

Parish Office: 94 Archer St, Chatswood NSW 2067 (02) 9410 9000 | Emergency: 0473 046 906 | PO Box 1446 Chatswood, NSW 2057

THE BULLETIN

23 JULY 2023 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



Let them grow together until the harvest. This Sunday's Gospel - Matthew 13:24-43

GLAD YOU'RE HERE

A very warm welcome to you, especially to anyone new and visiting our parish. It is good to have you with us! If you have any questions or would like to know more about our community at Our Lady of Dolours please contact us at 02 9410 9000 or email us at chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au - we would love to hear from you.

This week we welcome back Fr David and look back at our World Youth Day Commissioning Mass which was a wonderful event!

Do you know why St Mary Magdalene is called the Apostle to the Apostles? Her Feast Day is on Saturday - read more to find out why.

Registrations are finally open for our Parish in Council day on August 26th! All parishioners are invited - especially our families with children. Read more about our Kids in Council inside.

For any inclusions to next week's bulletin, please e-mail your content to Olivia at Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au by close of business on Wednesday.



FROM FR DAVID



Fr David Ranson Parish Priest

Dear friends,

It is lovely to be home again after what has been a great holiday. A very special thank you to Fr Joey and to Fr Marek and to Oliva Lee and to all our parish staff for their wonderful care of our parish whilst I was away. I deeply appreciate their generosity and diligence.

A wonderful event to which to return home was our Commissioning Mass for our WYD pilgrims who left for Lisbon on Friday 21 July. We have five young adults from our parish community and 8 students from Mercy College, so this is a large contingent from the parish, overall. Our parish has supported our young adults over the last seven months through various fundraising, and subsequently we were able to halve the cost of the adventure for them. Thank you to everyone for this opportunity! And to all who made our celebration last Wednesday as special and so joyful, including Titus Grenyer and our wonderful choir. We keep our pilgrims in our prayer over the coming three weeks, as we look forward to their safe return home.

Our Mass last Wednesday evening was also an occasion to farewell Cailin Geraghty from our Parish. Cailin has, on a voluntary basis, been leading our parish youth ministry over the last couple of years. Now, she comes to a new stage of her journey and is engaging opportunities that will take her out of Sydney. I wish to record our deepest appreciation to Cailin for her inspirational leadership and generosity. She is the most remarkable young woman of faith and we have been greatly blessed by her presence, creativity, dedication and competence. We wish her every blessing as she assumes new possibilities for her journey. I am pleased to share that the great work that Cailin has established will not be lost! In mid-August we will be able to introduce a paid part time Youth Ministry Officer for our parish, Bettina Ignacio. Bettina is attending WYD, too, but upon her return will commence her ministry with us. It has been very fortunate that Cailin has been able to effect a handover to Bettina over the last few weeks.

Cailin was also President of our Young Vinnies. I am happy to share that Helena Cullis will step into this position for Cailin.

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the outcome of our annual Pastoral Works Fund Appeal. As you know this is the diocesan appeal that supports our Special Religious Education catechists for our public schools as well as our pastoral care practitioners in the hospitals of our Diocese. This last financial year our Parish had the requirement to raise \$68,099 towards this Fund. Through people's most remarkable generosity we were able to raise \$66,190.18 just \$1,908.82 short of the total amount. This was an astounding result, and I express my most profound gratitude to everyone. Thank you! This means that we do not need to draw a large amount of money from our reserves to meet the shortfall of our quota, and therefore this money remains available for our parish directly. But more importantly, thank you on behalf of the over 700 Catholic children we reach through our public schools. For they are those who benefit most from everyone's generosity.

There is lots ahead for us in the second half of the year – and especially for our inaugural Parish-in-Council on Saturday 26 August (12pm – 5.00pm) about which we will share more in the coming weeks! Please say a prayer for me in the meantime, as I will have responsibility for our Diocese over the next month whilst Bishop Anthony is traveling with our WYD pilgrims.

With my deep appreciation and gratitude always,

IN OUR PRAYERS WE REMEMBER:

Our loved ones who have recently passed away:

Nona Gutierrez; Elivira Giovanna Marsile; Claribelle Gammad; Elena Guerrera.

Our loved ones who are sick:

Johanna Tse; Judith Ryan; Iris Wickert (sister of Chrystal De Croos); Mary Kin-Soon Ng; Bonnie Leung; Elena Guerrera; Baldo Polizzi.

Our loved ones, at rest with God, whose anniversaries fall at this time:

John Schaeffer; Maria Elita Lim; Maurice Dayton; Joyce D'Lemos (birthday anniversary 3 July); Armand Fabella; Henricus Verhoeven; William Davis; Kevin Bruce; Abraham and Anunciacion Gadiane; Members of the Oakes Family.

Margaret would like to thank everyone for your prayers as she was healing: "I do believe that all your prayers carried me through my pain, thank you, Margaret Marchetto."

Our community would love to pray for you. If you have an intention you would like to be included in this bulletin please e-mail chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au

A Prayer for Grandparents

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of grandparents in our lives, for the wisdom they impart, and the love they shower upon us.

Help us to be attentive listeners, learning from their life experiences and treasuring the stories they share.

May Your love overflow in our hearts, leading us to care for them with kindness and respect, just as they have cared for us throughout the years.

In times of weariness or loneliness, be their constant companion, providing them with Your peace and reassurance.

In Your loving arms, we place our grandparents, knowing that Your grace and mercy will always be with them.

Amen.



World Grandparents day is celebrated at the end of July, close to the feast day of Saint Anne and Saint Joachim - Mary's parents and the grandparents of Jesus.

Requests for Mass Intentions:

It is a privilege to our priests to be able to offer Mass for a special intention, we welcome such requests. It is important to note, however, that a priest can only receive one intention per Mass. Therefore, it may not be possible to have a Mass offered on a specific day and time, given that the priest may already have allocated an intention for the Mass. Do be assured that if a Mass cannot be offered on a specific occasion it will be offered by a priest at the first available opportunity. Notwithstanding, if you would like a Mass for a specific purpose at a particular time, please contact a priest directly to seek to arrange this.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's gospel reading consists of three parables of the kingdom, and an interpretation of the first (v.24-30). The second parable (v.31-32) is curiously connected to two visions in Ezekiel and to Nebuchadnezzar's second dream in the book of Daniel, revealed in the references to birds that nest or dwell in the tree's branches (Ezek 17:23; 31:6; Dan 4:12). In Ezekiel 17 it is not the vigorous vine planted by the king of Babylon that survives, but the little shoot that God plucked from a tree and planted in Israel; it grows into a great tree, and is a home for the birds. Conversely, the great tree in Ezekiel 31 is Egypt, which, proud of its own grandeur, was brought down. Daniel's great tree is Nebuchadnezzar, who prides in his own greatness and is brought down, but repenting at the end he is restored to the throne as a humble king. By contrast, the gospel's humble mustard performs as the tree: the kingdom of heaven is not like the great kingdoms of earth, but is like the humble life of common people. The third parable (v.33) is the simplest: leaven works unseen—who knows how?—but certainly changing the dough and consequent bread from within. So too the kingdom of heaven works certainly but subtly, changing society from within.

Back in the first parable (v.24-30), unique to Matthew, there is a more complicated image. Related to last week's parable of the sower, its interpretation likewise originated in the early Church. Mark's version is like that of the yeast, but Matthew's has the added element of darnel. It broaches the problem of evil: Why does God permit evil in the world? A simplistic approach presumes that what we find offensive should not exist, so God is not all-powerful or surely he would root evil out, or God is not good or surely he would not inflict pain. Thus concluding that there is no God is, in a perverse sense, to claim oneself to be an impotent god, for lurking at its depth is the thought, "If I were God, the world would be better". Almost in response to this, the first reading (Wis 12:13, 16-19) opens: "There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything". It develops the idea of how God's power reveals itself in leniency—a contrast to the ways of the world; for what earthly ruler is lenient to opposition? All over the world, in every age, rulers and governments declare opponents to be enemies to be repressed or uprooted, so in totalitarian regimes we have imprisonment, and executions, and invasions, while in others we find leaders and presidents encouraging mob harassment of the declared foe. This exercise of power is based in weakness, for these rulers have a real fear of being overthrown. God cannot be overthrown, and so is lenient; God seeks reform, and does not destroy for the sake of the good that is also present. So too in the parable, the servants are troubled by the darnel, but the owner chooses not to damage the innocent wheat by uprooting the weed. Perhaps examination of the darnel may challenge our simple classification of things as evil. Darnel is a nuisance only when it grows with our wheat. The ryegrasses to which it belongs provide some of the most valuable pastures in the world. We name as weeds those plants that upset our plans, but this does not mean they are not valuable to others. Are we the only creatures who matter? And do we always know when the things we like rely on things we despise? Such is the wonder of the world-that all things move in balance, if we but had the wisdom to see as God sees, who alone knows good and evil, and who alone can judge justly.

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

PARISH IN COUNCIL 26 AUGUST

ALL PARISHIONERS WELCOME

Registrations are now open for our Parish in Council Day on August 26th!

All parishioners are welcome to come together for a day of prayer, formation, and strategy as we walk together figure out what it means to bring the light of Christ to the city.

The day will start with lunch together from 12pm - 1pm (provided for) and the day will end at 5:00pm for Mass together.

Registrations are essential for entry and will close on August 12th



Individual registrations can be made by scanning the code on the left.

Get in touch with the office if you need any help at all details are at the back of the bulletin

KIDS IN COUNCIL

Bring the family! We have engaged the services of professional child care team to who will be set up in the Kirk St Meeting Rooms ready with registration, appropriate toys and activities for children upto the age of 15.

During the day the parish Children's Ministry Team will conduct a Kids in Council session with the kids to allow them to share their hopes for our church too!

Families bringing kids along, please register using the code on the right.



Stuck? Call the office, we'll help you out!

MASS & LITURGIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday 24 July :	 8:30am OLOD Primary Grandparents Liturgy 11:30am Chaplet of Divine Mercy 11:45am Rosary (Cenacle, MMP) 12:30pm Mass
Tuesday 25 July :	 Feast of St James 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Mass 9:30am Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy 12:30pm Mass
Wednesday 26 July:	 Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00 Mass 9:30am Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy 12:30pm Mass
Thursday 27 July :	 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Mass 9:30am Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration, Rosary. and Chaplet of Divine Mercy 12:00pm Benediction 12:30pm Mass 7:00pm Holy Hour Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration with Reconciliation (Confession) also available.
Friday 28 July :	 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Mass 9:30am Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy 12:30pm Mass
Saturday 29 July:	 Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Mass 9:30am Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration with Reconciliation (Confession), and Rosary 10:00am Novena Our Lady of Perpetual Help 10:30am Benediction 2:00pm Wedding (Private) 5:30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday Mass 30 July :	 7:30am Mass 9:00am Family Mass 10:30am Mass 5:30pm Mass



GATHERINGS THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday	• 4:30pm Organ Practice (Church)
24 July:	• 7:00pm Alpha (Magnificat, St Paul, St Peter)
Tuesday	• 10:00am Bible Discussion Group (St Paul)
25 July:	• 1.30pm Organ Practice (Church)
	• 4:00pm Atrium 3-6 years old (Atrium)
	• 4:00pm Atrium 6-9 and 9-12 year olds (Atrium)
	• 4:30pm Organ Practice (Church)
	 5:30pm Mercy College Year 9 Info Night (Church)
	6:30pm Confirmation Parent Meeting (Magnificat)
	 7:00pm Indonesian Legion of Mary (St Paul)
	• 7:00pm Filipino Choir (Church)
Wednesday	 10:00am Mercy College Assembly (Church)
26 July:	10:00am Lifestyle English Conversation Programme (Magnificat)
	 11:00am Parish Staff Meeting (Magnificat)
	• 2:00pm Organ Lesson (Church)
	6:30pm Indonesian Traditional Instrument Practice (Church)
	• 7:00pm Men Alive Fellowship, Rflection and Discussion (Magnificat)
	7:00pm Parish Finance Committee (St Peter)
Thursday	• 10:00am Atrium 3-6 years old (Atrium)
27 July:	• 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Church)
	6:30pm Confirmation Parent Meeting (Magnificat)
Friday	10:00am Meditation and Sharing (St Paul)
28 July:	• 4:30pm Organ Practice (Church)
	 7:00pm Online Zoom Meditation and Sharing
Saturday	• 11:00am Legion of Mary (Magnificat)
29 July:	• 11:00am Choir Rehearsal for 9:00am Mass (St Paul)
	• 4:00pm Confirmation Parent Meeting (Magnificaat)
Sunday Mass	9:00am Choir Practice with Andrew and Daisy (St Paul)
30 July:	10:15am Confirmation Parent Meeting (Magnificat)

Cultural Community Mass:

OUR WEEK IN PICS



Wednesday's Pilgrim Commissioning to World Youth Day was a beautiful celebration and send off for our parish and Mercy College pilgrims.





Thank you so much to the choir, and our volunteers who fed us and made the night so much fun! Do you get FOMO seeing everyone in their Mission Hoodies? Still time to grab yours via the front office!





Happy birthday Carlos! WIshing you a wonderful celebration of life!



Thank you to Dom, Eva, Kaini, Virginia who were an impromptu task force helping to put up our new banners - a dream team!









The Apostle to the Apostles

After Jesus' crucifixion, Mary Magdalene, along with other women, went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with spices, following Jewish burial customs. However, upon arriving at the tomb, they discovered that the stone sealing the entrance had been rolled away, and Jesus' body was not there. Instead, they encountered angels who proclaimed that Jesus had risen from the dead.

In this moment of profound revelation, it was Mary Magdalene who encountered the risen Christ. Initially, she mistook Him for the gardener until He called her by name. Recognizing her beloved teacher and Lord, Mary became the first person to witness the resurrected Christ.

After this Jesus entrusted Mary Magdalene with a critical task. He instructed her to go and tell His disciples about His resurrection,

making her the bearer of the most significant news in Christian history. In this way, she became the "apostle to the apostles" – an apostle being someone who is sent with a message or mission.

Mary Magdalene's role as the first witness to the resurrection and her commission to proclaim this transformative event to the disciples highlights her unique position as a pivotal figure in the early Christian movement. Her testimony of the risen Christ was foundational in strengthening the faith of the other disciples, who initially struggled to believe the news of the resurrection.

Throughout history, Mary Magdalene's significance as the "apostle to the apostles" has been celebrated and recognized in Christian tradition. Her role as a witness to the resurrection underscores the importance of women in the early Christian community and emphasizes the essential role they played in spreading the message of Jesus' teachings.

Her steadfastness, devotion, and courage in the face of doubt and skepticism make her an enduring symbol of faith and perseverance. As the first to proclaim the good news of the risen Christ, Mary Magdalene's title as the "apostle to the apostles" ensures that her role in the foundation of Christianity is forever remembered and celebrated as a testament to the transformative power of divine grace.

The Way of Perfection

Join us for a 3 part series of talks by Bishop David Walker reflecting on the writings of Saint Teresa of Avila.

September 2, 9, 16. Magnificat Room. All are welcome!





Gospel Connection: What is Darnel?

In the Gospel, the darnel sown by the enemy is a type of weed that looks exactly like wheat and grows in the same way. It's only when darnel is ripe then you can see that it is actually not wheat, but a destructive weed.

Just as darnel looks similar to wheat, think about situations where harmful influences or negative behaviors might be disguised as something positive or harmless. How can you identify and address these deceptive aspects?



Every year we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter. But why? What makes Jesus so special that we remember him year after year – for 2023 years?

Come and explore this question and the other big questions about life, faith, God and meaning, as we journey in Alpha together in 2023.

Alpha is an introduction to Christian faith which assumes nothing. If you've never read the Bible, never prayed, never been to church before, then Alpha is for you.

But it's also for you if you've been coming to church for a long time – maybe your whole life – but you've still got big questions.

In each Alpha session we have a meal together, watch a video and have a conversation about what we've watched. We ask our questions and together work out the answers.

We'll be offering Alpha once a week on Mondays commencing on Monday, 24 July 2023 commencing at 7:00pm (for dinner)

We'd love you to come! Please bring a friend who would also like to know Jesus! Let's explore life, faith and meaning together in 2023!

For more details – and to register – go to: https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood/ministries/alpha Register here!

Registration essential - Email: <u>chatswood.alpha@gmail.com</u> For queries contact: Gillian 0412 373 324; Email: gillian-hawkins@bigpond.com If so, please let them know that the parish is running programs to give them such information and would you also extend a personal invitation to them to contact those listed below.

We run a process through which people will be able, without pressure, to find out more about the church, and to have their questions answered.

We have two groups running this process.

1. For Chinese speaking people who would like to learn in their own language. -This group is led by Grace Tai (Mobile: 0403 345 809)

2 .For English speaking people.This group will be led by Deacon Kevin Hale

Those interested in taking a step in this direction, please contact the Parish Office on 9410-9000, or Grace Tai on her mobile or email Deacon Kevin on <u>kevin.hale@bbcatholic.org.au</u>.

The Chinese Group start its sessions on 15th July but is still open for people to join.

The English Group will start once we know if we have people interested who may wish to participate in a fuller development of their understanding of the faith and the beliefs of the Catholic Church.

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Why is the Old Testament so important to our Faith? What really is the Good News? How can we be so confident in the Resurrection? Why do we need prayer? What takes place when we receive the Sacraments? How do we fit in the universal Church?

STARTING WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST 2023 (7.15PM-9.00PM)

Our Lady of Dolours Parish, St Peter's meeting room

30 WEEK COURSE

- NO PREREQUISITES OR OBLIGATIONS TO JOINING.
- CONTACT ANTHONY ON 0414 364 522 OR EMAIL

EXPLORINGTHEFAITH@GMAIL.COM



VINNIES JUNE REPORT

Chatswood St Vincent de Paul responded to 11 calls for help during June. Problems arose for these people from delays in receipt of wages/pensions, establishing new digs, an eviction and reestablishing difficulties, one home breakup, as well as the more common running out of food. Expenditure of over \$1000 was incurred and an equivalent amount committed to furniture and bills. The Winter Appeal was held and thanks are given to those who supported it . The Appeal will be open till end of August and donations may be made to poor boxes and through the QR code



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VINNIES CHATSWOOD WINTER APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Statewide Winter Appeal 2023 began in May and will last until the end of August.

Since the Summer Appeal to which you generously supported \$3,325, Chatswood St Vincent de Paul has so far provided support and assistance for more than 50 people in our local area; and has expended over \$8,000 in meeting the emergency needs of the people in our local community. The supports we have provided included food, medical, pharmaceutical, whitegoods, furniture, rental assistance, transport and clothing.

Our parish contains a large government housing population from which comes most of the calls for assistance. Many of those seeking for support are people from disadvantage backgrounds, single parent family, people with mental health issues and those lacking life skills to handle problems.

If you wish to make a donation, envelopes are around the church and may be put on the collection plates. Provision is made in the envelopes for cash or credit card donations.

Alternatively, you may wish to use the QR quote below or make a donation through the new Parish Winter Appeal web site: https://tinyurl.com/37jyk97n

Donations above \$2 are tax deductible. Please indicate if you want a receipt.

Your continuing support for the Winter Appeal is very much appreciated.

-Teresa N





Gospel Connection:

In what ways can you relate the field with both wheat and weeds to your own life or the world around you? Are there situations where good and evil seem to coexist?

AROUND AND ABOUT

LiveWorkCancer

LiveWorkCancer has established Networks to support women and men navigating work/careers and while experiencing cancer.

We invite anyone managing cancer and work to join one of our Networks, via Zoom.

Participation is FREE, and participants will benefit from being connected with others who understand work-cancer experience first-hand and hear from guest speakers who have valuable knowledge to share.

Women's network meets:

- First Tuesday of the month, 7pm 8pm
- Third Wednesday of the month, 12noon 1pm

Men's network meets:

• First Friday of the month, 4pm – 5pm

A network for Carer's will be available in August

To join: register at <u>https://www.liveworkcancer.com/working</u> or email: enquiries@liveworkcancer.com

Synodality - in Sydney and Rome

Catalyst for Renewal invites you to a reflection morning presented by Father David Ranson PP VG: "Synodality – in Sydney and Rome". To be held on Saturday 5th August at Holy Name of Mary Parish hall, 3 Mary Street, Hunters Hill 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. All welcome, no booking required, entry by donation and morning tea provided. Enquiries to Carmel 0417 474 850.

Seminarian Benefit Dinner Saturday 2 September 6:30PM Harrington Hall 94 Archer Street, Chatswood

Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Parish of Chatswood and Catholic Vocations Broken Bay invite you to join us for the annual Seminarian Benefit Dinner. Support our Broken Bay Seminarians and help raise awareness of the importance of vocations in our diocese!

Book here!

1082143

https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1082143 vocations.ministry@bbcatholic.org.au

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we gather, the Cammeraygal people, and pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

\$60pp Bookings Essential:





OUR CIRCLES OF MINISTRY



PARKING



INFO AT A GLANCE

Parish Support Team:

Parish Priest: Very Rev Dr David Ranson VG david.ranson@bbcatholic.org.au Personal blog: davidranson.com.au Twitter: @FrDavidRanson

Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Joey Frez joey.frez@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9027

Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Marek Woldan marek.woldan@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9028

Manager of Parish Operations: Olivia Lee Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9000

Parish Services Officer: Chloe Aylward chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9000

Catechist Coordinator: Karen Forbes karen.forbes@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9029

Parish Director of Music: Titus Grenyer titus.grenyer@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9034

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Angela Hague angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9033

Children's Ministry Assistant: Mona Saouma mona.saouma@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9024

Book-keeper: Amelia Lee amelia.lee@bbcatholic.org.au | (02)9410 9032

Mass This Week:

Monday	Mass 12:30pm.
Tuesday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.
Wednesday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.
Thursday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.
	Reconciliation: 7:00pm.
Friday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.
Saturday	Mass: 9:00am
	Reconciliation: 9:30am.
	Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

Sunday Mass

- 7:30am
- 9:00am
- 10:30am
- 5:30pm Youth Mass



Want to receive the bulletin via e-mail? Contact Olivia at Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au

