



# The Peaceful Voice

12<sup>th</sup> July 2026

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Year A

## When the Rain Falls...

There is an old saying among farmers: *"You do not wait until the harvest to thank the rain; you thank it when it begins to fall."* They know that every season of growth begins quietly, with gentle rain soaking the earth.

Long before the fields turn green, before the crops begin to sway in the breeze, and before the harvest fills the barns, the rain has already done its hidden work. It disappears into the soil, unseen, yet everything depends on it.

The prophet Isaiah offers us this same beautiful image in this Sunday's First Reading: *"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth... so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty."* (Isaiah 55:10–11)

Rain comes without fanfare. It falls quietly, often unnoticed, yet it transforms everything it touches. Dry ground becomes fertile. Sleeping seeds awaken. New life begins.

So too with the Word of God. It comes gently into our lives—in the quiet moments of prayer, in the Scriptures proclaimed at Mass, in the kindness of another person, and in the whisper of the Holy Spirit. We may not notice its effect immediately, but God's Word is always accomplishing His purpose. It brings hope where there is discouragement, healing where there is pain, and strength where there is weakness.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the familiar parable of the sower. The sower scatters seed generously across every kind of ground. Some falls on the path, some on rocky places, some among thorns, and some on rich soil. The remarkable thing is not only the different kinds of soil, but the generosity of the sower. He never stops sowing. He never gives up. Such is the heart of God. He continues to sow His grace into every human heart, trusting that, in time, His Word will find fertile ground.

Perhaps that is the invitation for each of us this Sunday. Before asking how much fruit we are producing, we might first ask whether we are allowing God's Word to reach the soil of our hearts.



In the rush of daily life, surrounded by countless voices competing for our attention, have we made room for the voice of God? Have we allowed His Word to soften what has become hard, refresh what has grown weary, and awaken the seeds of faith that have long lain dormant within us?

Every Eucharist is heaven's gentle rain. Every Scripture proclaimed is a seed of eternal life. Every "Amen" we speak is another opening of the heart. Though we may not always see it, the hidden work of grace has already begun. Beneath the surface, hope is taking root. Love is reaching toward the light. Faith is quietly growing.

God's Word never returns empty. Where it is welcomed, hearts are renewed. Where it is trusted, lives are transformed. Where it is lived, families are strengthened, communities are renewed, and the Kingdom of God quietly begins to blossom.

As we gather around the Lord's table this Sunday, may we receive His Word as the earth receives the rain—with gratitude, openness, and trust. For the God who sends the rain also brings the harvest. The Word He plants in us today will, in His own perfect time, bear fruit beyond all that we can ask or imagine.

Fr Sebastian CMI



## WINTER EMBRACE THANKSGIVING

To all of our parishioners who have given so kindly to the children of Sri Lanka. Know that there are many real lives, real young people, who simply would not be getting basic school resources for the year ahead if you had not done what you have done! The response from the parish has been simply wonderful and life changing. The funds given will be transferred in coming days – and the goods will ship a little later following the big job of sorting and gift packing, as our goods are linked with the goods of a few other faith communities in this work. May God bless the organising leadership of this great work, which is aptly named 'Network Heaven'. Let's also give humble thanks for our other parish Winter Embrace efforts that will make a beautiful difference ahead in the work of Catholic Mission, Jesuit Refugee Service and St Vincent de Paul!

**SAFEGUARDING** the young and vulnerable is a priority at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish.

# Faith B4U...

## Sacrament of Confirmation

Enrol at [www.olqp.org.au](http://www.olqp.org.au)

As a parish team we look forward to supporting you however we are able, as you prepare and guide your children in the next steps of their sacramental lives of faith. Enrolment is open for the Sacrament of Confirmation for children in Year 6 and above.

Visit [www.olqp.org.au](http://www.olqp.org.au) for dates and to complete the enrolment form:

Email: [sacraments@olqp.org.au](mailto:sacraments@olqp.org.au) Phone: 9631 8135

## Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner

Join us as we pray for our Community.

7pm, Tuesday 25 August 2026, Merrylands RSL Swan Room.

Guest Speaker: Jude Simion, Founder & Executive Director of Philoi Global Ltd

Tickets \$55 pp, includes a two-course meal & soft drinks

RSVP & dietary requirements by August 12

More info: [www.cumberlandchurches.org/prayer-dinner](http://www.cumberlandchurches.org/prayer-dinner)

Please contact the parish office if interested.

## Homecoming Silent Retreat

28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August, Carmel House, Varroville.

*“His father saw him, ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”* Lk 15: 20.

Your heavenly Father waits for you to come away with him for a weekend of silently soaking in his great love for you. Embrace this opportunity for encountering deep peace and serenity.

This retreat is for men and women aged 18+. Hosted by the MGL Sisters.

Choose from a weekend retreat or extend your time with a 5 day retreat option. w/e: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBK> extended: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBU>

## Let us pray...

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

Chantel Adrien, Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Charlie D’Anastas, Kathleen Davies, Jeanette Dib, Nerida Fabri, Gabrielle Farfus, Delina Galea, Dorothy Gatt, Mary Ghantous, 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, Martin Portelli, Benjie Santiago, Barbara Stanton, Carmel Thompson, Cathy Vella, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Sue Watters, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb, Joseph Zerafa, Melissa Zerafa, Muna Zora

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

John Cilia, Mario Deojee, Andrea Ignacio, Paolo Longo

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope. *Funeral details are correct at time of print, but it’s best to not make this your only source.*

Alfred Agius

## Celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Join the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place as we celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop on **Saturday 8 August**.

Make a pilgrimage to Mary's tomb, spend time in prayer in the Chapel, and celebrate the Eucharist with us at one of our Feast Day Masses:

- 8:00am & 6:00pm – Chapel
- 10:00am & 1:00pm – Glen Roy Green (outdoors)

The 10:00am and 1:00pm Masses will be AusLan interpreted, and the 10:00am Mass will be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person.

For the full Feast Day program, information and more: Visit [www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au) or contact [ministries@mmp.org.au](mailto:ministries@mmp.org.au).

## Australian Ignatian Trail

Step aside from the busyness of everyday life and enter a pilgrimage of prayer, reflection, and holy listening. Notice God's presence in nature, in your companions, and within yourself.

With time each day for silence, reflection, and spiritual conversation, this unique camino-style experience of Ignatian Spirituality offers space to discern, renew, and deepen your relationship with God.

Over 4 walking days and 6 nights finishing in Sevenhill SA.

**Tuesday afternoon 13 October 2026 – Monday morning 19 October 2026**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 17 JULY**

Visit: [https://jisa.org.au/retreat/australian-ignatian-trail-2/?utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Applications%20closing%20soon%20for%20the%20Australian%20Ignatian%20Trail&utm\\_campaign=Single%20Retreat%20AIT%20New%20Date%20%28Copy%29](https://jisa.org.au/retreat/australian-ignatian-trail-2/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Applications%20closing%20soon%20for%20the%20Australian%20Ignatian%20Trail&utm_campaign=Single%20Retreat%20AIT%20New%20Date%20%28Copy%29)

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

## Adult Confirmation

The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. Held on **Saturday 29 August, 9.30am – 2.00pm** at **Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown**. A light lunch will be provided. It is recommended that all sponsors attend the catechesis day. A contribution of \$40 is suggested from the candidates to assist in covering the Catechesis Day.

The Confirmation will take place on **Tuesday 1 September 2026 at 7:30pm** at the **St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta**. Please Note: Enrolment forms and a copy of Baptismal Certificates should be sent to OFW before Monday 18 August 2026. For more information, please contact the Office for Worship [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795.

## Positions vacant

- Parish Secretary - St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
- Housekeeper Supervisor – Holy Spirit Seminary
- Sacramental Coordinator – St Nicholas of Mya Parish, Penrith

More details at: [parracatholic.org/jobs](http://parracatholic.org/jobs)

### This Sunday's Readings

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Isaiah  
55:10-11

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Romans  
8:18-23

#### Gospel

Matthew  
13:1-23

### Next Sunday's Readings

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Wisdom  
12:13, 16-19

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Romans  
8:26-27

#### Gospel

Matthew  
13:24-43

## Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - 9:15am (except January

- Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

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

**Mass for Peace** - all welcome - followed by Anointing of the Sick - 1st Saturdays 9:15am (except January)

**Memorial Mass** - all welcome - and offered for recent losses and 1st/2nd anniversaries - 2nd Saturdays 9:15am

## Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, [olqp.org.au](http://olqp.org.au), every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

## Rosary in the church:

Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 6:30pm

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

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary



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**Elyse Provost** - Kindergarten Coordinator  
**Michael Hopley** - Former School Principal

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REGISTER HERE



## FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

15<sup>th</sup> Wednesday St Bonaventure, bishop, doctor

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

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