

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS YEAR C —14 SEPTEMBER 2025

First Reading *Numbers 21:4-9*
A reading from the book of Numbers
When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.’
At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.’ Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, ‘Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.’ So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7*
(R.) Do not forget the works of the Lord!

- 1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching; turn your ear to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable and reveal hidden lessons of the past. **(R.)**
- 2. When he slew them then they would seek him, return and seek him in earnest. They would remember that God was their rock, God the Most High their redeemer. **(R.)**
- 3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery; they lied to him with their lips. For their hearts were not truly with him; they were not faithful to his covenant. **(R.)**
- 4. Yet he who is full of compassion forgave their sin and spared them. So often he held back his anger when he might have stirred up his rage. **(R.)**

Second Reading *Philippians 2:6-11*
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
He humbled himself, therefore God had exalted him.

The state of Jesus was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,

should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!

Gospel *John 3:13-17*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The Son of Man must be lifted up.

‘No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.’

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REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA
Today we concentrate on the power of the cross in our lives. It is the ultimate demonstration of the nature of God. Christ gave of himself even to death on the cross. This is characteristic, not only of the man Jesus, but of the Godhead. Creation is the first example of divine emptying; redemption is the ultimate example. Unlike Good Friday when we stand before the stark cross and mourn the death of our innocent messiah, today we stand before the glorious cross and praise God for God’s incomprehensible goodness toward us. God’s graciousness is poured out indiscriminately, prodigally as only profound love can be given. Such is the nature of our God, and the cross is the symbol of this nature. Jesus compares the pole in the wilderness on which was fixed the serpent to the cross which becomes the source of our healing. It was through the cross that Jesus conquered sin and death and won for us access to God. It is through the cross that we die to sin and rise to new life in Christ. As painful as life’s crosses may be, they serve to transform us. It can be our hope in the midst of pain and suffering and brokenness, because it promises to carry us into new life. Through the goodness of God, which has been poured out for us, we have been granted eternal life. It is incomprehensible to think that death is the way to life, but that is the message of this feast. The cross, which is a sign of shame and misery, is now a symbol of glory and exaltation. © Dianne Bergant CSA



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Welcome to the Parishes of

St Mary’s Berkeley

and

St Francis of Assisi, Warrawong



Pastor: Fr Mark De Battista	PH: 0434 157 987	Parishes Office: Ph: 4276 3565
Deacon: Deacon Lawrie Burns		Office Hours: Tues, Wed 9:00am-1:00pm; Thurs 9:00am-1:30pm
Parishes Secretary: Mrs Magdalene Duarte (Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri)		Fri 10:00am to 11.30am
Hospital Chaplains: WOLLONGONG—4222 5000		Email: berkeleywarrawong@dow.org.au
SHELLHARBOUR—4296 3939		Address: 211 Northcliffe Drive, Berkeley NSW 2506
St Francis of Assisi Church, Warrawong: Corner of Bruce & Flagstaff Road, Warrawong NSW 2502		
St Mary’s Church, Berkeley: 211 Northcliffe Drive, Berkeley NSW 2506		
Postal address for all correspondence: PO Box 37, Berkeley NSW 2506		
Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation Sisters: Warrawong Convent Ph: 4276 3565		
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmaryoftherosarystfrancisofassisi		
Parish School: St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School		

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS YEAR C —14 SEPTEMBER 2025

MASS TIMES:	BERKELEY: THURS 5:00pm Holy Hour, 6:00pm Mass	SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00pm
	WARRAWONG: FRI 9:00am followed by Holy Hour	SUNDAY: 10:30am
	PORT KEMBLA: TUES 5:00 pm Holy Hour, 6:00 pm Mass	WED: 9:00 am
	WINDANG: SAT 5:30 pm Vigil Mass	SUNDAY: 9:00 am
RECONCILIATION:	BERKELEY: THURS 5:00pm-5:45pm during Holy Hour	WARRAWONG: FRI 9:45am-10:45am during Holy Hour
	PORT KEMBLA: TUES 5:00pm-5:45pm during Holy Hour	SAT 10:00am

BAPTISMS: Celebrated at Warrawong on 1st and 3rd 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 1st 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: Warrawong, every Saturday at 8:00am.

CFC-HANDMAIDS OF THE LORD: 1st Sunday and 3rd 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.	PRAYER FOR OUR PARISHES <i>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.</i>
OUR MISSION To share the love of Jesus Christ with all people.	



WE PRAY FOR:

The faithfully departed: *Maria Gomes; Rebecca Mansbridge;* Rosa Chicharo; Jose Eusebio de Freitas & dec fam: Josip Cerneka; Jose Dromund Meneses; Jose Henrique Meneses; Antonietta & Pasquale Notorianni; Jose Lucio Fernandes; Manuel Sousa; Jose Ernesto Silva; Ermelinda Nobrega.; Joseph Testa; Carmela Innuzzi; Carlo & Luigi Realì; Maria Arlete Correia. **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

FEAST OF THE WEEK

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross– 14th September

The feast, more than anything else, is a celebration and commemoration of God's greatest work: his salvific death on the Cross and His Resurrection, through which death was defeated and the doors to Heaven opened.

O Father, in the shadow of the Cross, we seek Your strength to carry our burdens. May the sacrifice of Your Son empower us in our trials and tribulations.

Grant us the courage to face our challenges with faith, and let the love poured out from Calvary fill our hearts, guiding us to live boldly in Your grace. Amen.

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

ROSTER—ST MARY’S		
13 SEPT	READERS: ALTAR SOCIETY COUNTERS: WELCOMERS:	Elise Burns & Christine O’Rourke Kath Hadden & Maria Martins Jenny / Jan / Rod / SHARON Geraldine & Sister
20 SEPT	READERS: ALTAR SOCIETY: COUNTERS: WELCOMERS:	Colin Boylan & Jan Royan Margaret /Polly / Dani Hieu /Teresa / ROD Dona &Sister

ROSTER—ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI		
14 SEPT	READERS: COMMUNION: CHILDREN’S LITURGY: WELCOMERS: CLEANING GROUP:	Rebecca Dayal & Magdalene Duarte Jane Gerada & Tina Chicharo Aida Bill & Canning Schurr Tina Chicharo & Sister 19 Sept: Group 2
21 SEPT	READERS: COMMUNION: CHILDREN’S LITURGY: WELCOMERS: CLEANING GROUP:	Patricia Davis & Tina Chicharo Sister & Magdalene Duarte Brett Murphy & Rebecca Dayal David Hagerty & Patricia Davis 26 Sept: Group 3

DATES	PARISHES	First Collection (Loose Change, Tap Point and Electronic Giving)	Second Collection (Loose Change, Planned Giving Envelopes, Tap Point & Electronic Giving)
6/7 September	BERKELEY	\$367.70	\$614.10
	WARRAWONG	\$488.50	\$761.50

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

COMBINED PARISHES

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

On Safeguarding Sunday, we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let’s be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the “silent” ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it’s through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God’s work of justice.

ALPHA has started but IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN!

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: TUESDAYS

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!

THE BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

A special collection will take place in our parishes on the weekend of **20/21 September**.

PARISHES OFFICE UPDATE

The Parishes Office will be closed on Wednesday 17 September.

REMEMBER MY FATHER ENVELOPES

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

WHAT’S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE?

Subscribe at dow.sh/stayingconnected or visit dow.sh/weeklybulletin.

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!

BUS TRIP TO BERRIMA SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MERCY PENROSE PARK

We would like to warmly invite all Parishioners and friends to join us for this special day. This will include, reciting the rosary on the way to Berrima, joining the procession and Mass and confession will able be available.

Date: **13th October 2025**. Time: 8.30am to 5.00pm

Cost: \$25.00 Please bring your own lunch. Pick up locations: St Patrick’s Church at Port Kembla and St Francis of Assisi Church at Warrawong. The trip will go ahead if we have sufficient interest from Parishioners cover the cost of bus.

If you would like to attend, please call Dani, Secretary at St Patrick’s Parish on Phone: 42741192.

WARRAWONG NEWS

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHIES

Returning to God our Father: *Maria Gomes*. We offer our condolences to her family and friends. *“I am the Resurrection and the Life.”* Jn11:25.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

Date: Sunday 21st September, 2025
Venue: St Francis of Assisi Parish Warrawong.
Time: 2:30 pm Procession of Our Lady of Victories. Followed by Holy Mass.

After mass there will be refreshments at the George Cross Falcons Community Centre, 25-27 Lake Avenue, Cringila. All are warmly welcome to attend.

CALL TO FAITH

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 8 Winning No 3—Vacant.

SCHOOL NEWS

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHIES

Returning to God our Father: *Rebecca Mansbridge*. We offer our condolences to her family and friends. *“I am the Resurrection and the Life.”* Jn11:25.

Mrs Rebecca Mansbridge was a much loved, dedicated and respected teacher at St Francis of Assisi School for over 20 years. She brought joy to so many and will be so sadly missed. Kindly pray for the repose of her soul, as well as for her husband Andrew, her children, and the St Francis of Assisi School community.

BERKELEY NEWS

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.

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

SANCTUS SUMMIT- UNANDERRA

Sanctus Summit is a monthly Adoration + Fellowship night, primarily for youth and young adults every 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next Sanctus Summit will be at **Immaculate Conception, Unanderra on 17 September from 6.30pm**. The night consists of Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers, Gospel + Reflection. Fellowship and dinner will follow afterwards at Unanderra Hotel.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA – SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation’s call for Peace with Creation aligns powerfully with the Turn Debt into Hope campaign, as communities burdened by debt are often those facing the worst environmental challenges. This Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October), Caritas Australia is inviting parishioners to stand in solidarity with vulnerable communities in need of sustainable development and ecological renewal by:

- signing the Turn Debt into Hope petition, either online or by downloading and printing a hard copy – caritas.org.au/debt
- committing to practical, everyday actions that promote ecological sustainability and care for creation by registering to become a Catholic Earthcare Household - caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/