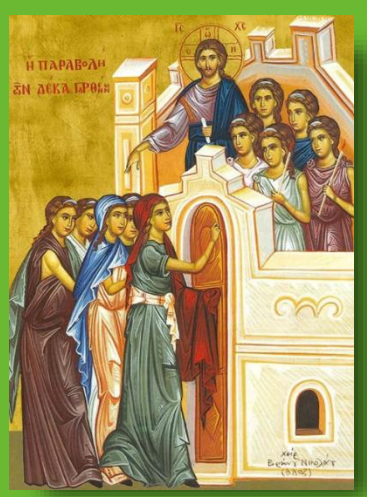


Mary Immaculate Parish
Eagle Vale

Parish Priest: Fr Leo Mifsud OMI
Assistant: Fr. Didier Indibi OMI
Parish Secretary: Mrs Vicki McHale
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

200 YEARS

Constitutions & Rules 1826 -2026

32nd Sunday in Year A
8th November 2026

Does Purgatory still exist?

This question is commonly asked now-days as though the existence of purgatory depends on what the Church pronounces. But this is looking at the question the wrong way around. Purgatory does not exist on the Church's say so. The Church says so because it does exist; whether we say so or not.

Perhaps the real question one should ask is not if it exists but "what is Purgatory?"

What is Purgatory?

In an age when we place a great emphasis on the mercy and forgiveness of God, a belief which is not at all a bad thing in itself, we sometimes forget or at least undervalue the responsibility we have to repentance and change our lives; what the scriptures calls 'a change of heart'.

I believe that the commonly understood imagery of purgatory as being likened to a 'minor hell' where the souls of those who have died in an imperfect state of grace must go in order to be purified before gaining admittance to heaven is rather unhelpful. It can also lead to a distorted idea of God's Justice.

Some basic facts about the Dead.

1. No one is ever 'dead' to God. We pass from this experience of life to God's dimension of life. In other words alive or dead we live in God's presence.
2. Those who are baptized members of the church do not cease to be members of the Church. The dead simply go to another part of the Church, where they continue to participate in the Great Liturgy offered in the heavens.
3. Just as all the baptized share in the Priesthood of Christ and are missioned by Christ to care for and intercede for one another. So too the dead join with the prayers of the Church on earth as we pray for individual's and the world's needs.

These given, we conclude that we are a part of the greater reality which is the acknowledgment of God's eternal presence. In baptism the Father surrounds us, or immerses each of us in His Love and Life of Jesus his Son,

The souls of the deceased therefore are in their final preparation of accepting the fullness of God's love which have always been present but because of our human condition have not able to accept fully.

A Helpful Imagery

Imagine, if you can, the preparation it takes to put on a special function like a wedding banquet, an image used by Jesus himself.

A great deal of preparation must take place before the feast; starting with the couple, they have to go through the various stages of sorting out whether or not their relationship can stand the test of time… are their values compatible. Will they be able to handle hardships; how much support can they rely on from their extended families and circle of friends etc.

Then there is the day itself; preparation for the wedding ceremony, dresses, flowers, cars, reception hall storage of presents present and honeymoon plans … all of which could spell one great big headache!

But despite all that, no one would change it for the world. Why? Because it is all, part of the big day. Somehow the pain, frustration, the worries and doubts are seen as giving credibility to the solemnity of it all.

Purgatory, a preparation for the Wedding feast of heaven.

Rather then God enforcing some punitive measures for our sinfulness, it is rather we, who acknowledge that we need to prepare ourselves to enter the banquet.

The soul does not simply 'wait' in order to get into heaven or is made by God to suffer until strict justice is met. The person participates in their own preparation through prayer and meditation and good deeds. Freed from the limitations of earthly distraction and self doubt & self centeredness, these souls are enabled to free themselves to truly pray and meditate on God's wonders. As perfect love casts out all free, it is this real and unfettered Love of God that will ultimately and finally redeem each soul.

In this “process” of purgatory, this love is able to shed light on the hidden motives of our actions. To see our shortcomings but also to know why they are there, so that we are able to accept forgiveness where forgiveness is needed, and understanding of what made us act the way we did and how patient God has been with us..

We come to an understanding of who we are and the complexities of our motivations. To know the effects of past hurt and insecurities on the way we acted and treated others. In other words we will truly KNOW ourselves for the first time without limits or prejudice.

And we will also truly KNOW others in the same way that God knows them. In the light of this knowledge through a loving Father’s eyes we will truly be able to fulfill Jesus’ command to love one another as he loves us. And we will come to see how God can truly forgive and not just forget.

Purgatory is the process by which we pass from an imperfect understanding of God and humanity to a perfect love for both.

What is our role in their preparation?

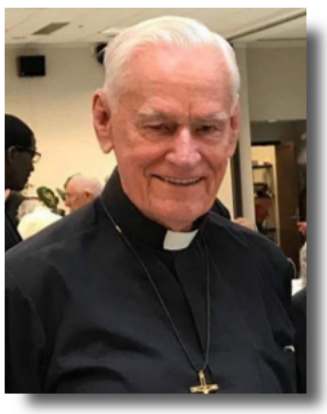
We are not simply passive on-lookers, waiting for our turn, as though we are not part of the process until we step on the conveyer belt ready to be processed.

In this life we are called to support each other on our journey of faith... This journey starts at the moment of our conception and is complete when we return to the Father who first conceived us.

Therefore we have an obligation to help those who have died by doing what we can to support them on this part of their journey. Through prayers and acts of penance (good works) we can help them to experience the love of a Church which is the Body of Christ.

We surround them with love and faith through our prayers and they in their turn will return that love and faith as they pray for us... this process continues until all fear and self interest is gone and there is only the longing for the Supreme Love which is God.As we pray for those who have died and aid them in this process we should keep in mind that perhaps the prayers and Mass offering and the good works we do on their behalf, are part of our purgatory as well, as we deepen our understanding of the mystery of God’s vision of a kingdom yet to come. Fr. Leo Mifsud **OMI**

Vale Fr Vincent Joseph McGillicuddy OMI



Born 21 December 1930 in Kogarah, NSW
He entered the Oblate Novitiate in 1956 and went on to study for the priesthood in Cedara, South Africa, and was Ordained in Roviano, Italy on 12/07/62
He was a foundation Oblate teacher at Iona College Brisbane,
and his passing was met with profound sadness by its Old Boys Association.
He was a spiritual and pastoral presence in many parishes throughout Australia, include **Mary Immaculate Parish, Eagle Vale** with Father Donal Madigan OMI in **2011-2112.**
Fr Vincent died peacefully at **4am on All Souls Day, 2nd November** in Melbourne.
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful, departed rest in peace.

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

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 be 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 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.

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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 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.

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.

Thursday 3rd December The Indian Community celebrate the Feast of St Francis Xavier

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at **Mary Mother of The Church parish Macquarie Fields**. **at 5.30 pm**. Please bring a plate.

Saturday 5th December from 7:30pm Advent Taize Prayer

A time of prayer, song and silence, as we prepare our hearts for Christ. Our Lady of Mt Carmel parish.
For details please contact: Sr Ines 0468 462 814: Sarah 0405 762 574: Tere 0410 185 770

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,
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.

+ Parish News +

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



WHAT IS RCIA? A program that introduces people to the Catholic Church and helps them develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through our Parish Community

WHO IS IT FOR? Anyone who is considering becoming a Catholic, or those who simply want to learn more about our faith?

Thursday 12th November at 7:00pm at the Parish Hall

Contact the Parish Office. 4626 3055 or just turn up.

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

Parish Christmas Carols

Please pray for-

THE SICK: Please pray especially for: **Fr Michael Twigg OMI Paul Rysko, Hunter Leech** (7 yrs old) **, Leo Bennett** (2 yrs 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 **Fr Vin McGillicuddy OMI, Lena Vukovic, Jaena San Diego recently deceased and Consejo Rivera Rodriguez** whose anniversary occurs at this time and intentions for November Masses. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

FEAST DAYS THIS COMING WEEK: **9th Mon:** The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica; **10th Tuesday,** St Leo the Great**:** **11th Wed.** St Martin of Tours**; 12th Thur.** St Josaphat**.**

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.

Ministers for weekend 7th / 8th Nov.

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:	Elvina Joby	Arlene Kempa
Readers	1. Kirsty Simpson	2. Ogbeyelu

Sunday 10.00am

Acolyte:	Lafi Tuigamala	
E. Minister:	Paul Pahulu	Salina Pahulu
Readers:	1. Edith May Berry	2. Christian Berry

Sunday 5.30pm

Acolyte:	TBA	
E. Minister:	Roxanne Rodriguez	
Readers:	1. Seira Fernandez	2. Alyssa Fernandez

MASS INTENTIONS 7th – 14th Nov.

Sat Vigil 5:30pm	For Gene De Leon 70th Birthday November Mass Intention
SUN 8.30am	For the People of the Parish (Pro Populo) November Mass Intention
10.00am	For Paul & Salina Pahulu 40th Wedding Anniversary November Mass Intention
5:30pm	For Lena Vukovic recently deceased November Mass Intention
Mon. 9.00am	For all Holy Souls November Mass Intention
Tues. 9.00am	For Emily Reign Taeiloa on her birthday November Mass Intention
Wed. 7:30pm	For past, present, future Legion of Mary members For the November Mass Intentions
Thur. 9:00am	November Mass Intention November Mass Intention
Fri. 9:00am	November Mass Intention November Mass Intention
Sat. 9:30am	For Jaena San Diega recently deceased For Consejo Rivera Rodriguez 99th birthday anniversary



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.







