

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C —31 AUGUST 2025

**First Reading** *Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29*  
A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus  
*Humble yourself and you will find favour with the Lord.*

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business, and you will be better loved than a lavish giver. The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble. There is no cure for the proud man’s malady, since an evil growth has taken root in him. The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables, an attentive ear is the sage’s dream.

**Responsorial Psalm** *Ps 67:4-7, 10-11. R. v.11*

**(R.) God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.**

1.

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, they shall exult and dance for joy.  
O sing to the Lord, make music to his name; rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence.

(R.)
2.

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, such is God in his holy place.  
God gives the lonely a home to live in; he leads the prisoners forth into freedom.

(R.)
3.

You poured down, O God, a generous rain: when your people were starved you gave them new life.  
It was there that your people found a home, prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor.

(R.)

**Second Reading** *Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24*  
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews  
*You have to come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.*

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a ‘first-born son’ and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

**Gospel Acclamation** *Matthew 11:29*  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Take my yoke upon you;  
learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel** *Luke 14:1, 7-14*  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*All who exalt themselves shall be humbled and all who humble themselves shall be exalted.*

On a Sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, ‘When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, “Give up your place to this man.” And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, “My friend, move up higher.” In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.’

Then he said to his host, ‘When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.’

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**REFLECTION** by Dianne Bergant CSA  
The goodness of God is seen in the extravagant generosity with which God gives gifts. This is described in the psalm in the boundlessness and universal scope of God’s generosity. Like the rain that falls on the entire landscape, the blessings of God are showered on all. These blessings are true gifts. They have not been earned, nor can they be repaid. God’s openness is also seen in the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews and in the gospel. All are invited to approach the heavenly city; the heavenly banquet will be open to the poor and to those who have no way of repaying. Only the humble can receive the gifts of God. Only those who can admit their neediness are open enough to realise that God’s blessings are gifts freely given, not compensation for a job well done. Without a humble spirit we are unable to receive gifts as gifts. This is either because we are too proud or we do not know how to receive with the open hearts of children, who never think that they must return in kind. This is the kind of humility recommended by Sirach. This is the kind of humility possessed by the disadvantaged pictured in the gospel.  
As we have received from the bounty of God, so we are called to give to others. Only those who have received with a humble spirit can give with the generosity of God, for they know that they do not deserve God’s goodness and they do not require anything in return. © Dianne Bergant CSA



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Welcome to the Parishes of

St Mary’s Berkeley

and

St Francis of Assisi, Warrawong



<b>Pastor:</b> Fr Mark De Battista	<b>PH:</b> 0434 157 987	<b>Parishes Office:</b> Ph: 4276 3565
<b>Deacon:</b> Deacon Lawrie Burns		<b>Office Hours:</b> Tues, Wed 10:00am-2:00pm; Thurs 10:00am-2:30pm
<b>Parishes Secretary:</b> Mrs Magdalene Duarte (Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri)		Fri 10:00am to 11.30am
<b>Hospital Chaplains:</b> WOLLONGONG—4222 5000		<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:berkeleywarrawong@dow.org.au">berkeleywarrawong@dow.org.au</a>
SHELLHARBOUR—4296 3939		<b>Address:</b> 211 Northcliffe Drive, Berkeley NSW 2506
<b>St Francis of Assisi Church, Warrawong:</b> Corner of Bruce & Flagstaff Road, Warrawong NSW 2502		
<b>St Mary’s Church, Berkeley:</b> 211 Northcliffe Drive, Berkeley NSW 2506		
<b>Postal address for all correspondence:</b> PO Box 37, Berkeley NSW 2506		
<b>Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation Sisters:</b> Warrawong Convent Ph: 4276 3565		
<b>Facebook:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmaryoftherosarystfrancisofassisi">https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmaryoftherosarystfrancisofassisi</a>		
<b>Parish School:</b> St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School		

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C —31 AUGUST 2025

<b>MASS TIMES:</b>	<b>BERKELEY: THURS 5:00pm Holy Hour, 6:00pm Mass</b>	<b>SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00pm</b>
	<b>WARRAWONG: FRI 9:00am</b>	<b>SUNDAY: 10:30am</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	<b>WARRAWONG: Friday before 9:00am Mass</b>	<b>BERKELEY: Before VIGIL MASS</b>

**BAPTISMS:** Celebrated at Warrawong on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at 6pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Warrawong.

**WEDDINGS:** By appointment only with at least six months notice. *A pre-nuptial program MUST be attended.*

**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<sup>st</sup> Sunday and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:** *Frank Cassar*; Antonio Saba; Donato Pierro; Angelo & Caterina Scavarelli; Jose Lucio Fernandes; Manuel Sousa; Jose Ernesto Silva; Ermelinda Nobrega; Maria Celeste Abade; Manuel Mano Abade; Mattia, Paolina & Pierino Lisi.  
*Rest in Peace*

**Please keep those who are sick in your prayers especially** especially Maria Mendes; 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

*Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church*  
*-3 September*

Gregory the Great was born in Rome in 540 AD. He used his own money to establish monasteries in Rome and Sicily, and became a monk at the age of 35. In 590 he became the first monk to be elected pope and the first pope to take the name Gregory. He was known as a great statesman and is accounted the fourth of the great Latin doctors of the church. His influence on church music gave rise to plainsong becoming known as Gregorian chant. Gregory was the father of the medieval papacy and was instrumental in helping Western Europe rise from the ashes of the fallen Roman Empire. He referred to himself as ‘the servant of the servants of God’, a term which popes have used ever since.  
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ROSTER— <i>ST MARY'S</i>		
30 AUG	READERS:	Jenny Thomson & Sharon Boyle
	ALTAR SOCIETY	
	COUNTERS:	Hieu / Teresa / JENNY
	WELCOMERS:	Dona & Sister
6 SEPT	READERS:	Emma Micallef & Nate Micallef
	ALTAR SOCIETY:	Syro-Malabar Group
	COUNTERS:	Sharon / Simon / HIEU
	WELCOMERS:	Michael & Sharon

ROSTER— <i>ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI</i>		
31 AUG	READERS:	Miranka Chavez & Patricia Davis
	COMMUNION:	Canning Schurr & Sandra Briscoe
	CHILDREN'S LITURGY:	Magdalene Duarte
	WELCOMERS:	Gina Kime & Sister
	CLEANING GROUP:	5 Sept: Group 4
7 SEPT	READERS:	Sister & Sandra Briscoe
	COMMUNION:	Filomena Da Silva & Marita Maloney
	CHILDREN'S LITURGY:	Kyle Smith & Nenita Pillon
	WELCOMERS:	Merly Fien & Sister
	CLEANING GROUP:	12 Sept: Group 1

DATES	PARISHES	First Collection (Loose Change, Tap Point and Electronic Giving)	Second Collection (Loose Change, Planned Giving Envelopes, Tap Point & Electronic Giving)
23/24 August	BERKELEY	\$375.95	\$545.35
	WARRAWONG	\$571.75	\$675.65

*Your generosity is greatly appreciated.*

COMBINED PARISHES

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION AND SEASON OF CREATION 2025

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (1st September) begins the Season of Creation which ends October 4, with the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. This year’s theme is *Peace With Creation*. This Jubilee Year also marks the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis’s encyclical letter *Laudato Si’* that focuses on ‘Care for our Common Home’. The mission before us as people of faith and members of the human community is to work for the justice and global solidarity that are essential to establishing “Peace with Creation.”

PARISHES OF BERKELEY, WARRAWONG, PORT KEMBLA & WINDANG-MASS TIMES

DAY	MASS TIME	CHURCH
Tuesday	5pm-Holy Hour 6pm-Mass	Port Kembla
Wednesday	9am	Port Kembla (School)
Thursday	5pm-Holy Hour 6pm-Mass	Berkeley
Friday	9am-Mass	Warrawong (School)
Saturday	4pm Vigil	Berkeley
Saturday	5.30pm Vigil	Windang
Sunday	9am-Mass	Port Kembla
Sunday	10.30am-Mass	Warrawong

WELCOME SR MARTHA

We warmly welcome Sr Martha, the new superior of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation Sisters at Warrawong, and wish her many blessings in her new role.

UPCOMING FORMATION PATHWAY (SEPTEMBER) ONLINE ONLY! *Wednesday, 3 September - 7-9pm*

Foundations: Primacy of Evangelisation (Module 114)  
This formation will explore how we can prioritise evangelisation in our use of time, talent, and treasure, to make sure that the Great Commission doesn’t become the Forgotten Suggestion. To register: [www.dow.org.au/events](http://www.dow.org.au/events)

REMEMBER MY FATHER ENVELOPES

Envelopes labelled 'Father’s Day Masses' have been placed in the foyers at Warrawong and Berkeley Churches. If you wish to have your father, deceased or living, prayed for on Father’s Day, please print the name(s) on the envelope and place in the 2nd collection bag.

WHOLE PARISH MEETINGS – COME AND BE HEARD

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend a **Whole Parish Meeting** which is a valuable opportunity for us to:

- Reflect on the **future direction** of our parishes,
- Share our hopes, ideas, and concerns,
- **Meet Fr Mark informally**, and allow him to hear our stories and get to know us better.

Meeting Schedule:

- **Wednesday 24 September** – 7:00pm to 8:30pm  
*Parish Hall, Port Kembla.*
- **Saturday 27 September** – 10:00am to 11:30am  
*St Francis Parish/School Hall.*
- **Saturday 27 September** – 2:30pm to 3:45pm  
*Berkeley Church.*

Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend. If you are unable to attend your own parish’s meeting, you are most welcome to attend one of the other meetings at another Parish. Let’s come together to shape the future of our faith communities. We look forward to seeing you there!

ALPHA

**ALPHA** is a series that explores faith. Each week it includes a meal, a video and small-group conversation, in a welcoming, relaxed, and safe space.

WHO CAN YOU THINK TO INVITE??

The next **ALPHA** experience will commence soon.

Date: **TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**

Time: **7:00 – 9:00 pm**

Venue: **Parish Hall at St Patrick’s Catholic Parish, 42 O’Donnell Street, Port Kembla NSW 2505.**

To register for this **ALPHA** experience simply scan the QR code or register via the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfD3f8hAdWCTkmfxjf7OrWrtooI9ybf4vETz4L-KHOfVVbd9w/viewform>

We look forward to welcoming you as our guests!

WARRAWONG NEWS

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHIES

Returning to God our Father: *Frank Cassar*. Frank was a committed faith filled parishioner who will be dearly missed. We are especially grateful for his role of president of the Warrawong Legion of Mary Praesidium, as well as his ongoing support of Alpha. We offer our condolences to his wife Maria, his family and friends.

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

MORNING TEA

All are welcome to join us for our end of the month Morning Tea in the Hall after 10:30am Mass today.

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** (for approx. 1hr each night)  
**No cost involved.**

Babysitting available - call Trish 0408 495 465. For more information or help call Neil 0438 056 016.

ST MARY’S PARISH BERKELEY 60TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKLETS

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

100 CLUB

Draw 6 Winning No 96—N Portelli.

BERKELEY NEWS

SOCIAL EVENT

All are welcome to join fellow parishioners for dinner after Mass this evening (last Saturday of the month) at the Berkeley Sports and Social Club.

PRAYERFUL CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to *Ashley Hayes & Nicholas Burns* on their marriage at St Paul's Church Albion Park, this weekend. May the Lord bless them always and grant them a wonderful future together.

ST MARY’S PARISH 60TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKLETS

Booklets detailing the history of the Berkeley Parish are available from the Piety Shop at a cost of \$10 each.

DIOCESAN NEWS

HEAR FROM POPE LEO XIV

<https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faithcircles/> to access or sign up to have it sent straight to you.

WHAT’S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE?

Subscribe at [dow.sh/stayingconnected](http://dow.sh/stayingconnected) or visit [dow.sh/weeklybulletin](http://dow.sh/weeklybulletin).

JUBILEE WEBSITE

The Diocesan Jubilee Website is continually being updated about jubilee events, and has a wealth of information, links and resources to assist the faithful to embrace this Holy Year as Pilgrims of Hope at [jubilee.dow.org.au](http://jubilee.dow.org.au)

NEWMAN LECTURE 2025

Hosted by the Bulli Branch of the Knights of the Southern Cross (KSC)

“THE LEGACY OF POPE FRANCIS”

Guest Speaker: Bishop Brian Mascord (Wollongong Diocese)

Date: **Saturday, 6 September 2025, 2:00pm**

Venue: Xavier Centre, Wollongong

- Live-streamed nationally/ 40-minute presentation
  - Q & A session following the lecture
  - Open to all parishioners and friends across the Diocese
  - Live-stream link to be advised closer to the lecture
  - For Free bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/DDQBT>
- For further information, contact: Denis Bristow 0412699929