



Entrusted to the Salesians of Don Bosco

Our Lady of the Rosary

Catholic Church

26 Swanston Street, St Marys, NSW 2760

Tel: (02) 9623 1962

Parish Email: secretaryolrchurch@iinet.net.au

Parish Website: www.olrchurchstmarys.org.au

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A - 23 Aug 2026

Entrance Antiphon:

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading:

Is 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)

2 I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul (R.)

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands

3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Second Reading:

Rom 11:33-36

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL:

Mt 16:13-20

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?'

And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?'

Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon:

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

IN OUR PARISH

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr. Jeff Miller SDB
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Gersio Amaral SDB
 Parish Secretary: Fleur Mathias
 Asst. Secretary: Violetta B (Monday)
 Parish Telephone: 9623 1962
 Parish Email: secretary@olrchurch@inet.net.au
 Parish Website: www.olrchurchstmarys.org.au

Enquiries: Please phone the Parish Office between
 9:30am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 3:30pm, Monday to Friday.

Salesian Community: Phone: 9623 1220

Don Bosco Youth Centre: Phone: 9623 0450

Director: Fr Joseph Huong SDB

Salesian Sisters:

Community Leader: Sr Edna Mary McDonald

Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School

Principal: Ms Jackie Willard Phone: 8856 8301

Email: olorstmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au

Web: www.olorstmarys.catholic.edu.au

Emmaus Catholic College

Principal: Mrs Gabriela Osterlund Phone: 9670 4588

Email: emmaus@parra.catholic.edu.au

Web: www.emmauskempscreek.catholic.edu.au

MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 6:30am, 9:00am, 7:00pm

Saturday: 8:00am, 6:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 5:30pm

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Jesus the Healer, we commend to your gentle hands

Marylin Villamor, Margaret Gallagher, Rose Cauci, Emmanuel & Josephine Vella, Maya Gliniski, Ruth Magnaye, Jorge Oliveras, Josephine Evans, Brian Xerri, Tenesha Faulkner, Rudy Rupac, Elinda Lopez, Norma Sulvita, Michael McDermot, Reynaldo Handog, Wayne Reynolds, Maryanne Santos, Denise Blanche, Patrick Levelle, Peyton Daley, Mario Cauchi, Robert Engelebrecht, Reynaldo Bendayral, Vanessa Trujillo, Renee Azzopardi, Juliet Lee, Margaret Lawrence, Ashton D'Costa, Rolando Aguda, Hugo Labra, Andre Rodriguez, Ginnah Alia, David Freeman, Susie Lipstack, Crystal Darcy, Zdravko & Marija Palovic, Evotia Letele, Karen Barret, Josephine Mitchell, Emelita Howlett, Emma Tucker, Allan & Jackie Cullen, Esperanza Mirafeuntes, Fr S.R, Abraham Thomas, Reetahmma Abraham, Sophia Furey, Mhom Samson, Aurora Jimenez, Adam Burton, Arou Akot, Jozef Karkowski, Ronald Manzano, Anna Juresa, Ronnie D'costa, Beatrice Leary, Lorraine Damian, Fr Jepser B, Monica Thomas, Shuashawnee Hancock, Miloh Molese, Blanche Jones, Clare LeGrand, Renato Manongdo, Bernard Prendergast, Merwyn D'Souza, Bertha Wetton, Bobby Jose, Edward Sebastiano, Corrine Cedor, Joe Duval, Loyda Cruz, John Newton June Dodd.

RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturdays: 9:00am - 10:00am and 5:00pm - 5:30pm

Mon to Fri: 7:30pm to 8:00pm (after the 7pm Mass)

MASSES THIS WEEK

- Sat 22 Aug QUEENSHIP OF MARY**
 6:00pm Souls of the Gabrielle Family
- Sun 23 Aug TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**
 7:30am Avila, Rubio, Jurado
 9:00am Josephine Cortis
 10:30am Michael Fleeton, Sidney Lawrence
 5:30pm Pro Populo
- Mon 24 Aug ST BARTHOLOMEW**
 6:30am Thelma Dupaya & Family
 9:00am Ricky Patiag
 7:00pm Marian Shankar
- Tue 25 Aug ST LOUIS- ST MARIA TRONCATTI**
 6:30am Nelson Chui
 9:00am Unborn
 7:00pm Holy Souls
- Wed 26 Aug**
 6:30am Peter McIlvenna
 9:00am Personal Intention
 7:00pm Lourdes & Herminio Alves
- Thu 27 Aug ST MONICA**
 6:30am Holy Souls
 9:00am Lucija Jeroncic
 7:00pm Paul Evers
- Fri 28 Aug ST AUGUSTINE**
 6:30am Sarah & Jennik
 9:00am Queenie & Rueben Joseph
 7:00pm Argyna Marie & Benjamin Santos Santiago
- Sat 29 Aug PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**
 8:00am Robert Peisley

PRAYERS FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers our deceased parishioners, family and friends especially

Peter Aquilina, Angela Barca, Victoria Borg, Deacon Petelo Savea, Andrew Vaessen, Milly Martin, Alicia Bulatao, Pasquale Bellino, Br Rey Pongo, Tony Martin, Patricia Armstrong, Stephen Neville, Raymond Clarke, Sarafino Enadid, Felicia Sisinni, Eileen Morrow, Vincent Leary, Pellegrino Penna, Lucija Jeroncic, Chito Redoblado, Vicky Xerri, Linda Weightman, Norma O'Sullivan, Peter Gatchalian, Maria Maciejewska, Janene Martin, Maria Rohrlach, Theresa Menezes, Manolo Lobrin, MaryAnn Salazar, Camillo Piccirilli, Jose Maria Pepingco, Charlie Buttigieg, Grace Micallef, Stipe Kulas, Josephine Saporita, Antonietta D'Angola, Marija Sterle, Joseph Mazurkiewicz, Verna Venus, Mick Boyle, Paul Evers, Peter McIlvenna.

Eternal rest grant unto their souls O Lord, let your light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.

1st and 2nd Collections:

We Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support.

If you prefer to donate via ONLINE BANKING,

Please refer to details below:

(1st Collection) - For the Clergy's sustentation & care

BSB NO: 067 950

ACCOUNT NO: 00004414

ACCOUNT NAME: St Marys Pastoral Revenue

(2nd Collection) - Parish Ministry & Maintenance

BSB NO: 067 950

ACCOUNT NO: 100000329

ACCOUNT NAME: St Marys Catholic Church

First Collection (previous weekend) \$1908.70

Second Collection (previous weekend) \$ 2015.40

Tap & Go Donations \$ 2410.00

Collections are no longer conducted during weekend Masses. A collection box is located at the back left of the church on weekends only.

TAP & GO MACHINES

The two Tap & Go machines in the church, donations will go towards the Church 2nd collection.
Kindly Select your donation amount \$5, \$10, \$20 or other.

COMING EVENTS:

22-23 Aug: OLR - Bee Hive Honey Sale
23 Aug: Pilgrim Mother Apostolate
24 Aug: Devotion to the Holy Wounds
27 Aug: Parish Youth Group 6-8pm
28 Aug: The Holy Wounds Formation Night
29 Aug: Bethany Pilgrimage (details below)
13 September: Schoenstatt Centenary Jubilee



Invitation to Perpetual Adoration

*OLR Blessed Sacrament Adoration
Chapel open 24 hours, 7 days a week.*

Please consider being rostered weekly
*If you are able to commit to just 1 hour
or more a week, we invite you join the
Adoration Chapel Roster.*

- ♦ Registration forms available in the Chapel.
- ♦ Contact the Parish Office for information.

All Welcome.



OLR - BEE HIVE HONEY

Honey for sale after Saturday 6pm
and Sunday 10:30am Masses this weekend
22nd & 23rd August.
\$10 per jar, all proceeds will go towards the
Church Refurbishment.
Only while stock lasts.

COME JOIN US!

Pilgrim Mother Apostolate

4th Sunday of the Month Rosary

When: Sunday, 23rd August 2026

Time: 11:45am (after 10:30am Mass)

Venue: MacKillop Centre, Collins St, St

Marys. Followed by a light lunch (provided). **ALL WELCOME**

Enquiries: Fenina - 0431 867 491



DEVOTION TO THE HOLY WOUNDS OF JESUS



2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.
Next one on **Mon 24 Aug 2026, 7:30pm**
in the Church.

Free Legal Clinic – Catholic Care, Emerton

Catholic Care offers free weekly legal advice every
Thursday from 11am at 11 Emert Parade, Emerton.
Bookings are recommended – call 8843 2500.



IMMACULATE MARY STATUE

Mr & Mrs Abrera
36 Maranie Avenue St Marys

If you would like the Rosary Statue in your home for
a week, kindly contact Mr & Mrs Johnson 0404 028 823.



WE WELCOME

Noah Agnello-Bali
Amarni Hosking, Honey Hosking
and Alyssa Simone Sabat.

**into our Parish Family through the
Sacrament of Baptism**

OLR PARISH FORMATION EVENING



Live Christ Share Christ

THE HOLY WOUNDS OF CHRIST

Formation Night

The Holy Wounds, the precious blood and the
divine love of Jesus Christ.

Friday 28th August 2026

7.30pm-9pm

Speaker: Denis Collins

Venue: OLR Parish Hall

(Corner Of Swanston St & Collins St Marys NSW)

For Further Information please contact Alan D'Souza
on 0436 308 178

SCHOENSTATT CENTENARY JUBILEE

*Sunday, 13th of September at Mount
Schoenstatt, Mulgoa.*

*Beginning with Holy Mass @ 10am
celebrated by Archbishop Anthony
Fisher OP,*

*Followed by refreshments and
program until 3pm.*



CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY

**Would you like to join OLR Church Cleaning
Ministry Team?**

All we need is 1 hour of your time once a month
(generally Fridays 10am) to help prepare the church for
the weekend Masses.

Contact Jasna - 0430 112 241.

BE THE WITNESS - THE MUSICAL

The story of Jesus through the eyes of Peter

10-13 September 2026

Riverside Theatres, Parramatta

Special Parish Group 20+ Offer

Discounted prices

**Don't Miss out! Book Now. Limited
seats.**



MARY'S CAFÉ

Refreshments served after 9:00am
and 10:30am Mass on Sundays
(weather permitting) at the Church Café.

All Welcome

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS

This week we reflect upon Pope Leo's fourth proposal for promoting a civilisation of love: Cultivating a healthy realism. He writes:

218. We are in need of a healthy realism that avoids both political idealism and cynicism. There is a kind of idealism that, in order to preserve its own worldview, tends to choose facts selectively, distorting and renaming them. Its proponents eventually, inhabit a reality constructed to fit their own convictions. Conversely, there is also a debased form of realism that confuses observation with resignation, arguing that since force prevails, it will always prevail. Authentic realism does not give up on changing the world; indeed, it starts by clearly identifying interests, fears, constraints and power dynamics, precisely in order to determine what can be achieved, and the measures needed to achieve it. It does not reduce politics to morality; neither does it surrender to violence. Instead, it seeks viable paths for making peace more than a mere word, through credible institutions, verifiable guarantees, patient negotiations, conflict prevention and the protection of civilians.

An unhealthy idealism often stems from projecting the unrealistic expectations we have of ourselves upon other people. The more we can arrive, by God's grace, at a humble and charitable acceptance of our own weaknesses, the more humbly and charitably we can approach the weaknesses of others. Or as Our Lord would say: "first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye" (Mt 7:5). Throughout the Church's history, fewer saints have taught this humble and charitable approach better than the Salesians' spiritual model and namesake, St. Francis de Sales. On cultivating a healthy realism of ourselves, he writes:

We must take two equally strong resolutions into our heart: one is to resign ourselves to seeing noxious weeds growing in the garden of our soul; and the other is to keep trying to get rid of them. While we are in this life our self-love will not die, and it is just this that produces these nasty plants. Rest assured that it is not a great disorder to commit some venial fault, provided we immediately return to God, humbling ourselves gently. You must not think you can live without sin, because only the blessed virgin had this privilege. These small faults, even though they make you stumble for a moment, should not cause you to deviate from the path of perfection; a simple glance of your soul toward God is enough to make up for them. (*Spiritual Treatises IX; O. VI*)

Indeed, we must never give up on changing ourselves, just as Pope Leo says we must never give up on changing the world. But as with changing the world, so changing ourselves can only come about by a determined and measured identification of the underlying fears, interests, and constraints in our heart. Realistically, none of us can change the whole world, but we can all change our hearts; moreover, our heart is the only place in the world which *only we* can change, and this makes it an ideal place to start.

Dear brothers and sisters, our reflection on Pope Leo's *Magnifica Humanitas* is quickly drawing to a close. For future reflections, I would greatly welcome your input as to useful topics to reflect upon, or questions to address. I will leave a suggestions box at the back of the church for this purpose, and address the most common topics/questions raised in coming weeks.

Yours faithfully,

Fr Jeff Miller