



# Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year C Cycle 1 | 24 August 2025



## Will Only a Few be Saved?

People have been asking this question from time immemorial and they still ask it today: "Lord, will only a few be saved?" Heaven, hell, salvation, damnation - who will be in and who will be out? We have remained fascinated with these questions for a long time.

How should we approach this issue? The doctrine concerning hell is a corollary of two more fundamental truths - namely, that God is love and that we are free. Love (willing the good of the other) is all that God is. He doesn't go in and out of love; he doesn't change his mind; he's not loving to some, and not to others. He is indeed like the sun that shines on the good and bad alike, in the words of Jesus. No act of ours can possibly make him stop loving us. In this regard, he is like the best of parents.

However, we are also free. We are not God's marionettes, and hence we can say yes or we can say no to his love. If we turn toward it, we open like a sunflower; if we turn from it, we get burned.

Notice how Jesus ultimately answers the question though. He says to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door." In other words, stop bickering over how many or few other people will be saved and, in the words of St. Paul, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil 2:12).

*The Word on Fire Bible* Bishop Robert Barron

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# Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

## Narrow Path Broad Heart

In our Gospel, Jesus is asked a question about salvation. In response, he challenges the assumptions of his hearers about who will have access to heaven. Their question focuses on numbers, yet Jesus' answer is more personal: we may be wondering who else is getting in, but a more fruitful question could be: "Am I so sure that I am getting in at all?"

Jesus then uses the image of someone seeking entry into a house only to find the door closed to them. The visitor protests, claiming a shared history with the householder, but to no effect: the door remains shut. The repeated answer from the householder inside, "I do not know where you come from", suggests that the caller who seeks entry does not share the same perspective as the owner.

Jesus does not leave it there. He goes on to say that the rejected person will witness people coming from all kinds of places and being allowed entry. You can almost feel the seething envy of the onlooker and their outrage at witnessing their sworn enemies from across the borders seemingly swanning in unchallenged. Perhaps Jesus implies the question: are you so sure you are bosom buddies with God?

The invitation this week is also to check our assumptions about others. The mercy of God, revealed in Jesus, is far wider than our narrow minds and vast intolerances. God's mercy could scandalise us unless we are willing to expand our horizons. We often draw up boundaries and make assumptions about other people's merits. Do our beliefs match those of Jesus?

For each of us, treading the "narrow path" will depend on whether we know intimately, and thus recognise, the footprints of our Redeemer. Such a narrow path involves a broadening of the mind and heart. By closing the door of our hearts to others, wherever they may come from, whatever their situation, we could likewise find the door to the kingdom slammed in our faces. The narrow path of mercy is found and walked with a broadened heart and mind.

*Sunday Living Word Majellan Family Media*

## Life Beyond

The story is told of two elderly priests, both nearing the end of their days, who made a pact. Whichever of them died first, he would return and tell the other what life beyond the grave was like. Eventually Fr Joe died and was buried. Some months later Fr Bill was sitting in his room. It was Saturday night; he was busy preparing his homily - or was it watching Match of the Day? In any event, he suddenly became aware of a presence: Fr Joe was standing there before him. "Joe," he gasped "it's you. Tell me, what's it like in heaven?" "Well," replied Joe, "you'd be surprised who's there." There was a pause: "And you'd be surprised who isn't!" And with that he was gone.

We may discover that the response Fr Bill received from his friend had more than a grain of truth in it. Looking round the banqueting table of heaven, we may be surprised - by those who are there, and, perhaps, by those who are not. However, as we have been reminded today, our task is not to waste time on pointless speculation. What matters is that, avoiding complacency, we strive to live out our faith in our daily lives while putting all our trust in our great God whose love is strong and whose faithfulness endures for ever.

*The Living Word Redemptorist Publications*

**Masses:** Saturday Vigil 5pm | Sunday 8am & 9:30am | Reynolds Court 11am | Maronite Mass 5pm

**Weekday Masses:** Monday Communion Service 9am | Tuesday - Thursday 9am | Friday 11:45am  
Saturday 9am | Reynolds Court Wednesday 10am

**Reconciliations:** Saturdays 9:30am - 10am | 4pm - 4:30pm

**Liturgy of the Hours:** Saturday 8:40am | **Cenacle Prayer Group:** Wednesday 9:30am

**Rosary:** Monday-Thursday 8:35am | Friday 11:20am | Saturday 9:30am

**Christian Meditation Group:** Friday 10:30am-11:30am Reynolds Room



# A Beacon of Faith, Hope & Love

## Ordinations to the Diaconate

Bishop Anthony Randazzo will be celebrating the Ordination to the Diaconate of Tân Nguyen, Huy Tran and Shayne D'Cunha on Friday 12 September at 7pm at Waitara Cathedral. We pray for them all, especially Tân who spent a year with us. Names are being taken for those who wish to go on the parish bus. There are 10 vacancies. Please let us know at the parish office 4332 2216.



## A Prayer for Vocations

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, O Lord, that we may be holy. In your mercy, guard and strengthen us to be disciples who witness to the Good News of Jesus. Call forth from our community of the Church generous and loving shepherds after your own heart. May they be zealous preachers of the Word; faithful teachers of the Truth; and devoted servants at the Altar. Fill their hearts with love for you and your creation; open their minds to a lifetime of learning; and make them humble servants of your holy people. For you, O God, are kind and merciful, and to you we offer glory, in your holy Church, now and forever. Amen.

## Franciscan Food Drive

The Secular Franciscan Fraternity is becoming involved in helping local marginalised members of the community. Parishioners and Franciscans, Anna Sirolli, Lui Bruni and Jarmila Cadra will collect donations of non-perishable items from parishioners and make them available for local distribution to the needy via the Benevolent Society Hub at The Entrance Community Centre. The Centre provides food relief four days a week, seeing an average of 120 people per week. The following items can be left in the baskets at the doors of the Church: tinned soups, tinned baked beans and spaghetti, long-life milk, juice poppers, noodles and noodle cups, tea and coffee, shampoo, conditioner and body wash. Thank you for your support.

## Tobin Family Pilgrimage Certificates

The Tobin Family recently completed the Diocesan pilgrimage to our four Shrines during this year's Jubilee of Hope. This weekend they will receive an official Jubilee Local Pilgrim of Hope Certificate from Bishop Anthony in recognition of their dedication. Well done to all the family!



## Ministry Refresher Training Date Claimers

**Acolytes / Senior Servers** and those interested in becoming Servers at Mass are asked to attend a Refresher Training afternoon with Fr Rosan and Dcn Paul on Saturday 30 August from 3:30pm-5pm.

**Readers** who are rostered for the Masses are asked to attend a Refresher Training morning with Fr Rosan and Dcn Paul on Saturday 13 September after 9am Mass and Rosary.

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**      **Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 | Heb 12:1-4 | Lk 12:49-53**

**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.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Go out to all the world; and tell the Good News.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

**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.



# Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

## Please Note

### Welcome!

This weekend we have the Reception of the Cook and Conroy Families whose children are soon to be Baptised.

### Feast Days this Week

St Monica 27 August, St Augustine 28 August, The Passion of St John the Baptist 29 August.

### Clergy Retreat

Our Clergy will be away at a Retreat until Friday. We thank Fr Hill for supplying in their absence.

### Holy Souls Crusade Prayer Group

Please join in prayer with others around the world for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Tuesdays after 9am Mass in the Church. Enquiries: 0438 320 927.

### Christian Meditation Group

Join us in the Benedictine style of meditation. Fridays 10:30-11:30am in the Reynolds Room.

### Australian Catholic Youth Festival

Join the Broken Bay pilgrimage to Melbourne 29 November to 3 December. \$1645pp includes airfares, accommodation, transfers, t-shirt, Festival entry, breakfasts and 1 dinner. Limited opportunity for subsidy. Scan the QR code to register.

### Broken Bay Pilgrimage of Hope

Final opportunity to join our incredible Broken Bay Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi! Bookings close this Monday 25 August. If you are considering joining us on pilgrimage, this is your last opportunity to book. Scan the QR code to register.

### Casual Cook for Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre

Join our hospitality team offering high quality food service for conferences and retreats at Kincumber! Enquiries: [kylie.hodgins@sosjspirit.org.au](mailto:kylie.hodgins@sosjspirit.org.au) or 4368 2805.



## Keep Us in Your Prayers

**Recently Deceased:** Charlie Grima, Joe Zammitt, Pam Wilton, Patricia Lane, John Bowditch, Amy Macasieb, Bishop Peter Elliott, Peter McCarten, Fr Chris Riley, Lachlan Christie, Beryl Owens, Domonic Bujea, Hilda Moffitt.

**Anniversaries:** Robert Mennie (1<sup>st</sup>), Bernadette O'Neill, Michael Hart, Maria Graham.

**Remembrances:** Jill O'Sullivan, Arthur Vella, Margaret Pizzuto, John Giutronich, Sam & Carmen Ghirxi, Martin Ghirxi, Mario Cauchi, Delma Clarke, Nicola Iacovazzi, Michael Trussell, Sam Marmara, Charlie Borg, Martin & Lela Borg, Joe & Venga Marmara, James Grima, Lindsay Dean, Eileen & Bill Clay, and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**Families:** Fletcher.

**Sick:** Abigail Holt, Linda Read, Pat McCudden, Sharon McDonald, Rod Slater, Pam Elliott, Janine Harpley, Rosanna Natali, Kitty Dowse, Patrick Yeo, Stjepan Tuka, Pauline Fowler, Anne Knoke, John McClement, Emma Horton, Kelly Will.

**Welcome Newly Baptised:** Brady & Silvie Fletcher.



## Our Lady of the Rosary Sacred Gifts

### God's Word 2026 Orders Taken Now

If you would like to order *God's Word 2026* please let us know now! We are open on Saturdays before and after the 5pm Vigil Mass and Sundays before and after the 9:30am Mass. You'll find us in the foyer of the Church.

**Enquiries: 4332 2216**