

Mary Immaculate Parish

Eagle Vale

Parish Priest: Fr Leo Mifsud OMI

Assistant: Fr. Didier Indibi OMI

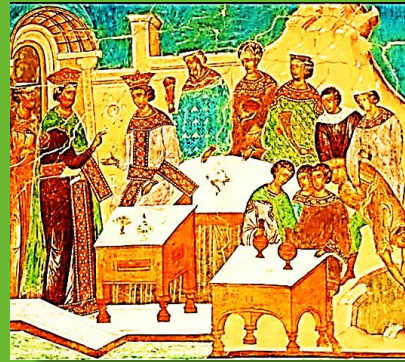
Parish Secretary: Mrs Vicki M^cHale

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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

20 YEARS

Constitutions & Rules 1826 -2026

28th Sunday in Year A

11th October 2026

A note from the Parish Priest.



WEEK 11

Theme: Invited to the Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14)

At a time when Israel was conquered and lost, Isaiah (25:6-10) offers them comfort and hope in a world that will be redeemed. God, himself will make the preparations; he will remove the 'shroud' of helplessness that hangs over the people and destroy even 'death' itself; he will remove the shame and disgrace of the people.

The banquet here and in the parable in Matthew's Gospel reveals peace, reconciliation, and the start of a new age. It is also a vindication for the faith Israel has put in God and a symbol of universal salvation. And God is the foundation of all relationships governing the nations. The prophecy (verse 11ff) however, also carries a warning for those nations which continue to defy God and threaten the people.

The GOSPEL (Matt 22:1-14).

Continuing from the previous parables where the elders and chief priests are chastised for their lack of fidelity to the Torah and refusal to believe in him, Jesus, again confronts them for their unveiled hostility. What follows is an allegory of Salvation History.

The story begins with a King giving a banquet in honour of his son's wedding. It was understood that only the elite would receive an invitation. There would be two rounds of invitations; the first round was well in advance so that those invited could see who else was invited. Then on the day, and at the exact hour that the feast is prepared the host would send messengers to escort the guests to the banquet. This was seen as a great honour and courtesy.

On the day however one by one these 'élite' guests refuse to come, some by their indifference and others by open hostility. Rejecting the second summons after accepting the first was considered a massive, deliberate insult to the host. This insult is dealt with as the hearers would have expected.

The banquet is not determined on their approval, however. It was never about them. The banquet is inevitable and as indicated in the prophecy from Isaiah, it is meant for all the nations. Israel was simply offered an honoured position. Having been met by their refusal the invitation is extended to all those at the "crossroads", where people from all classes and cultures and backgrounds overlap, the banquet hall is filled.

THE FINAL TWIST – THE WEDDING GARMENT.

God's invitation (grace) envelops all humanity, beyond the boundaries of Israel... and all are called, the good and the bad alike. In Jesus' time, kings typically provided specific, festive robes for their banquet guests to ensure everyone was properly adorned. There are many examples in the scriptures referencing the use of 'garments', e.g. "*For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation... as a bridegroom...*" (Isaiah 61:10). "*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ, have put on Christ*" (or "clothed yourselves with Christ"), (see Galatians 3)

By wearing the 'garment' the guests showed their appreciation for the honour given to them. Their attendance was not only a physical presence but in a real sense, became part of the celebration by showing a willingness to be joined with the King in his joy.

By contrast, refusal to wear the robe provided, in preference to one's own clothes was a massive insult to the king. While inspecting the banquet hall the King notices the man without the 'wedding garment'. I mentioned previously that this story is an allegory for Salvation History. This part of the story then is about the Last Judgment.

The conversation that follows is very revealing. The king addresses the man. In the English he calls him 'friend', however the Greek word that is used is '*Hetairos*', a form of address which implies he was not a close friend. It is used 3 times in Matthew's Gospel. It was used by the landowner to the grumbling

be Disciples.
One.
Sent

worker, here, and it will be used when Judas greets Jesus at Gethsemane. On each occasion it reveals a distance between the two.

When asked why he is not wearing the wedding garment, the man is not just silent but completely without a reply (muzzled) (in the Greek *ephimōthē*). The only other time this word is used is when Jesus calms(*muzzles*) the storm. There is no argument or reason given, indicating a simple and utter refusal.

For those listening the meaning is that his lack of willingness to enter into the joy of the celebration is the same as the refusal of those who did not come to the banquet.

The man is then bound hand and foot. He is taken from a place washed with light and thrown outside where there is no light. In the culture of Jesus, the darkness of the night was something to dread. Light represented God presence and the glory of God. *"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"* is the opening declaration of Psalm 27.

What is the Garment? How do we know when we are wearing it?

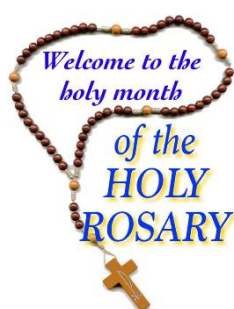
During a Baptism ceremony the celebrant presents the newly baptized with a 'white garment' and is told, 'you have become a new creation and clothed yourself in Christ...' The white garment is the external sign of the internal transformation that has taken place at God's invitation. We are all "called" to receive this life and to be transformed into the image of Christ but unless our faith expresses itself in external deeds (garment) we are not truly living this 'transformed life' and in many respects we will be living in the darkness.

REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

Our Parish Vision calls us to see our parish as the Banquet Hall which God has prepared for us. It is the place where we are known, welcomed, valued and invited to belong. But we must not think that it is our exclusive property as did the chief priests and the elders.

We are to see ourselves as the stewards of the banquet who help to clothe the new arrivals and make them welcome and help them take their rightful place among us.

Fr. Leo Mifsud OMI



October - The Month of the Holy Rosary

The month of the Holy Rosary is **October**, a special time in the Catholic Church dedicated to honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary and meditating on the life of Jesus Christ.

Catholics worldwide are encouraged to pray the Holy Rosary daily during this month.
How to Pray the Rosary click on the QR



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

16-18 Oct. Handmade: Creative Healing Retreat, Carmel House, Varroville.

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>.**

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.



Habib Ataya

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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.



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catholicmission.org.au/united



NEXT SUNDAY 18th October there will be a collection at all the Mass for the Missions

This World Mission Month, you are invited to share in this mission, standing with families as they rebuild their lives and create a brighter future for their children



Proud to be part of M.I.E.V.

Last week over 600 people from all parts of the Catholic Community, joined by some 120 priests, deacons and bishops took part in the Renewed and Sent Summit.

We listened to some inspiring talks, took part in faith discussions, shared prayers and celebrated the Eucharist.

Returning to our parishes, eager to share this message of life for the Church we will now continue to listen to the voice of Christ, serve our communities and encouraging others to become disciples.

Mary Immaculate, Eagle Vale was wonderfully represented by an army of volunteers.

Well done! And Thank you for your prayers and hard work. May God continue to bless all our efforts.



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.

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,

When: 22-25 October 2026

Registration: from \$100

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

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



M.I.E.V Youth Events

**Sunday 25th October
Celebrating
the Feast day of St Carlos Acutis**

**10:00am Youth Mass
Followed by Adoration
from 11:30 – 12:30**



For primary schoolers
up to 35 years old



8000
Anniversary

**Friday 30th October – Fr Josh Nash OMI – Oblate
Youth Chaplain**

**Meet with the Youth of the Parish
in the Hall**

6:30pm – 8:30pm

**NOYE- January 27
National Oblate Youth Encounter
Mission is POSSIBLE**



For ages: 18 – 35

Scan Me for more information



Please pray for-

THE SICK: Please pray especially for: **Joseph Simone, Germano De Campo, Patricia Ramos, 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 of **Lucito Tan** recently deceased, **Virgilio Orca, Edwin Orca, Colleen Franco, Thy Kho, Leonisa B Alhambra, Mar Roson, Victoriana Arive, Andrew Tsiaparas, Peter Tsiaparas** whose anniversaries occur at this time and all Holy Souls. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

Feast Days for the coming week: **Thur. 15th St Teresa of Jesus** **Sat. 17th St Ignatius of Antioch**
Pope Leo XIV's INTENTION of OCTOBER - For mental health ministry.
Pray that mental health ministry spreads across the Church to help end illnesses' stigma.

MASS INTENTIONS 10 th - 17 th October.	
Sat Vigil 5:30pm	For the anniversary of death of Colleen Franco
SUN 8.30am	For the People of the Parish
10.00am	For the anniversary of death of Thy Kho
5:30pm	For the soul of Leonisa B Alhambra (1 st Anniversary of death)
Mon. 9.00am	For peace, calming of fear and ease of confusion for Joseph Simone and Germano De Campo
Tues. 9.00am	For the anniversary of death of Mar Roson
Wed. 7:30pm	For the soul of Victoriana Arive
Thur. 9:00am	For the soul of Victoriana Arive
Fri. 9:00am	For Rodriguez family in thanksgiving
Sat. 9:30am	For the anniversaries of death of Andrew Tsiaparas and Peter Tsiaparas

Ministers for weekend 17 th / 18 th Oct.	
Saturday 5.30pm	
Acolyte:	Rober Squires
E. Minister:	Loretta Tuigamala
Readers:	1. Ramon Racca 2. Emillie Racca
Sunday 8.30am	
Acolyte:	Michael Arthur
E. Minister:	Lynne Duffield Arlene Kempa
Readers	1. Ann Webb 2. Tina Morell
Sunday 10.00am	
Acolyte:	Lafi Tuigamala
E. Minister:	Paul Pahulu Saline Pahulu
Readers:	1. Christian Berry 2. Edith May Berry
Sunday 5.30pm	
Acolyte:	Roy Rodriguez
E. Minister:	Roxanne Rodriguez
Readers:	1. Judy Byrne 2. Aishwarya Jacob

Celebrating Seniority! Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities!
Learn about our [diverse assignments](#) suited to your qualifications and time of life. Meet past volunteers Wendy and Mick who will share their adventures of life and laughter in PNG and Timor Leste, leaving a lasting positive impact on communities. Scan below to register or see [palms.org.au/events](#) **Date:** Monday 19 October 2026 **Time:** 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm AEDT
02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au



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EAGLE VALE

LEGION OF MARY
Holy Rosary
AND
STATUE HOME VISITS

TO BOOK A VISIT, CONTACT
MILA 0449 934 596
HABIB 0405 712 935

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.

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