

Mary Immaculate Parish

Eagle Vale

Parish Priest: Fr Leo Mifsud OMI

Assistant: Fr. Didier Indibi OMI

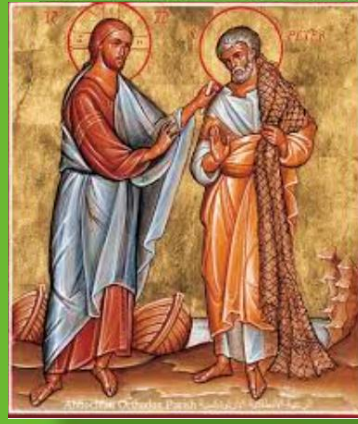
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Under the care of the
Oblate of Mary Immaculate



Constitutions & Rules 1826 -2026

23rd Sunday in Year A

6th September 2026

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY: May your heart be filled with deep peace and your days surrounded by love.

A note from the Parish Priest.



be Disciples.
One.
Sent.

WEEK 6

Theme: Responsible for One Another. (Matthew 18:15-20)

During their exile and captivity in Babylon the people often laid the blame for the catastrophe on the sins of their forefathers while diminishing their own responsibility. The prophet Ezekiel (33:7-9) was appointed as a "watchman" to warn people against this thinking and that God, who is 'Just' would hold them responsible for their own sins. Ezekiel however did not only preach doom for the sinner but also hope for the repentant sinner. This is famously illustrated by the vision of the 'Valley of Dry Bones' (Ezekiel 37), where God promises to resurrect Israel, replace their "hard hearts of stone" with "hearts of flesh," and restore His dwelling place among them.

In Matthew 18:15-20 Jesus gives his disciples a structure by which they can call others to be accountable for sins and at the same time build up the communion amongst the believers. Jesus takes as his starting point a structure that is already in place during his time. In the Torah, the book of Deuteronomy commands that at least two or three witnesses are required for any legal charge to be sustained and then the community pronounces the verdict. This is a fair and just system. But Jesus does not simply want to 'catch the sinner out' or win a legal battle. Jesus wants to preserve the dignity of the wrongdoer and restore their life, bringing them into the community.

There is a danger for any community and even the Church when one person or a small group exercise plenary power without firstly taking the other person to heart. It places the community in the vulnerable position where every member of the community is demeaned. Speaking from experience where I have needed to counsel people who have been damaged by some 'well-meaning' member of the Church who (incorrectly) told them that they could not receive Holy Communion. This was clearly a breach of one's personal authority.

Jesus begins by calling his disciples to first have a private conversation with the offender. And if, after a process of listening and clarifying one manages to resolve the situation, then unity has been restored without a loss of dignity or causing rupture within the community. If this fails to achieve a resolution, then a small group can be called (two or three). The reason for someone not to take this second step is often that they have already judged without the advantage of knowing how or if a situation can be corrected or what conditions may have contributed to the offence.

The purpose of this small group is not to lay an 'ambush' or 'browbeat' the offender but to clarify and instruct about the seriousness of the action at hand. The goal is not to 'win'; the carefully staged increase of pressure is aimed to 'bring back' your brother or sister (v.16) with a minimum loss to their dignity or a disruption to the wider community.

It is only if this fails that the whole community of the Church makes the final decision. If the offender chooses to disregard the Community's judgment, then the offender has already placed himself/herself outside the community and is to be treated as an 'outsider'. In Jesus culture being excluded from the community meant that one is effectively dead. Today, in extreme situations we would call it excommunication.

It is important to note that throughout the processes whether it is a one on one, a small group or the whole Church, great care and patience is exercised to restore the communion between the individual and the community. This is important because from the outset we should always intend to deal with sinners as people who are our family and with whom we want to restore relationships.

In verse 18, Jesus tells his disciples, 'Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven'. There is a difference between what Jesus is saying now, to what he said to Peter. Here Jesus uses the 'you' in the plural sense. It is the Church which he is authorizing to make final judgments. Equally important is Jesus' promise 'For wherever two or three

meet in my name, I am there with them (v20). The authority of the Church comes from Jesus' own presence at every prayerful gathering no matter how small that may be.

In a homily given at Assisi in August, Pope Leo tells us that 'the Church exists to lead us to listen and make decisions, once we come to understand for whom we live and how we are to live. It is where we learn to discern the voice of God, through which we dare to obey the Holy Spirit who opens our hearts to follow the Risen One wherever he has chosen to go before us. The Gospel presents us with a Church that is humble in its exercise of authority, yet it does not shy from shedding light into any darkened areas. Pope Leo explained, the Church is breaking down the culture of power and choosing human solidarity and an active love over dominance and division.

REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

This is also Our Parish Vision as well. Unity is not pretending 'nothing is wrong' but acknowledging that there is a need for growth. It challenges each one of us to be accountable to one another and to "speak the truth in love for the sake of communion". To reject idle speculations or gossip, which weakens unity, and to encourage respectful conversations which sheds Christ's light on all that we do.

Fr. Leo Mifsud OMI

Saturday, 12 September **Mention My Name Memorial Mass** - for those affected by suicide

St Thomas More Catholic Church, 43 Acacia Ave, Ruse 10:00am

This Mass is a beautiful opportunity to pause, remember and honour those whose lives have been lost through suicide. It is also a time to surround the families, friends, caregivers and first responders affected by suicide with prayer, compassion and the reminder that they are not alone.

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



Sunday 13th September - Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Centenary Jubilee Celebrations

10:00am start at Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa

The day will begin with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP followed by light refreshments and an official program. Parish bus groups are encouraged. An exhibition on the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary will be available for viewing in the Family Hall from 8:30am – 6:00pm.

To RSVP and for more information visit: www.schoenstatt.org.au

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

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

6:30pm - Holy Mass. Followed by devotional prayers and reflections - St Carlo Acutis

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

17 18 19 and 20 September **Feast of St Padre Pio**

St Padre Pio Parish Glenmore Park (34-38 William Howell Drive Glenmore Park)

Triduum -Novena Mass Thursday 17th and Friday 18th September at 7.00pm

Saturday 19th September 5.30pm

Sunday 20th September – Procession followed by Mass, Veneration and blessing with St Padre Pio's Relic and fellowship meal – 10am

23rd September **FAITH & FRIES – WOLLONGONG**

Wednesday 23 September | 4:30pm–6:30pm **Grill'd Wollongong**, Crown Street

Calling all high school students! Faith & Fries is a relaxed afternoon bringing together teenagers from across the Diocese of Wollongong. Grab dinner at Grill'd, hear a real-life faith story and join a live Q&A panel where no question is off limits.

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.

Bring your mates, youth group or others from your school.

Register by 12 September to go into the draw for our giveaway! Register: dow.sh/fries

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



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Varghese Joseph

Founder & Lead consultant

Mobile 0426 576 218

Creedxconsulting

@gmail.com

ABN:48127239835

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

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.

Parish News

THANK YOU
On behalf of Mary Immaculate Parish, we would like to give a special THANK YOU to our Tongan Community for their generous donation to the parish of \$10,300 which resulted from their fundraiser on 22nd August.

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 ARE NOW ON SALE.

If you would like to make a donation towards the Prizes, please contact the Parish Office on: 02 4626 3055 or speak with Polly or May

Volunteer needed - Licensed Security Guards
If you hold a current Security Guard Licence and if you are available to assist, we would greatly appreciate your support and the Parish Food Festival.
Please contact the Parish Office on: 02 4626 3055 if you would like more information, or speak with Polly or May

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

RENEWED & SENT | PARISH RENEWAL SUMMIT 2026

? 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.

The talks and workshops are NON-THREATENING and EYE OPENING – A relaxed atmosphere throughout.
Mary Immaculate Parish has been using this model of Church for over 6 years. Now come and see where we are heading.

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



MARY IMMACULATE PARISH
EAGLE VALE

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Holy Rosary
AND
STATUE HOME VISITS

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PLEASE PRAY FOR-

THE SICK: Please pray especially for: Maryse Purvis, Elias Busuttil, Rana Afram, Elaine Freeman, 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 **Please pray for the repose of the souls of Vincenta Loyola who died recently Joseph and Eva Hoyek, Constantine Caruana, Consolacion Palmon, Luis Rego, Manuel Joaquin Dias and all Holy Souls.** May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

Coming week’s Feast Day Tuesday 8th September, **The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

MASS INTENTIONS 5 th – 12 th Sept.	
Sat Vigil 5:30pm	For the anniversary of death of Joseph and Eva Hoyek
SUN 8.30am	For Habib Ataya on his birthday
10.00am	For the 55th Wedding anniversary of Joseph and Marianna Zwolk
5:30pm	For the People of the Parish
Mon. 9.00am	For the soul of Constantine Caruana
Tues. 9.00am	For the birthday anniversary of Consolacion Palmon deceased
Wed. 7:30pm	For the anniversary of death of Luis Rego
Thur. 9:00am	For the birthday anniversary of Manuel Joaquin Dias deceased
Fri. 9:00am	For Temalisi on her birthday
Sat. 9:30am	For Valentine Taeiloa on his birthday

Ministers for weekend 12 th /13 th Sept		
Saturday 5.30pm		
Acolyte:	Robert Squires	
E. Minister:	Marlene Jones	
Readers:	1. Anne Sheldrick	2. Julian Rookes
Sunday 8.30am		
Acolyte:	Michael Arthur	
E. Minister:	Teresa Rinkin	Kirsty Simpson
Readers	1. Tina Morell	2. Elvina Joby
Sunday 10.00am		
Acolyte:	Sam Kula	
E. Minister:	Kathy Gong	Marie-Claire Gopaul
Readers:	1. Faith Leasiolagi	2. Malia Kula
Sunday 5.30pm		
Acolyte:	Thomas Philippe	
E. Minister:	Orpha Rivero	
Readers:	1. Seira Fernandez	2. Alyssa Fernandez

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 1 st Friday Thurs. & Meetings - 4 th Friday @ 6.30pm (in Madigan room) HOLY HOUR PRAYERS First Saturday - After Mass
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Conversations can spark ideas, build understanding and encourage reflection. But meaningful change happens when those conversations lead to practical action that strengthens support for children and families. National Child Protection Week helps turn conversation into action by bringing people across Australia together to share ideas, strengthen communities and prevent harm before it occurs. While the Week creates an important national moment, the campaign continues throughout the year, encouraging all of us to take steps that help children feel heard, valued, safe and supported.

By shifting conversation to action, we can help build communities where every child experience real safety, care and protection.

Habib Ataya
Houseproud Cleaning, Glen Alpine

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E glenalpine@houseproud.com.au

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