

The Weeds among the Wheat!

A Bishop was sailing for Europe on a Cruise. When he went on board, he found that another passenger was to share a cabin with him. After unpacking his bags, he went to the Purser and enquired if he could leave his gold watch and other valuables in the ship's safe. And the Bishop explained that he had just met the man who was to occupy the other bed in his cabin and was afraid that the man might not be trustworthy.

The Purser smiled and accepted the valuables and remarked, "It is all right Bishop, I will be very glad to take care of them for you. The other man has just been up here and left his valuables for the same reason."

Today's Gospel reminds us not to judge others too quickly. There is some good in the worst of us and some weakness in the best of us. We are all a mixture of wheat and weeds, but we have a patient and compassionate God who never gives up on us.

In the parable of the wheat and weeds, the servants want to pull out the weeds immediately, but the master tells them to wait until harvest time. Jesus teaches us that God is patient with sinners and gives them time to change. He challenges us not to be quick to condemn others, but to leave room for repentance and conversion.

Our world is a mixture of good and evil, light and darkness. Even among the twelve Apostles, Jesus found weaknesses and failures, yet he never abandoned them. He continued to love, guide and transform them.



The same is true in our families, our parish and our society. Despite the weeds that are present, there is always goodness and a harvest of people who seek to know, love and serve God.

Let us therefore be patient and compassionate with one another, helping those who have gone astray to find their way back. As the Chinese proverb reminds us: "One moment of patience may ward off great disaster; one moment of impatience may ruin a whole life."

Fr Thomas

Is your Safeguarding up to date?

All Clergy, employees and volunteers in parish ministry are required by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019 to be current and complete their Safeguarding Training every 2 years. This is different to a Working with Children's Check (WWCC). Check with the Parish Office to see when you are due to update your Safeguarding Training or refer to the points below.

- If you are **new to Ministry or have not yet completed any Safeguarding training**, you need to complete the Introductory Modules 1 to 3 (Cycle 1) & Sign the Acknowledgement of Code of Conduct Form.
- If you **completed Modules 1-3 in 2024 or earlier**. You are now due to complete Modules 4 & 5 (Cycle 2)
- If you **completed Modules 4 & 5 in 2024 or earlier**. You are now due to complete the Refresher Module 6 (Cycle 3)

Safeguarding Training Modules can be completed online at: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>

Onsite Face-to-Face Mandatory Training will be available on the **19th September at OLQP for Modules 4 & 5 (Cycle 2)**
Please register at:

<https://parracatholic.org/events/mandatory-safeguarding-training-cycle-2-modules-4-5-19-september/>

Or contact the parish office at: parishoffice@olqp.org.au or phone: 9631 8135

Faith B4U...

Sacrament of Confirmation

Enrol at 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 for dates and to complete the enrolment form:

Email: 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

Please contact the parish office if interested.

Diocese of Parramatta World Youth Day Seoul 2027 Launch

Come and discover the pilgrimage to the 17th International World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea (26 July – 11 August 2027), themed “Take courage! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

Join us for an inspiring evening to learn about the pilgrimage, hear testimonies from past pilgrims, explore the faith and culture of the Korean Church, and enjoy fellowship with other young people. **Date: 12 August 2026 Doors open at 6:30pm.** Venue: Nagle College, 58A Orwell Street, Blacktown

Register today at parracatholic.org/events/wyd27-launch/ We look forward to welcoming you!

Positions vacant

- Sacramental Coordinator – St Nicholas of Mya Parish, Penrith

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

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

Rose Abdel-Ahad, Percy Baptiste, Tessie Xerri

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.*

John Dib, Gino Porreca – 22 July @ 10.30am

New Choir Members Always Welcome

If you’d like to join the Parish choir, please contact the Parish Office.

We meet on a Monday night at 7:30pm in the church (not all year round). Please contact the Parish Office to check.



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INFORMATION & OPEN VISIT

 **WEDNESDAY**
22nd July

 **START**
6:30 pm

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- Explore our new learning spaces
- Hear information about our programs
- Learn how we support a smooth and positive transition to school
- Opportunity for questions and discussion

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

www.ambrose.org.au **REGISTER HERE**



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

Married Couples' Retreat

Married couples are invited to a special retreat day, Reflect, Renew & Reconnect, on **Saturday 5 September 2026** at the **Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1 Marion Street, Blacktown**. The day runs from **8:30am–4.30pm** and includes Mass with Bishop Vincent, light refreshments, and lunch.

Couples will explore topics including Expressions of Love, Living Your Vocation of Marriage, 7 Principles of Making Marriage Work, Creating a Marriage First Aid Kit, and a Couple Prayer and Commitment Ceremony. **Cost is \$45 per couple.**

Places are strictly limited. Bookings are essential. Register now at <https://parracatholic.org/marriedcouplesretreat/>.

Get #Active4Vocations

Spur on our City2Surf team and Holy Spirit Seminarians.

This National Vocations Awareness Week, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv and our Holy Spirit Seminarians will get #Active4Vocations in City2Surf on **Sunday 9 August**.

Please pray for vocations and support our seminarians as they take on the 14km journey from Sydney to Bondi to promote priestly vocations.

Spur them on with a donation at tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations.

If you feel called to the priesthood, visit parracatholic.org/contribute/discern-my-vocation/priesthood

Free Legal Clinic – Catholic Care, Emerton

Catholic Care offers free weekly legal advice **every Thursday from 11am at 11 Emert Parade, Emerton**. Areas covered include Family Law, Care and Protection, Local Court matters, Wills and Estates, and Traffic Offences. **Bookings are recommended** – call 8843 2500. Walk-ins are also welcome.

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Wisdom

12:13, 16-19

2nd Reading

Romans

8:26-27

Gospel

Matthew

13:24-43

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

1 Kings

3:5, 7-12

2nd Reading

Romans

8:28-30

Gospel

Matthew

13:44-52

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, 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

CAMPION COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE 11.15AM-2.00PM SAT 1 AUG 2026

Open to prospective students and their families.
A great opportunity for high-school students who are exploring university study in the humanities.
Register to attend: www.campion.edu.au/events

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate
22nd Wednesday St Mary Magdalene
25th Saturday St James, apostle

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au
Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

Parish Office Hours: 9am – 1pm, 2pm – 4pm Monday to Friday
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