

Gospel Reflection

In the film 'Romero,' which tells the story of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, a supporting character named Lucia, foresees that her continuing struggle for freedom may end up in personal tragedy.

She asks a Priest, who is also involved in the struggle, whether it is all worthwhile. She wonders whether there is really an afterlife. If not, why keep up the fight for freedom? Yet, she chooses to continue the fight, knowing what her choice means. Eventually, her fears are realised, and she is murdered for her beliefs.

In our own country we do not face the choice Lucia faced. But we do have to choose whether to follow Christ or simply eat, drink and be merry. There is no timetable for end-times. But we have a clear agenda—we are to go about our daily task of loving God and our neighbour and leave the rest to God. The end may be tomorrow or a thousand years away. No matter, it will come. Today remains a time of preparation. That is the task at hand.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about destruction, suffering, and persecution. It's not an easy passage to hear, yet it carries a message of **hope and endurance**. Jesus tells us that even when everything seems to fall apart, **God is still in control**. What matters most is not the chaos around us, but the faith within us. "By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

The first issue in today's gospel concerns the end of the world. Jesus states that there will be an end time when the Son of man will come as judge. However, we cannot determine when that will be. Signs and incidents will precede the end, and we will be called upon to testify before kings and governors. The good news is that those who persevere in faithfulness to the Lord, will save their souls and enter God's eternal kingdom.



The second issue concerns the destruction of the temple. Jesus doesn't answer the question as to when it will happen. Instead, He warns his disciples of the many things that will happen before that time. False prophets will arise; there will be wars, natural disasters and persecutions. The many disasters that will happen could easily lead us to despair and convince us that we are victims of circumstances. Jesus says, "Don't be frightened!"

Jesus looks at the disturbing happenings as opportunities; Opportunities for his disciples to bear witness to Him and to the Gospel. In difficult times Christian witness is needed. It is in times of hatred that love is needed.

Finally, Jesus gives us this promise: "*By your perseverance you will save your lives.*"

That is the heart of the Gospel today—**perseverance**. Faith is not about feeling strong all the time; it's about **keeping faith even when we are weak**. It's about trusting God when nothing seems certain.

So today, Jesus reminds us not to be afraid of the storms of life. Temples may fall, nations may tremble, but the love of God never fails, and His faithfulness is everlasting. Let us build our lives not on the fragile stones of this world, but on the solid rock of Christ.

Fr Thomas

Sacrament of Confirmation



We invite you to pray for our young people who will be expressing and confirming their faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation on the 18th and 22nd of November.

Positions Vacant

Catholic Chaplain: Catholic Care Western Sydney & the Blue Mountains

Parish Secretary (permanent part-time): Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Wentworthville

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Faith B4U...

Advent Chat ...

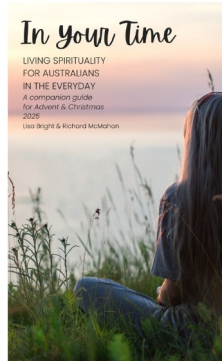
Spend time with others reflecting on the hope of Advent. Join us for **MORNING TEA** after 9.15am Mass followed by an Advent Chat around the following Sunday Gospel.

**Tuesdays straight after 9.15am Mass
25 Nov, 2, 9 Dec
in the Youth Room next to the Church**

**And then join us for an Advent Retreat on
Tuesday 16th December at 10am
in the Church**

Reflection Books Available
for purchase \$5
Contact the Parish Office
if you have any questions.

All Welcome!



Did you know?

The oceans are warming and continue to be threatened by pollution from deforestation, disposal of industrial waste, destructive fishing techniques and agricultural practices (LS 40,41). In Australia, the Great Barrier Reef is "bereft of colour and life..." , yet ports, which degrade the water quality, continue to be planned and built opposite it.

What can we do to help ensure it is protected for future generations?

Film Night

The film 'The Letter: A Message for our Earth' featuring Pope Francis and Laudato Si' will be screened **after Mass on Saturday 29 November, at 6.00 pm, in the Youth Room** . Supper provided. All welcome!

Getting ready for Christmas?

What are you excited about? What are you stressed about?

Spend a little time with fellow parishioners sharing the spirituality of the **Advent Season** over a cuppa after Mass on **Wednesday 10th December from 10am - 12.30pm in the St George Preca Centre**.

Get into the spirit of the season and find out about the Jesse Tree and take one home to share with your family.

Our morning will be led by Marilyn Hancock from the Parramatta Diocesan - Mission Engagement Team.

To RSVP pick up a flyer in the church to complete or contact the parish office.

Red November Mass

On **Monday 24th November, at the 9.15am Mass** we will commemorate Red November, an initiative of Aid to the Church in need, remembering Christians in different parts of the world who are suffering persecution. Please join us to offer our prayerful support to those who suffer for their faith. Find out more at: www.rednovember.org

Attention Liturgical Ministers

A reminder to all Liturgical Ministers to please complete the **Roster Availability Form** regarding your availability for **Christmas, December, January and February**. Completed forms can be placed in the yellow envelope in the Working Sacristy or dropped off at the parish office. Thank you.

Save the date! Carols 2025

Saturday 6th December



5pm Mass

6pm BBQ in the hospitality area followed by **carols in the church from 6.30pm to 8.00pm.**

All are welcome.

Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Mario Curmi, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Delina Galea, Dorothy Gatt, Kay Jaunais, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Patrick Kelly, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Bob Nowfel, Brendon Onorato, Benjie Santiago, Connie Shembri, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb

FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.

Mark Ladu, Charles Mercieca, Antonia Vicaretti

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope.

Solonge Faddoul

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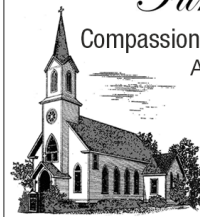
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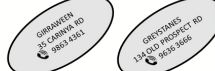
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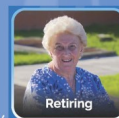
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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

Safeguarding is a priority at OLOP

Volunteers, group leaders and assistant group leaders are asked to complete the Safeguarding modules either online or in person. Details below.

ONLINE: To sign up & log into your Safeguarding modules, visit: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

IN PERSON TRAINING: To find a training session near you & to register, visit: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

For more information, please email:

safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

If you volunteer at the parish and are unfamiliar with Safeguarding, please contact the parish office for more details.

Parramatta Street Feast

You are warmly invited to the Parramatta Street Feast, a Festival of Welcome on **19 November 2025 from 11am–3pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Precinct, Parramatta**. It's a space for people from all walks of life to come together in a spirit of community, solidarity and friendship, and to enjoy delicious food, free services, creative activities and great music! You can support the Street Feast as a volunteer, or share your talent by hosting an activity table. Find out more and express your interest at parracatholic.org/streetfeast

New 2026 Academic Scholarship Opportunity

Nagle College Blacktown is now offering a limited number of **Academic Scholarships for Year 7 students commencing in 2026**. These scholarships are intended to recognise exceptional academic promise and help make an excellent Catholic secondary girls' education more accessible to families. Please review the eligibility criteria and application process on the school website as soon as possible.

Learn more here: <https://www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au/nagle-scholarship>

Volunteer Communicators Network

Are you savvy with a camera, writing or social media? We want to hear from you! Share your interest with us to support our storytelling in Catholic Outlook, our websites and social media. Name/contact details are required: parracatholic.org/communicators

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

17th Monday **St Elizabeth of Hungary**, religious
21st Friday **The Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary**
22nd Saturday **St Cecilia**, virgin, martyr

On sale in the Parish Office

Christmas Cards (supporting Vinnies)

\$8.00 pack of 10

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Malachi
3:19-20

2nd Reading

2 Thessalonians
3:7-12

Gospel

Luke
21:5-19

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

2 Samuel
5:1-3

2nd Reading

Colossians
1:12-20

Gospel

Luke
23:35-43

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Memorial Mass - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church: Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 7:30pm

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

Join us on...

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Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

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