

## The Storms That Lead Us to Christ

Many of us remember singing as children:

*"Row, row, row your boat,  
Gently down the stream.  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,  
Life is but a dream."*

It is a delightful song that paints a picture of life as a calm and gentle journey. As children, we sang it with carefree hearts, never imagining the storms that life would one day bring.

As we grow older, we realize that life is not always a gentle stream. There are days when the waters become rough and the winds seem stronger than we are. We experience illness, grief, family struggles, financial worries, disappointments, loneliness, and uncertainty about tomorrow. There are moments when we feel as though we are rowing against the current with little strength left, wondering whether God is still with us.

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that the God who commands the winds and calms the raging seas is still powerfully present in the storms of our lives. The disciples are caught in a violent storm, battling the wind and waves through the darkness of the night. It is then that Jesus comes to them, walking on the water. Although they fail to recognize Him at first, His reassuring words break through their fear: **"Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid."** Before He calms the storm around them, He first calms the storm within them.

Peter boldly steps out of the boat at the Lord's invitation. But when he shifts his gaze from Jesus to the wind and the waves, fear overwhelms him, and he begins to sink. How often that happens in our own lives! When our eyes are fixed only on our problems, hope fades. But when we keep our eyes on Christ, we discover that His presence is greater than any storm we face.

One of the most beautiful moments in today's Gospel is Peter's simple cry: **"Lord, save me!"** It is one of the shortest prayers in the Bible, yet one of the most powerful. It is not the length of the prayer that matters, but the trust with which it is offered. Immediately, Jesus reaches out His hand and lifts him up.



There are moments in our own lives when we do not know what to pray. Our hearts are heavy, our minds are troubled, and words fail us. At those times, Peter's prayer can become our own: **"Lord, save me!"** It is a prayer we can whisper in moments of fear, before a difficult conversation, while waiting for medical results, during family struggles, or whenever we feel overwhelmed. Jesus hears that prayer today just as surely as He heard it on the Sea of Galilee. He is always ready to stretch out His hand to those who call upon Him.

The storms of life are never easy, but they need not lead us to despair. They can lead us to Christ. And when they do, we discover that the One who walks upon the waters also walks beside us. His hand is never too far away, His love never fails, and His promise remains forever: **"Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid."**

Fr Sebastian

## Junior Altar Servers are needed

Would you like to become a Junior Altar Server? Children who have received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion are welcome to join the junior Altar Servers team.

Altar Servers assists the Ministers at the Altar and Priests during Mass. If you are interested or would like more information, please write your details on the lists provided at all doors of the church, speak to a priest or contact the parish office by calling 9631 8135 or email [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)

*"This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and walk humbly with your God." (Michah 6:8)*

**Safeguarding - keeping our young and vulnerable safe in our community.**

# Faith B4U...

## Attention Members & Parishioners

You are invited to the next Greystanes Maltese Seniors gathering.

Topic: **Carer's Gateway information session**

Details: **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30am in the St George Preca Centre**

Morning tea will be served.

Contact: Marisa Previtera OAM, JP on 0414 863 123

## Bethany Pilgrimage for Women

The theme for 2026 is "Totus Tuus" ("Totally Yours"). There will be a decade of the rosary, reflection and personal prayer at each church. Adoration and Confession will be available at times also. This event is perfect for active women who would like to spend a day in prayer whilst pushing themselves physically in order to pray for themselves or family. Water, snacks and light lunch provided.

WHEN: **29<sup>th</sup> August**. Registration at:

[www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1569560](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1569560)

Cost: \$20

For more info call Victoria on 0494173359 or email [bethanypilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:bethanypilgrimage@gmail.com)

## St Carlo Acutis's Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

Designed by St Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint, this exhibition documents reported Eucharistic miracles from around the world, and it is touring parishes right across our Diocese. Next, it comes to **Our Lady of the Angels, Rouse Hill, from 9-23 August**.

Students, teachers and parishioners are invited, entry is free and no bookings are required.

### Sacrament of Confirmation

Enrolments are now open for children in Year 6 and above.

Visit [www.olqp.org.au](http://www.olqp.org.au) to register your child.

## 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, 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

Antonio Scarcella, Elaine Walford

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.*

Shirani Aravinthan, Dionisia Columna, Apolinario Ochoa, Antonio Riccardi

## Simplicity September

This September, simplify one thing in your life and discover what truly matters.

Sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to participate and raise money for Palms International Volunteering, Australia's only Catholic lay organisation that delivers international development and formation through long term international volunteering.

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[www.simplicityseptember.org.au](http://www.simplicityseptember.org.au)



## WANTED

Helpers to assist SRE catechists in the classroom.

We need help on:

**Wednesday at 9.00 a.m. AND 2.30 p.m.**

If you can assist with either of these classes, please contact the Parish Office Ph.9631 8135.

## Toongabbie Legal Centre

The Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv Bishop of Parramatta and other religious leaders will be participating in the Multifaith Dedication Blessing Ceremony of Land acquired by TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE INC.

On **Sunday 23 August 2026**, at the **corner of Portico Parade /Valeria Street, Toongabbie**

Time: 11.15am

Guests arrive from 10.30am

Lunch will be served after the ceremony to all

You are invited to this special event

Kindly register to ensure seating and catering at:  
<https://events.humanitix.com/justice-margaret-beazley-centre>



# Our sponsors...

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

## Positions vacant

- Administration Assistant (Part-Time) – Sacred Heart Parish, Mount Druitt South
- Senior Development Manager – Diocese of Parramatta

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

## Rosary Workshops

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on the following days: **20 August, 10 September, 23 September, 15 October, 5 November**. Cost: \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials).

To register and for more information, please visit [parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops](http://parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops)

## Save the Dates - Talk by Rev Jeff

TOPIC: Spiritual Journey: Struggles, Stuckness & Challenges  
**29<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September** in the St George Preca Centre.  
More details to come.

## Supporting the persecuted

In 2017, Christians in the city of Marawi in the southern Philippines faced brutal persecution from Islamist militants. More than 800 people were killed, and thousands of families were displaced. During the five months of violence, the Cathedral of St Mary was bombed, desecrated and destroyed.

Nine years on, there is a growing desire for healing and reconciliation. The poor and faithful people of Marawi have asked for our help to rebuild their beloved cathedral so they can once again gather, pray, and be witnesses of Christ in this Muslim-majority region.

To learn more or provide your support, please scan the QR code or visit: [aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject](http://aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject)

Thanks to generous supporters, every contribution during August will be doubled.



## FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

10<sup>th</sup> Monday St Lawrence, deacon, martyr

11<sup>th</sup> Tuesday St Clare, virgin

14<sup>th</sup> Friday St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, priest, martyr

15<sup>th</sup> Saturday The ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

## Attention Church Ministers

AUGUST Ministry Roster IS NOW AVAILABLE.

Please check your emails (including junk / spam) alternatively, a copy can be found in the sacristy.

If you plan to be away in SEPTEMBER, please let us know no later than 20 August. Thank you

### This Sunday's Readings

#### 1st Reading

1 Kings  
19:9, 11-13

#### 2nd Reading

Romans  
9:1-5

#### Gospel

Matthew  
14:22-33

### Next Sunday's Readings

#### 1st Reading

Isaiah  
56:1, 6-7

#### 2nd Reading

Romans  
11:13-15, 29-32

#### Gospel

Matthew  
15:21-28

## 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

P: 9631 8135 | E: [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)  
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