

The Captain Who Leads Us to Life

As the NRL season moves towards the finals, we hear so much about **tackling, passing, kicking, running and scoring tries**. We see players training hard, taking painful tackles and putting their bodies on the line for their teammates. At this stage of the season, every game matters.

But behind every great team there is something more important than the points on the scoreboard: **sacrifice**.

A player may make the tackle that saves a try, or take a hard run that creates an opportunity for someone else. Another may take the hit and get back on his feet. Not every player receives the glory.

A good player does not play only for himself. **He plays for the team.**

Perhaps we can think of Jesus as the **Captain who leads His team**. His disciples are called to follow Him and live according to His way. But Jesus does not simply stand on the sidelines giving instructions. **He leads from the front**. He shows us the way through love, sacrifice and obedience.

In today's Gospel, Peter has just declared: **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** Yet when Jesus tells His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer and be killed, Peter objects. Peter wants the victory—but he does not yet understand the Cross.

Jesus then teaches His disciples, and us, what it truly means to follow Him:

"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Jesus does not merely tell us to carry the cross. **He carries it first.**

He shows us that true strength is not found in avoiding sacrifice, but in giving ourselves in love.

The disciples are His team. They are called to follow Him onto the **field of life**.



Photo by Manny Becerra on Unsplash

And what does this look like for us?

It means choosing patience when the children are difficult. Helping at home when we are tired. Visiting someone who is lonely. Caring for an ageing parent. Apologising first. Forgiving a hurt. Accepting disappointment with hope. Making time for prayer when we would rather do something else.

These sacrifices may never appear on a scoreboard. **No one may notice them. But God sees them.**

Jesus asks us: **"What gain, then, will a man have if he wins the whole world and ruins his life?"**

We can spend our lives seeking money, success, recognition and comfort, yet lose sight of what truly matters.

But the Cross is not the end of the story.

The Cross leads to the Resurrection.

Jesus' suffering and death reveal that love is stronger than hatred, forgiveness is stronger than sin, and life is stronger than death. When we carry our crosses with faith and remain close to Christ, God can transform our struggles into hope, our sacrifices into grace, and our suffering into new life.

On the footy field, a team follows its captain.

In Christian life, we follow Christ.

And He leads us not simply to victory on a scoreboard, but **through the Cross to the fullness of life**.

"Deny yourself. Take up your cross. Follow me."

Fr Sebastian

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal – Honour a lifetime of faithful service

We give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, mentors and spiritual fathers who have guided us with love, wisdom and faith. Among them are our priests, who have devoted their lives to serving God's people. They have celebrated the Sacraments with us, prayed with us, accompanied our families and helped bring us closer to Christ. After a lifetime of faithful service, many of our senior priests now need practical care and support as they face the challenges of ageing, illness and retirement.

Your generous tax-deductible gift will help care for our retired and unwell priests and ensure they can live with the dignity, care and support they deserve.

Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan the QR code.

Thank you for caring for those who have spent their lives caring for us.



Faith B4U...

Be THE WITNESS THE MUSICAL

Experience the life and ministry of Jesus Christ through the eyes of Simon Peter-the disciple who walked on water, faltered in fear, denied Jesus three times yet rose to become a fearless witness of Christ

Riverside theatre, Parramatta
12th Sep at 7.30pm
Tickets: \$70.00

4 Spots available!

Contact the office

and join us to experience a timeless call!

Contact the Parish Office at parishoffice@olqp.org.au or call 9631 8135 to be part of the Parish group booking. Alternatively, tickets also available at bethewitness.com.au

WANTED

Helpers to assist SRE catechists in the classroom.

We need help on: **Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m.**

If you can assist with this class, please contact the Parish Office Ph.9631 8135.

Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation Gathering 2026

Caritas Australia and Catholic Religious Australia warmly invite you to participate in the Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation Gathering 2026: Listen, Reflect, Act, a national online event on **3-4 September 2026**. The Gathering offers inspiring keynote presentations and practical workshops to help participants deepen their faith and respond to the call to care for our common home. Parishioners can register individually for \$20. Groups can register for \$100 to join online from the same location. Learn more and register: www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering

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, Catherine Buttigieg, Mary Camilleri, Karl Croning, Charlie D'Anastas, Kathleen Davies, Jeanette Dib, Nerida Fabri, Gabrielle Farfus, Delina Galea, Dorothy Gatt, Mary Ghantous, Kay Jaunais, Margaret Jones, Tulla Kavich, Patrick Kelly, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Martin Portelli, Jeizek Reyes, 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

Charlie Borg, Joseph Mitliga

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.*

Tessie Brincat, Guido Gauci, Anna Scicluna – 4 Sept @ 11am, Giovanni Tesoriero – 2 Sept @ 11am, Fr Robert Slattery

High School Aged Youth Group

With Father's Day next Sunday, we won't be having the first Sunday of the month youth night. Instead, it will be on Sunday 20th September - followed by the first Sunday of November and December. All high school aged youth welcome.

Our Spiritual Journey: Struggles, Stuckness & Challenges

Have you ever struggled in your relationship with God? Ever felt like God wasn't there? Found it difficult to pray?

In this workshop, Deacon Jeff will explore our spiritual journey, with a particular focus on helping us to understand struggle, stuckness and the challenges we face.

Location: **St George Precinct Centre, Wednesday 2nd September, 7 pm** supper, with a 7:30 pm start (about 1½ hours).

RSVP for catering purposes by **Monday 31st August** to parishoffice@olqp.org.au / 9631 8135

Extraordinary Minister of Communion at Mass



Do you want to serve community by offering the presence of Christ in Holy Communion?

Do you want to become an Extraordinary Minister of Communion at Mass?

Please register your interest using this QR code or contact the Parish Office on 9631 8135 or parishoffice@olqp.org.au



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

Positions vacant

- Parish Secretary – St Madeline's Sophie Barat Parish, Kenthurst

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

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

Arise and Shine Retreat: Saturday 26 September

From 1:00 – 5:30 pm Rosary + Praise and Worship + Talk + Prayer of Empowerment + Fellowship Speaker: MARINA GEORGE Catholic preacher, who loves sharing her deep relationship with God the Father, Love of God the Son and the Holy Spirit. Venue: St Joseph's Parish Hall, 11 Walz St. Rockdale (Parking ENTRY at Parker St.) **Booking Essential**, Afternoon Tea Provided **Enquiries: Helen: 0433 455 114 Esperance: 0407 749 182 E: jlowcommunity@gmail.com**

MGL Sisters Creative Healing Retreat

Handmade: Creative Healing Retreat **October 16-18**, Carmel House, Varroville. In his hand is the life of every creature" Job 12:10 Come away for a weekend of reflection on how carefully God has made and upheld your life through different creative prayer experiences. This retreat is for both men and women. Hosted by the MGL Sisters. Registration link: www.trybooking.com/DIDCB

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

3rd Thursday St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor

Holy Shroud Exhibition

Be a witness to the **Holy Shroud Exhibition** at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, from **6–13 September 2026**

A special presentation, "**The Shroud Puzzle Solved**," by author, journalist and Shroud expert Mr William West will be held on Sunday, **6 September at 1:00 pm in Cloister Hall**.

All are welcome

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Jeremiah
20:7-9

2nd Reading

Romans
12:1-2

Gospel

Matthew
16:21-27

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Ezekiel
33:7-9

2nd Reading

Romans
13:8-10

Gospel

Matthew
18:15-20

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

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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