



Saint Paul's

Parish Life

Growing in faith. *together*

Sunday, 7th September 2025
23rd Sunday in the Season
of Ordinary Time | Year C

Sunday Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm; Sunday 9am

The Word Of The Lord

This Week's Readings: 23 Ordinary | C

First: Wisdom 9:13-18
Second: Philemon 12-17
Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Psalm Response:

(R.) In every age, O Lord,
You have been our refuge.

Next Week: Exultation of the Holy Cross

First: Numbers 21:4-9
Second: Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel: John 3:13-17

Parish Staff

Parish Priest: Father Leo Duck

Parish Secretary: Donna Small

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Parish EFT Bank Account

BSB: 066 711 Account: 001754
or

donate online using your credit card:
stpaulsparish.org.au/give

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday: 08:00 - 16:00
Wednesday: 08:30 - 10:30
12:00 - 16:00
Thursday: 08:30 - 16:30
Friday: 10:30 - 16:30

facebook.com/stpaulsalbionpark
stpaulsparish.org.au/
Free WiFi: St Paul's Church:
Password: saulpaul

Counting the Cost



Like a king making ready for battle or a contractor about to build a tower, we have to count the cost as we set out to follow Jesus.

Our Lord today is telling us up front the sacrifice it will

take. His words aren't addressed to His chosen few, the Twelve, but rather to the "great crowds"—to anyone, to whoever wishes to be His disciple.

That only makes His call all the more stark and uncompromising. We are to "hate" our old lives, to renounce all the earthly things we rely upon, to choose Him above every person and possession. Again He tells us that the things we have—even our family ties and obligations—can become an excuse, an obstacle that keeps us from giving ourselves completely to Him.

Jesus brings us the saving wisdom we are promised in today's First Reading. He is that saving Wisdom.

Weighed down by many earthly concerns, the burdens of our body and its needs, we could never see beyond the things of this world; we could never detect God's heavenly design and intention. So in His mercy He sent us His Spirit, His Wisdom from on high, to make straight our path to Him.

Jesus Himself paid the price to free us from the sentence imposed on Adam, which we recall in today's Psalm. No more will the work of our hands be an affliction; no more are we destined to turn back to dust.

Like Onesimus in today's Epistle, we have been redeemed. We have been given a new family and a new inheritance, made children of the Father, brothers and sisters in the Lord.

We are free now to come after Him, to serve Him—no longer slaves to the ties of our past lives. In Christ, all our yesterdays have passed. We live in what the Psalm today beautifully describes as the daybreak, ready to be filled with His kindness. For He has given us wisdom of heart and taught us to number our days aright.

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Masses this Week: 23 Ordinary C

08/09	Monday	8:00am Mass	<i>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
09/09	Tuesday	6:00pm Mass	<i>St Peter Claver</i>
10/09	Wednesday	6:00pm Mass	
11/09	Thursday	8:00am Mass	
12/09	Friday	9:30am Mass	<i>The Most Holy Name of Mary</i> Yr 8, Kinder attending
13/09	Saturday	6:00pm Vigil	<i>St John Chrysostom</i> First Holy Communion
14/09	Sunday	9:00am Mass	<i>Exultation of the Holy Cross</i> First Holy Communion

Other Events: (8th – 14th September)

Mon	6:30pm	Charismatic Group (PMR)
Mon	7:00pm	Kiama Electorate Meeting Calderwood Christian School
Tues	12:00pm	Funeral: Angela Arnold Burial at Croom Rd following funeral
Wed	7:00pm	Baptism Preparation Meeting
Thurs	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal (PMR)
Fri	8:00am	Legion of Mary (PMR)
Fri	10:15am	Catholic Women's League (PMR)
Sat	1:30pm	Holy Communion Retreat
Sun	10:00am	After Mass Cuppa

PMR: Parish Meeting Room; Mac: MacKillop Meeting Room

Next Roster – Exultation of the Holy Cross

Readers: 13th September – 14th September

6pm:	Therese McQuade, Donna Small
9am:	Mary Jennings, Angie Bokenham

Counters

07/09	Paul D'Amato, Doris D'Amato, Therese McQuade, Paula Potts
14/09	Mary Daly, Hugh Kennedy, Cath Kennedy

Church Cleaners

07/09	Christine Bancroft, Josie Testa
14/09	Mary Daly, Lydia Mulder

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

09/09	Tuesday:	5:00pm – 5:45pm
10/09	Wednesday:	5:00pm – 5:45pm
13/09	Saturday:	5:00pm – 5:45pm

Reconciliation

(Held in the Chapel)

09/09	Tuesday:	5:00pm – 5:45pm
10/09	Wednesday:	5:00pm – 5:45pm
13/09	Saturday:	5:00pm - 5:45pm

We Remember In Prayer

- **Recently deceased:** Angela Arnold; Frank Cassar; Anthony Bendall; Jack Braakman; Lyn Gal; Kevin Small; Ignazio Piffarelli; Fr David Catterall; Fr Davidanthony Davies; Denis Goodwin.
- **Anniversaries:** Marija & Milan Drenovac; Boudina Van Esland; Neddie Smith; Jan Rixon; Pearl Huntley; John Young; Bill Tap; John Orvad; Wendy Mc Cauley; Pat Reynolds; Kath Antoney; Nancy Timbs; Bena Neilson; Julie Carter; George Gorham; all souls in purgatory.
- **For all who are sick:** Michael Bonnanno; Peter; Fred de Hosson; Fr Ronan Kilgannon; Brian Russell; Katie Keys; Catie; Mary Boerebach, Msgr Paul Ryan; Sr Carmel; Brent Austin; Allen Maxwell; Carmel Keyes; Bernadine Hagan; Les Lugowski; Rebecca; Ron Smith; Maurie Jamieson; Michael Graham; Denise Constable; Janice Nussbaumer; Jacob Purcell; Teresa Farrugia; Anne Iverson; Luke Aitken; Colleen Julian; Jack McPhee; Toni Dragon; Emily Pattison; Paul Robinson; Karl Edlinger; Emilia Maslanka; Rosa Maria Santos; Dylan Sant; Summer Martin; Jessica Hart; Steven Maxwell.
- We pray for Pope Leo XIV, vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
- We pray for all unborn children and those for whom no-one else prays.

First Holy Communion

We pray for all the children in our parish who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion next weekend. We ask Our Lord, that through this holy Sacrament of Sacrifice, He will help them to grow in faith, following His example of perfect faith. We acknowledge the hard work that the Sacramental team, the catechists and teachers have undertaken to prepare the children for this beautiful gift of God's grace and love.

"If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice."

St John Chrysostom

Bishop's Annual Appeal: September

The Bishop's Annual Appeal will be promoted in our diocese during the month of September. A special collection will take place on the weekends of **20-21 & 27-28 September**.



To make a **tax-deductible donation** please visit www.dow.org.au/giving, scan the QR code or call (02) 4222 2400 to make a donation over the phone.

"Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Offering dignified support and care for our retired clergy, who have always cared for us; and the sound and holistic formation of our Seminarians, our future priests, are my responsibilities as your Bishop. I seek your prayers and practical support to help me ensure that I can do this. Your donation to this appeal is very much appreciated." +Bishop Brian Mascord.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5eznCkcOOK>

Listen to seminarian Joseph Nguyen at this link, also to be found on the parish facebook page.

State Election Candidate Forum

Kiama Electorate

Date: Monday, 8th September

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: Calderwood Christian School

Address: 234 Calderwood Rd, Calderwood

Members of all Christian Churches are invited to attend a candidate forum in the Kiama electorate, to hear from the major candidates for the by-election.

The forum will be an opportunity to make your voices heard on issues that matter to you and the members of your parish and hear where the candidates stand on issues such as education, religious freedom and sanctity of life.

The forums will be live-streamed and recorded for those who cannot attend in person.

<https://meetyourcandidates.org.au>

menALIVE: Growing Good Men

Weekend: December 2025

Date: Friday 5th - Sunday 7th December

Venue: The Tops Conference Centre

Cost: \$500 per father & son pair

Includes: accommodation, meals, activities & resources

Register: www.dow.org.au/events

A powerful weekend for fathers and their teenage sons (ages 12–17). Strengthen your bond, explore the journey into manhood, and share in engaging activities, reflection, prayer, and a memorable Rite of Passage.

Places are limited — register early to secure your spot!

Morning Tea provided. BYO lunch.

National Child Protection Week: 7-13/9

'Every Conversation Matters – Shifting Conversation to Action'

Child Protection Week will culminate with Safeguarding on Sunday, 14th September. This year's theme reflects the notion that whilst it is crucial to have safe environments where children can be heard and listened to, taking the next step to meet their needs and ensure they feel seen, is what makes the difference.

Canonisations: 7th September 2025

Blessed Carlo Acutis & Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, will be canonized together by Pope Leo on Sunday, 7th September. Acutis, known for his devotion to the Eucharist, died from leukaemia, aged 15, on 12th October, 2006. Frassati, known as the "man of the Beatitudes", died from polio, aged 24, on 4th July, 1925.

St John Vianney's, Fairy Meadow

Class of '75 Year 6: 50th reunion

Contact: Angela, Luiza Jose or Sophie for details.

Email: info.sjvclassof75@gmail.com

Facebook: St John Vianney's Class of '75: 50th reunion

Moving in the Power of the Holy Spirit

Foundations

Venue: Xavier Centre, Wollongong & Zoom

Date: Wednesday, 15th October

Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Register: <https://dow.sh/fpoc2025>

Cost: Free

Parish renewal is too big a task for any one of us. As St Paul reminds us, *"we can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* (Philippians 4:13). It is God's Church, God's mission, and God's power that we need. This formation will explore how we can grow in openness to the Spirit's presence, learn to recognise His promptings and move confidently in His power. Together, we will reflect on how the Holy Spirit equips us to persevere with joy, sustain hope and bear fruit that endures for the renewal of our communities and the transformation of the world.

Catechist Retreat 2025

Growing in Faith, Hope and Love

Date: Monday 22nd September

Time: 9:30am – 2:30pm

Locations: Xavier Centre, Wollongong

Facilitators: Jude Hennessy, Fr Bernard Gordon vg,
Sr Magdalen Mather OSB,

Register: dow.sh/catret

As part of the Jubilee for Catechists, this will be a joyful day of celebration and a special time to be nourished and refreshed. The facilitators will lead us into a richer and more personal understanding of the theological virtues: Faith, Hope and Love. Spouses are welcome.

September Dates

September - The Bishop's Annual Appeal

11th - Diocesan Catholic Mission Launch

12th-14th - Catholic Family Weekend at Wooglemai

14th -Safeguarding Sunday

23rd - CBC Luncheon Rydges Campbelltown

28th - World Refugees and Migration Day

Praying For the Bishop's Vision

Venue: Sacred Heart Chapel

Address: Stewart St Wollongong

Date: Friday 12th September

Time: 7:00pm – Charismatic Praise

7:30pm – Holy Mass & cuppa following

Contact: Gabriella De Battista – 0414 205 404

Entrance Antiphon Psalm 118:137, 124

**You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.**

First Reading Wisdom 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Who can comprehend the will of God?

What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Second Reading Philemon 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 41:2-3

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

**What man can know
the intentions of God?**

The Journey

The Journey is the weekly podcast for parishioners in the Diocese of Wollongong. Each week it brings you great music, formation in faith, with an array of fantastic presenters from our Diocese and around Australia. Just go to <http://www.jcr.org.au/> and it will be sent to you each week.