

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C —17 AUGUST 2025

First Reading *Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10*
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.

The king’s leading men spoke to the king. ‘Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.’ ‘He is in your hands as you know,’ King Zedekiah answered ‘for the king is powerless against you.’ So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank. Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. ‘My lord king,’ he said, ‘these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.’ At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: ‘Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.’

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14*
(R.) Lord, come to my aid!

- 1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. **(R.)**
- 2. He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. **(R.)**
- 3. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. **(R.)**
- 4. As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! **(R)**

Second Reading *Hebrews 12:1-4*
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.
With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God’s throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

Gospel Acclamation *John 10:27*
Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 12:49-53*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!
‘Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

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REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA
As disciples we commit ourselves to values and principles that are not always cherished by others. We can be misunderstood for our beliefs, even ridiculed. Our lives may be a reproach to those who do not share our aspirations. There may be times when we must stand in opposition to others. All of this tends to alienate us. It could even place us at enmity with those whom we love. Yet, if we are genuinely committed, we realise that there is also a price to pay if we are not faithful. It is very difficult to live with ourselves when we disregard our deepest convictions and ignore the promptings of God that we experience within ourselves. As difficult as a life of faith may be, we know that it is the only way to live in this world.

Faced with the cost of discipleship we are brought to the realisation that, by ourselves, we do not have the necessary resources. We need assistance. Like Jeremiah, we might find that this aid will come from places we may have never expected. The real support and assistance that we get is from Jesus who came to set the world and our hearts on fire. Paul assures us that there is a vast throng cheering us on as we run the race of discipleship. They are not merely spectators; they have already run or are still running their own race. We are not alone in our commitment, in our struggle. There are many witnesses, many examples for us to follow.

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Welcome to the Parishes of

St Mary’s Berkeley

and

St Francis of Assisi, Warrawong



Pastor: Fr Damien Ellis; Fr Mark De Battista from 19 August Deacon: Deacon Lawrie Burns Parishes Secretary: Mrs Magdalene Duarte (Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri) Hospital Chaplains: WOLLONGONG—4222 5000 SHELLHARBOUR—4296 3939	Parishes Office: Ph: 4276 3565 Office Hours: Tues, Wed 10:00am-2:00pm; Thurs 10:00am-2:30pm Fri 10:00am to 11.30am Email: berkeleywarrawong@dow.org.au Address: 211 Northcliffe Drive, Berkeley NSW 2506
St Francis of Assisi Church, Warrawong: St Mary’s Church, Berkeley: Postal address for all correspondence: Presbytery: Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation Sisters: Facebook: Parish School:	Corner of Bruce & Flagstaff Road, Warrawong NSW 2502 211 Northcliffe Drive, Berkeley NSW 2506 PO Box 37, Berkeley NSW 2506 90 Flagstaff Road, Warrawong NSW 2502 Warrawong Convent Ph: 4276 3565 https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmaryoftherosarystfrancisofassisi St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C —17 AUGUST 2025

MASS TIMES: BERKELEY: WED 5:00pm Holy Hour; 6:00pm Mass WARRAWONG: FRI 9:00am	SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00pm SUNDAY: 10:30am
RECONCILIATION: WARRAWONG: Friday before 9:00am Mass	BERKELEY: Before VIGIL MASS
BAPTISMS: Celebrated at Warrawong on 1 st and 3 rd Sunday of the month at 12pm and Berkeley by appointment only. Baptism bookings require at least 2 months notice through the Parish Office. Baptism preparation session must be completed for the first child only. The Baptism preparation session is held on the 1 st Tuesday of every month at 6pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Warrawong.	
WEDDINGS: By appointment only with at least six months notice. <i>A pre-nuptial program MUST be attended.</i>	
ORDER OF SECULAR FRANCISCANS: 4th Sunday of the month after 10:30am Mass in Meeting Room. Contact Paul: M: 0418 113 947.	
DEVOTION OF DIVINE MERCY: Warrawong, 4:00pm every Monday.	
ST MARY’S RETIREMENT VILLAGE MASS AND ANOINTING: 10:30am, 2nd Friday of the month.	
LEGION OF MARY: 4pm every Friday in the Warrawong Church meeting room.	
ROSARY: Prayed daily 30 minutes before Mass.	
DEVOTION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY FOLLOWED BY LITURGY OF THE WORD AND HOLY COMMUNION: Warrawong, every Saturday at 8:00am.	
CFC-HANDMAIDS OF THE LORD: 1 st Sunday and 3 rd Sunday of the month after 10:30am Mass in Warrawong Meeting Room.	

OUR VISION
To be Christ centred, led by the Holy Spirit, caring for all people with the compassion and love of the Father.

OUR MISSION
To share the love of Jesus Christ with all people.

PRAYER FOR OUR PARISHES
*We pray at St Mary’s and St Francis of Assisi
to be Christ centred,
led by the Holy Spirit,
caring for all people with the
compassion and love of the Father,
so that we can fulfil
the mission you want of us,
to share your love with all people.
Amen.*



WE PRAY FOR:

The faithfully departed: ***Fatima Dos Santos; Spiro Stitsos; Anna Broletto;*** Antonio Saba; Victoria Turla; Enriqueta Munoz; Salvatore Fina; Erminia Pickup; Maria Renosto; Jose Dromund Meneses; Hose Henrique Meneses; Manuel Sousa; Jose Ernesto Silva; Maria Tortorella; Francesco, Teresa & Giuseppe Sansone; Angelo & Vitamaria Coppola; Sonya Costa; Emerlinda Nobrega; Leoncio, Monica, Fructosa, Antonio, Cleto & Segundina Ocenar. ***Rest in Peace***

Please keep those who are sick in your prayers especially especially Maria Mendes; Frank Cassar; Doris Grech; Pablito Aguilar; Dominic Le; Raffaella La Volpe; Paul Galea; Fr Leonard Testa; Patricia Pearce; Maria Dos Santos; Rosa Colaco; Ofa Vatuvei; Anselmo Madeddu; Sonia Vairinhos.

Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope
“Hope does not disappoint.” Romans 5:5

SAINT OF THE WEEK

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 22nd August

This feast of the Queenship of Mary was established in 1954 by Pope Pius XII and is very closely associated with the dogma of her Assumption into heaven. Once Mary, the Mother of God was assumed into heaven at the end of her earthy life, she was then crowned as Queen of both Heaven and Earth to reign alongside her Son, the King.

As Pope Benedict XVI once noted: Mary... is Queen in her service to God for humanity, she is a Queen of love who lives the gift of herself to God so as to enter into the plan of man’s salvation. The feast of the Queenship of Mary honours Mary, but it is also a reminder of our own baptismal call to fully participate in the Reign of God—a call we received at our baptism.

ROSTER— <i>ST MARY’S</i>		
16 AUG	READERS:	Christine O’Rourke & Colin Boylan
	ALTAR SOCIETY	Kath Hadden & Maria Martins
	COUNTERS:	Sharon / Simon / JAN
	WELCOMERS:	Michael & Sharon
23 AUG	READERS:	Jan Royan & Geraldine Tobin
	ALTAR SOCIETY:	Margaret/ Polly/ Dani
	COUNTERS:	Jenny/ Jan/ Rod/ TERESA
	WELCOMERS:	Geraldine & Sister

ROSTER— <i>ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI</i>		
17 AUG	READERS:	Tina Chicharo & Aida Bill
	COMMUNION:	Jane Gerada & Magdalene Duarte
	CHILDREN’S LITURGY:	Rebecca Dayal & Canning Schurr
	WELCOMERS:	David Hagerty & Patricia Davis
24 AUG	READERS:	Secular Franciscans
	COMMUNION:	Sister & Tina Chicharo
	CHILDREN’S LITURGY:	Brett Murphy & Aida Bill
	WELCOMERS:	Secular Franciscans
	CLEANING GROUP:	22 August: Group 2
	CLEANING GROUP:	29 August: Group 3

DATES	PARISHES	First Collection (Loose Change, Tap Point and Electronic Giving)	Second Collection (Loose Change, Planned Giving Envelopes, Tap Point & Electronic Giving)
9/10 August	BERKELEY	\$377.45	\$671.00
	WARRAWONG	\$529.65	\$927.40

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

COMBINED PARISHES

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST- FIRST HOLYCOMMUNION



Congratulations to the children from our school and parish communities celebrating their First Communion this weekend. We offer ***William, Quinton, Nicholas, Dominick*** and their parents, families and friends our prayerful best wishes on this happy occasion. May Our Lord nourish them always with His love, peace and joy, granting them many graces and blessings all through their lives. Thank you to their families and all involved in preparing and supporting the children in their faith journey.

FAREWELL FR DAMIEN AND DEACON MICK

We thank Fr Damien for his faithful service and dedication in shepherding our parishes and ensuring that we all know we are loved by God. We are grateful for the spiritual guidance and comfort he has shown us, as well as the practical aspects of parish life he has actioned during his time within our parishes. His willingness to walk alongside us in times of joy and sorrow has been greatly appreciated. We also thank Deacon Mick for his welcoming presence in both parishes and we thank his family for supporting his ministry by generously sharing him with us. His warmth and commitment to being a companion on our journey has enhanced our parish communities immensely. Both Fr Damien and Deacon Mick have lived out our parishes mission of sharing the love of Jesus Christ with all people and encouraged us to do the same.

We will miss you both.

Lord, as Fr Damien and Deacon Mick move on to their new ministries, we pray that Your Holy Spirit will bless them and grant them wisdom, strength and peace. May they find joy and fulfilment in the new communities You have called them to serve and may they feel Your presence in every step they take. We also ask You to bless our parishes during this time of transition as we welcome our new pastor, Fr Mark De Battista, trusting in Your plans for our future. Amen.

FAREWELL FROM DEACON MICK

I have been contemplating a move for some time to devote time to PALMS Australia, (whom Kerry and I served with as lay missionaries in the years 1979/80 in PNG), to make inroads into my home Diocese of Parramatta, and to support Veteran agencies and the Military Ordinariate as able in Sydney. The travel to and from Baulkham Hills to the Illawarra has affected the amount of time I have been able to spend with family. With Fr Damien's appointment to Nowra, I have discerned this is the best time for me to undertake this.

I would like to thank all of you for the last four and half years of service in the parishes. I have been welcomed and supported so very well by you all. I would like to thank in particular Fr Damien who has enabled me to be immersed in parish life, at a time when I was a bit lost. I have spoken with Fr Mark, as I was feeling guilty about leaving at this time, but after explaining my circumstances, he was most understanding. I will pray that you get behind Fr Mark and Deacon Lawrie and the new Leadership Team to continue in our vision of sharing the love of Christ with all.

You will remain in my prayers.

Peace be with you, Deacon Mick.

NEW DAILY MASS TIMES FOR BERKELEY, WARRAWONG & PORT KEMBLA PARISHES

As I mentioned in the notice in last week’s bulletin the weekday mass schedule will change very soon. With so many funeral masses and diocesan masses to which priests are invited it’s impossible to have more than one scheduled daily mass for the three parishes. Moreover, with accessibility to motor vehicles and the proximity of the three parishes to one another it is very easy for those who wish to attend weekday mass to do so.

In the following schedule my aim has been to create an opportunity for each parish to have at least one weekday mass while allowing a chance for both morning and evening masses. This will allow Alpha team members, and the respective school communities to attend at least one weekday mass each week. To this end, the new weekday mass schedule will be:

Tuesday, 5pm Holy Hour (Port Kembla)

Tuesday, 6pm Mass (Port Kembla) (ALPHA)

Wednesday, 5pm Holy Hour (Berkeley)

Wednesday, 6pm Mass (Berkeley)

Thursday, 9am Mass (Port Kembla) (St Patrick’s School)

Friday, 9am Mass (Warrawong) (St Francis' School)

This schedule will take effect from Tuesday, 19 August, 2025.

The Sunday mass schedule will not vary until I’ve had a chance to meet individually with each of the parish communities.

I thank you for your continued prayers and your expressions of support as I prepare to be the parish priest of these three parishes from Tuesday, 19 August.

In Christ, Fr Mark.

TRIBUNAL

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote that “charity and mercy demand that the Church, like a good mother, be near her children who feel themselves estranged from her.” The Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney, which has an Office in the Diocese of Wollongong, is a service of the Church to assist with the pastoral care of Catholics and non-Catholics who are civilly divorced, and who are seeking to remarry or who want clarification of their standing in the Church.

The Tribunal also assists remarried persons seeking to have their current marriage recognised in the Church, and remarried persons wishing to be baptised or received into

the Catholic Church. Any divorced person, or a divorced and remarried person is welcome to contact the Wollongong Office of the Tribunal to obtain further information, or to have their status within the Church clarified. Brochures are available from the church foyer or notice board area. The Wollongong Office of the Tribunal is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

You are welcome to contact the Tribunal on PH:42222409 or tribunal@dow.org.au or visit www.tribunal.dow.org.au

WARRAWONG NEWS

FAREWELL LUNCH FOR FR DAMIEN AND DEACON MICK

All are warmly welcome to join us for lunch in the hall after Mass today to say farewell to Fr Damien and Deacon Mick.

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHIES

Returning to God our Father: ***Fatima Dos Santos; Spiro Stitsos; Anna Broletto.***

We offer our condolences to their family and friends.

“I am the Resurrection and the Life.” Jn11:25.

ST MARY’S PARISH BERKELEY 60TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKLETS

Anniversary Booklets are available for purchase from the Piety Store at a cost of \$10 each. This booklet details the history of the Berkeley Parish.

100 CLUB

Draw 4 Winning No 63 — R Dayal.

CALL TO FAITH

Today, if you are suffering, confused about the world we live in, or in need of new meaning and purpose... courage, do not be afraid!

We invite you on a Journey of Faith... a Way to rediscover the art of living and receive ongoing education in the faith. *“Come and Listen”* experience a meeting with the Risen Christ, discover the hidden treasures of the Church and find new meaning for your life.

ALL WELCOME!- no matter what your situation.

Adult Catechesis - St Francis of Assisi Parish/School Hall. 7.30pm Sundays and Thursdays, ***commencing Sunday 17 August 2025*** (for approx. 1hr each night, free.... can be joined anytime up to 18 September). Babysitting available - call Trish 0408 495 465. For more information or help call Neil 0438 056 016.

BERKELEY NEWS

FAREWELL DINNER FOR FR DAMIEN AND DEACON MICK

You are warmly welcome to join us after 4:00pm Mass today, for a farewell dinner for Fr Damien and Deacon Mick, at the German Club.

ST MARY’S PARISH 60TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKLETS

Anniversary Booklets are available for purchase at a cost of \$10 each. This booklet details the history of the Berkeley Parish.