

Mary Immaculate Parish
Eagle Vale

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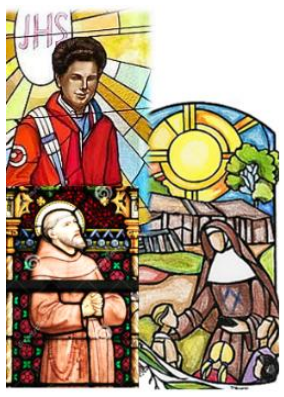
Under the care of the
Oblate of Mary Immaculate

200 YEARS

Constitutions & Rules 1826 -2026

All Saints Day
1st November 2026

Saints or Pumpkins?



Today, 1st November we celebrate the Feast of All Saints and the following day we will observe the Commemoration of All Souls. I would like to share some thought about these days.
As with all the Church's celebrations [or feast days] it is Christ centred. The feast of All Saints is the wonderful expression of the church's celebration of the victory of Christ.
In the Liturgy today we read the teaching found in the Gospel according to St. Matthew.
The Gospel of Matthew dedicates a large portion to teaching about the Kingdom. The core of that teaching is the Beatitudes [Matt 5:1-12]. In his teaching, Jesus directs his disciples to a way of life. Scripture scholars say that the Beatitudes are an interpretation of the 10 Commandment and the whole of the Torah.

The Beatitudes are more than a set of instruction for his disciples. We see in them a perfect description of his own life i.e., poor in spirit; gentle; peacemaker; pure in heart; persecuted. In Matt 5:16, Jesus then describes these attributes of discipleship in terms of being a 'light for the world' so that 'seeing your good works they may give praise to the Father.' Jesus not only tells them how to live these teachings but also demonstrates in his own actions.

The word Saint in the ancient Roman religion is someone who is worthy of veneration. However, in the New Testament [*hagios* is used in the Greek New Testament] means a 'holy one' who is set apart for a special purpose. Being a saint then is not an honorific title but rather a 'job description'.
The saints that we celebrate are those who have heard God's call to follow Christ and by imitating him continue to 'go out and proclaim the Good News [Gospel].

How did the Feast day come into being?

In 609 AD, Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all martyrs. This would be seed sown, to become All Saints Day. In the eighth Century Pope Gregory III, chose November 1st and dedicated it to the honour of All Saints, [and added] 'known and unknown'. In time, the vigil to the feast held. The evening before All Saints Day [all hallows] was known as All Hallows Eve, and later, Halloween.

So where did the pumpkin come from?

In the days when the population was largely unschooled, symbols were the only means by which people could be taught. Along with that, when Christianity spread to the West it was met with existing folklore and superstitions. It wasn't long before the Victories of the Saints got mixed up with warding off evil.
When Christianity is mingled with folklore, it starts to get disordered.
One such folklore is the legend of '*Stingy Jack'*. An old European legend has it that a very devious character known as stingy Jack was so bad that neither heaven nor hell would accept him. Therefore, he was cursed to walk the earth for all eternity with nothing but a hollowed-out turnip containing an ember from Hell to light his way. In Ireland, people started to carve demonic faces out of turnips to frighten away Jack's wandering soul. It was not until Irish immigrants arrived in America and discovered the pumpkin [which are native to America] that the new Halloween ritual of carving pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns was born.
In recent times the feast of 'All Saints' has been diluted and adulterated 'for commercial use' like some other important religious days. Easter has been reduced to 'bunnies laying chocolate eggs in your garden' and Christmas has become a celebration of a 'fat man in a red jumpsuit'. [Don't let the kids read this] All Saints too is reduced to witches and goblins and inducing more sugar into children's diets (Yes, I know … I am sounding like a grumpy old man … blush)

I know that for most people Halloween is just a bit of harmless fun. But sometimes we need to be more careful about the things we trivialize, or it may come back to haunt. [pun intended]. However, the really sad thing is that people are accepting unrealistic versions of events that have tremendous meaning for life. And it would be sad to think that children might one day not recognize the Feast Day as a day of Heroes.
All Saint has nothing to do with warding off evil spirits or hapless ghosts roaming our street with extortions of 'trick or treat', whatever [American mumbo jumbo] that means.

What's it to be. Pumpkins or Saints?

Is there any compromise after all the pumpkin is carved in such a way as to let the candlelight shine through it. That must have some merit. But that's where the similarity ends.

Apart from the commercialization that goes on, the light in the pumpkin even if it is a real candle, is still only human and the carving forms are grotesque and meant to frighten.
Someone once said that Saints are like the stained-glass windows in a church. Each saint is a unique individual bearing with them their own personality and background. But the light that shines through them is the same, Jesus. Their light is the light of Jesus which shines through them and is a beacon of welcome and offers a way back home.

At baptism, a candle is presented to the individual with the Church's invitation, "receive the Light of Christ". This light is what guides us through life. It is also the light that we are meant to share in order to bring The Light into the world.

They are saints not only to be venerated but part of the Kingdom which is made up of a Communion of those in heaven and those still on the journey. They continue to fulfill their purpose in letting the Divine Light shine through them to help us become saints. They show us how to use our gifts and talents so that we can live the Beatitudes and make Christ visible in the world.
The light which shines from the Church and from the saints is from the inner workings of God's Grace. Light is understanding; the Truth that sets people free and brings wholeness (Salvation). It gives off Joy, not fear; A Light that attracts rather than repels.

St. Eugene de Mazenod urged his followers: "We must strive first of all to lead people to act like human beings, and then like Christians, and finally, we must help them to become saints."
The choice for us then becomes, do we allow ourselves to be drawn into a world filled with artificial light or to live our life as genuine people letting the light of God shine through us. Do we become Saints or pumpkins?

Fr. Leo Mifsud OMI

November Mass Offerings for Holy Souls: The usual conditions will apply for the Offering for the Holy Souls. For each envelope given, One Mass will be offered for those named on the envelope. Masses for Holy Souls will be offered each day
In accordance with the new regulations and conditions, listed below, we are now able to give people the opportunity for those wishing to offer a Mass for a special Intention as a second intention for the Mass.

Please read the information on the new regulations below.

THE NEW REGULATIONS REGARDING MASS OFFERINGS

Why the change? Due to the sheer volume of requests for Masses to the offered for special intentions it is necessary to now permit priests to offer more than one intention per Mass while safeguarding against any notion of commercial transaction.

The short version Explanation: Traditionally a priest could only offer ONE intention per Mass.
The new regulations now permit a priest to have more than one intention per mass **WITH CONDITIONS** (which are)

a) Where a Mass is being offered for more than one intention, those how are offering the intention **MUST KNOW** and **CONSENT** for it to be offered alongside other intentions.
b) From the stipends (offerings) received, only one is kept for the house, with additional stipends to be passed on to some charitable works; In our case we will give any extra stipend to the Oblate Seminary.

There is more information however for the sake of not confusing people with too much information I will provide further explanation on this topic next week.

14 November "Alive" Family Retreat Day

The MGL Sisters warmly welcome you and your family to unleash the power of the Holy Spirit.
When: 9:00am – 4:00pm on Saturday, 14th Nov.
Where: Beginning with 9:00am Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish (Varroville), then moving to the parish hall for a day of inputs and activities. **Meals:** Please bring your own lunch and snacks to safely accommodate your family& specific dietary needs and preferences.
For information and Registration: trybooking.com?DIDCJ

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 are 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** for 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.

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Saturday 21st November Diocesan Annual Catechist Mass

at 10am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong
All active and retired SRE Catechists and those involved in the Sacramental preparation of children are warmly invited to the Annual Catechist Mass and Awards Ceremony. Join Bishop Brian Mascord, for this celebration, followed by a light refreshment. **To register:** visit **dow.sh/cm26** or scan the QR Code or contact ***helen.bennett@dow.org.au*** for more information.

National Oblate Youth Encounter 2027 – Mission Is Possible!

Registrations are now open for the National Oblate Youth Encounter (NOYE),
Bringing young people from across Australia for five days of faith, friendship and community, talks, workshops, prayer and liturgy, music, exploring the Charism of St Eugene de Mazenod and plenty of time to connect with others. **For ages from Year 12 through to 30 years of age.**
WHEN: 4–8 January 2027 **WHERE**: St Eugene's Retreat Centre, Newborough VIC
COST: $350 per person, including accommodation and meals
Use QR for information and Registration via the Oblate Youth Australia website.

+ Parish News +

CATHOLIC MISSIONS APPEAL

Thank you for your Donations - $3135.16 was raised by our Parish

The Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections Book is now available for purchase in the Foyer - $5.00 a copy

2nd November – Monday All Souls Day



The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
MASSES AT 9:00am and 7:30pm
There will also be a Mass for Grades 3 to 6 at **11:00am Parishioners are welcome**

3rd November FORMATION PATHWAY:

Time: 7–9 pm at the **Campbelltown Catholic Club**
Register: dow.sh/fpnov26 or QR
Strongly recommended for any parishioners involved in any group.

Watch Your Language! – Words That Shape Culture Join us as we explore how everyday language shapes our beliefs, behaviours and parish culture, with practical workshops and an open Q&A on all things parish renewal. **OR** Wednesday 4 November: Wollongong via Zoom

5th of December Filipino and Friends Parish Community Association. FFPCA.



You are warmly invited to a Christmas Party.
Saturday. 6:00 PM, at Mary Immaculate Parish Hall, Eagle Vale;
Bring a plate to share.
Highlights of celebration: Raffles Nativity. Santa Claus. Prizes and Gifts.
Please come in your Filipino costume to win best dressed award for the night.

Keep this date FREE 18th December at 6:30pm

Parish Christmas Carols

- **Youth Christmas Nativity Performance**
- **Food Trucks with delicious food**

A note from the Parish Priest.

Adults Catholic Formation (and R.C.I.A),
Last Thursday night we held our first meet of the A.C.F. group to discuss how best to provide support and teaching to those interested in becoming Catholics. We can now begin the programs which, for those who choose to, will be received into the Church at Easter 2027

- On **Thursday 12th November at 7:00om** in the Parish Hall, we will hold and ENQUIRY NIGHT and explain the process of Initiation.

AN INVITATION to all parishioners.

- Please BE ACTIVE making known and inviting anyone who may need your invitation.
- If possible be willing to come to the meeting with them to support them,
- PRAY daily for those who are searching for Faith

If you are considering becoming a Catholic, Please contact the Parish Office. 4626 3055

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Please pray for-

THE SICK: Please pray especially for: **Hunter Leech** (7 year old) **, Leo Bennett** (2 year old)**, Ava Church, Julie Jaensch, Francine Jugroo, Marie France Laida, 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, 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 **Serinidad Salonga Vargas** *recently deceased; and members of the* **Rookes, Compton** *and* **Jensen families; Violet Daoud, Stephen Sancho, Josephine Ooi, Ernest Woodhams, Alfredo Cortez** *whose anniversaries occur at this time and offerings for our November Masses. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.*

Feast Days for the coming week: 2nd Monday: **ALL SOULS**; 4th Wed. **St Charles Borromeo;**

Pope Leo XIV's INTENTION for November - Let us pray for **The Proper Use Of Wealth,** that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

MASS INTENTIONS 31st Oct. – 7th Nov.	
Sat Vigil 5:30pm	For the repose of the souls of Rookes, Compton and Jensen families
SUN 8.30am	For the anniversary of death of Violet Daoud
10.00am	For the People of the Parish (Pro Populo)
5:30pm	For the anniversary of death of Stephen Sancho
Mon. 9.00am	For the November Mass Intentions For Serinidad Salonga Vargas recently deceased
Tues. 9.00am	For the death anniversary of Josephine Ooi
Wed. 7:30pm	For the November Mass Intentions
Thur. 9:00am	For the anniversary of death of Ernest Woodhams
Fri. 9:00am	For Samantha Campbell on her birthday
Sat. 9:30am	For the November Mass Intentions

Ministers for weekend 7th / 8th Nov.

Saturday 5.30pm

Acolyte:	Robert Squires	
E. Minister:	Marlene Jones	
Readers:	1. Julian Rookes	2. Tricia Manjon

Sunday 8.30am

Acolyte:		
E. Minister:	Tine Morell	Teresa Rinkin
Readers	1. Janelle Hains	2. John Hains

Sunday 10.00am

Acolyte:	Samiuela Kula	
E. Minister:	Kerry Benfield	Emili Taeiloa
Readers:	1. Genoveva Loyola	2. Gene De Leon

Sunday 5.30pm

Acolyte:	Michael Arthur	
E. Minister:	Ann Webb	
Readers:	1. Jeanne Alhambra	2. April Alhambra













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.