy exterior yet with a lack of any fruit symbolizes what Jesus found in the Temple at Jerusalem. It looked active and alive on the outside, but lacking in true spiritual life, repentance, or sincerity.

While some praised Jesus' actions in the temple, the chief priests and scribes resented what he did and demanded to know by what authority he claimed to judge them. Jesus turns the tables on them by pointing to their treatment of John the Baptist and exposes their double standards. He then goes on to tell them the **Parable of the Two Sons**.

As Jesus begins to speak about a 'vineyard' the listeners would recognize that he was speaking about Israel's place to the Kingdom of God. This imagery used by the prophet was well known to the people. It is a vision of the kingdom of God in a future era of universal peace, justice, and the restoration of creation ruled by a righteous king from the Davidic line.

In the parable the first son is told to go and work in the vineyard. This is not a request. Obedience and respect were everyday expectations ...to '*honour thy mother and thy father*' is enshrined in the code of behaviour.

In his initial refusal to obey the father's command the first son not only brings great shame to the father and offends his family but disgraces his own identity as an Israelite. Deuteronomy goes as far as recommending that if a rebellious son continues to rebel after they have disciplined him, they should report him to the elders who may have him stoned.

We are not told the reason but in time he reconsiders, (in the Greek a '*metanoia*' i.e., a complete 'change of heart') and goes off to the vineyard.

By contrast, despite his initial agreement, the second son does not go to the vineyard. Outwardly he is the model son. He gives the right answer. But he is like the 'fig tree' which Jesus encountered earlier, there are leaves but no fruit. The words are empty and there is no indication that the second son will reconsider.

When Jesus questioned them, the religious leaders are forced to admit that it was the rebellious son who had done the will of the father, and in doing so that they condemn themselves. They have made a show of being children of God but have not actually done anything to bring in the harvest of the Kingdom.

Jesus has exposed them with glaring accuracy and points out that because of their obstinacy, the (much hated) tax collectors and the prostitutes (whom they considered permanently unclean) are making their way to the Kingdom of God before them. For even though tax collectors and prostitutes had put themselves outside the covenant, when they heard the word of God through John the Baptist, they had a change of heart (*metanoia*). They went back from where they came, praising God and spoke of their encounter with God (evangelized others).

BECOMING DISCIPLES

In Jesus' time a rabbi would hand pick his disciple and they would form a fictive family. Hence the command to leave father, mother and family and come follow (cf. Matt 10:37). The call to discipleship is not simply to obey commandments. It goes much deeper. It is a call to adopt a way of life lived in an intimate union the Master and his followers.

Today, we are being called to work in the vineyard, and *metanoia* will continue to play a part in our daily experience. The parable speaks to us about the patience and compassion of God. He is willing to wait for our response and to give us time to consider our actions. A lack of response or past choices do not disqualify anyone. God's mercy is powerful enough to cover all our sins.

The demand of discipleship is not simply to go through the motions of being obedient worker like a hireling. Hirelings have no loyalty beyond getting the job done for the reward offered. This is evident in the previous Gospel reading of the workers in the vineyards who at the end of the day grumbled that they were not given more money. (Cf. Matt 21:1-16). Discipleship means that we develop a 'culture' i.e., a collective identity by which others recognise who we are by the way we live our lives.

In our Vision Prayer we have been praying that we will grow as a 'God-centred community'. We pray that *all will be welcomed, valued and needed*.

REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

Discipleship is not so much about actions as how heart-filled our response is. I come to Mass, but do I fully contribute, keen and eager to celebrate with my 'family in the parish'. I offer a sign of peace during Mass, but do I offer a hand of friendship once Mass is over. I contribute money to the collections, but do I give of myself as an active member. A Parish Vision is not lived because we agree with it, it is lived when we respond. **Today is still a day to say, yes.**

Fr. Leo Mifsud OMI

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2026

The Bishop's Annual Appeal special collection is taking place in our parish this weekend. Your support helps provide for the retirement and health of our clergy and the sound and holistic formation of our seminarians. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift today. Donate: dow.org.au/giving Phone: (02) 4222 2400

Pray with Pope Leo XIV: One Million Children Praying the Rosary



From 1-7 October, *Aid to the Church in Need* invites you to join with Pope Leo XIV and Catholics worldwide for the *One Million Children Praying the Rosary* prayer campaign, for peace and unity in the world.

Families, parishioners, prayer groups, and schools are all encouraged to register to take part!

For free Rosary resources and to register, please scan the QR code or visit:

www.acninternational.org/millionchildrenpraying



"When one million children pray the Rosary, the world will change." - Saint Padre Pio

FAITH & FRIES – CAMPBELLTOWN Wednesday 14 October | 4:30pm–6:30pm,

'Register by 5 October to go into the draw for our giveaway! - Grill'd' Macarthur Square, 200 Gilchrist Street - Register: dow.sh/fries

Grab dinner at Grill'd, hear a real-life faith story and join a live Q&A panel, the topic for the night is Dating & Relationships. Whether you're involved in your faith, just curious or somewhere in between, you're welcome!

Free to attend, with a special \$15 burger and chips deal available to purchase.

9th -11th October, Marriage Encounter Weekend

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville – We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! **Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au**

16th -18th October - Compass Catholic Family Camping Weekend

Registrations are now open for our next CCFC Weekend planned for **Friday 16 - Sunday 18 October**. Join with families from across the Diocese for a relaxed weekend of family fun, faith and food! For more information and to register go to: dow.sh/familycamping26

16th -18th October Handmade: Creative Healing Retreat,

Carmel House, Varroville ***"In his hand is the life of every creature"* Job 12:10**
Come away for a weekend of reflection on how carefully God has made and upheld your life through different creative prayer experiences. This retreat is for both men and women. Hosted by the MGL Sisters.

Registration link: www.trybooking.com/DIDCB

31 October Vocaris Youth October 2026

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



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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.

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region The Cagliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco

We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia.

Applications close October 31st, 2026. Send us an enquiry - www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au.

Survey of Catholic Couples

The Australian Catholic Bishops want to hear about the experience of Catholics in their first 10 years of marriage. The information gathered will help inform the development of pastoral responses and resources for this vital stage of married life. **Any couple married in the last 10 years, where at least one spouse is Catholic, can contribute** their valuable insights via <https://thepmrc.org/survey>.

All answers are anonymous and confidential, and participants can contact the researchers directly with any questions via the survey link. Your contributions would be highly valued.



Parish News



1st – 3rd October - St Gregory's College, Campbelltown.

Have you seriously thought about attending?

Is it for you? – Yes! It is specifically for you!

Hesitant? - All the more reason to attend to register.

You will be surrounded by other parishioners and the priests. – A relaxed atmosphere throughout.

The talks and workshops are NON-THREATENING and EYE OPENING

Mary Immaculate Parish has been using this model of Church for over 10 years. Now come and see where we are heading.

- For the full program and registrations, visit renewedandsent.com.au. OR QR code



Tuesday 6th October - 6:30pm Mary Immaculate Parish Hall

Your best dance energy

Bring: Comfortable shoes Loose, breathable clothing - Water bottle Towel

Ann @ 0408340343

Shafrai @ 0451860404

22 – 25th October 2026

De Mazenod Family Gathering

One Heart, One Family, One Charism

Join members of the De Mazenod Family from across Australia as we gather for a weekend of prayer, formation, community and celebration while reflecting on the bicentenary of the Constitutions and Rules.

When: 22-25 October 2026

Where: St Eugene's Retreat Centre, Newborough, Victoria

Registration: from \$100

Whether you've been part of the De Mazenod Family for many years or are just beginning the journey, everyone is warmly invited. For more information or to register,

visit: <https://omi.com.au/dmf-gathering> or QR



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.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR-

THE SICK: Please pray especially for: Lucito Tan, Sandra Baynie, Bing Herradurra, Bill Webb, Maryse Purvis, Elias Busuttil, Rana Afram, Elaine Freeman, David Maxwell, Luca Thistleton, Fr Ross Naylor, Felisa Orca, Jennifer Doran, Fr Brian Egan, Lourdes Collaco, Phillip Whitehouse, Willow Morrison, Lisa Farnhill, Adrian Banks, Christine Debski, Ana Villagonzalo, Pinky and Evelyn Arenas, Lachlan Abood, Charbel Aziz, Margaret Roberts, Georgette Ganvert.

THE DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls **Joseph Saliba, Gerry Contreras, Marie Pereira, Emmanuel Vella, Mateialona Latuselu** whose anniversaries occur at this time and all Holy Souls. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

Coming week's Feast Day Tues 29th **Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael**; Wed.30th **St Jerome**;
Thura 1st **St Therese of the Child Jesus**; Frid 2nd **The Guardian Angels**.

MASS INTENTIONS 26 th Sept – 3 rd October.	
Sat Vigil 5:30pm	For the anniversary of death of Joseph Saliba
SUN 8.30am	For The People of the Parish (Pro Populo)
10.00am	For Nygel Contreras on his birthday and Gerry Contreras deceased birthday anniversary
5:30pm	For the first anniversary of death of Marie Pereira
Mon. 9.00am	For the anniversary of death of Emmanuel Vella
Tues. 9.00am	For the anniversary of death of Mateialona Latuselu
Wed. 7:30pm	In thanksgiving to all Renewed & Sent Conference Volunteers
Thur. 9:00am	For God's blessings on Aida Duyvestyn and on her family
Fri. 9:00am	For Fransisco Cavanna and Godofredo Camacho Jr on their birthdays
Sat. 9:30am	For successful operation and quick recovery of Bing Herradurra

Ministers for weekend 26 th /27 th Sept	
Saturday 5.30pm	
Acolyte:	Robert Squires
E. Minister:	Anne Sheldrick
Readers:	1. Veronica Roson 2. Jean Whiting
Sunday 8.30am	
Acolyte:	Michael Arthur
E. Minister:	Tahlia Morris Vitolina Smith
Readers	1. Bernedette Peiris 2. Elvina Joby
Sunday 10.00am	
Acolyte:	Lafi Tuigamala
E. Minister:	Marie Claire Gopaul Ann Webb
Readers:	1. PLT 2. PLT
Sunday 5.30pm	
Acolyte:	Loretta Tuigamala
E. Minister:	Orpha Rivero
Readers:	1. Roxanne Rodriguez 2.

When receiving Holy Communion whether in the Hands or on the Tongue you are always required to respond with 'Amen' after the minister proclaims, "the Body of Christ", and before to take the host.

Late for Mass again?

To break the habit of chronic lateness for Mass, plan to arrive 10 to 15 minutes early so you have time to settle in and pray before the liturgy begins.

- If you are late, please sneak quietly to the back of the Church and do not distract others especially during the Readings, Gospel or the Homily.



MARY IMMACULATE PARISH
EAGLE VALE

LEGION OF MARY

Holy Rosary

AND
STATUE HOME VISITS



TO BOOK A VISIT, CONTACT

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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))

DEVOTIONAL TIMES
ROSARY: before weekday Masse

DIVINE MERCY Chaplet- Fridays after 9am Mass with Benediction on 1st Friday Meetings - 4th Friday @ 6.30pm (in Madigan room)

HOLY HOUR PRAYERS
Sponsored by the Filipino Group
First Saturday - After Mass
Saturday: 9:30am

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES by appointment.