

*Twenty-Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Year A*

Sunday, 20th September 2026

Our Mission:
Building a Loving Christ-Centred Community



Parish Administrator:

Fr Joy D'Souza OCD

Chief Executive Officer:

Michael Darragh

Pastoral Associate:

Margaret Ryan

Church

Corner of East Street & Fourth Avenue, Sawtell

Parish Office - 02/6658 3544

1/44 Boronia Street, Sawtell
NSW 2452. Office Hours are
Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

Regular Church Mass Times

Tuesday 9:30am

Thursday 9:30am

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 7:30am & 9am

Reconciliation every Saturday

5:30pm, no appointment necessary

Regular Chapel Mass Times

Our Lady of the Way at SCC

Marian Grove, Toormina

Wednesday 9:30am

Friday 9:30am

PARISH GIVING

First & Second
Collection &
Donations



First Reconciliation 2026

Children in Year 2 or above who have been baptised in the Catholic Church, are invited to register to receive their First Reconciliation.

Preparation for children who attend Mary Help of Christians School will take place during Religious Education lessons.

If your child attends another local school, preparation will take place in the church after school.

Children will be receiving the sacrament in one of two sessions:

- Wednesday 18th November **OR**
- Thursday 19th November

There will also be a Reconciliation mini-retreat on Tuesday, 17th November.

If you have any questions, contact Sawtell Parish Office on 02 6658 3544 or contact MHOC school (MHOC families only).

Please register your child by Friday, 25th September via this link:



Scan to register



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

Water is life, yet millions across our global family lack access to safe, clean drinking water. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right. This week, let us ponder how our daily habits impact our local waterways and vulnerable communities worldwide who bear the brunt of climate change.



IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:9, 12

A Prayer for the Season of Creation

Holy God, your Spirit hovered over the waters at creation, giving life to all creatures and land. We gather thirsty for your grace, giving thanks for the waters that sustain our homelands and our common home.

We confess that we have misused this gift—polluting the seas, warming the tides, and ignoring the dry earth and those displaced by climate change. Soften our hearts and bring us to repentance.

Stir us to protect our waters, defend the thirsty, and care for creation. May your Word be a spring within us, bringing healing to the world.

May God sustain us in the desert, Christ the Living Water, refresh us for restoration, and the Holy Spirit carry us until justice rolls down like an ever-flowing stream.

Amen.

Blessing of the Animals

We are currently celebrating a special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV to mark the eighth centenary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi.

To honour his enduring legacy as the patron saint of animals and the environment, you are invited to bring your pets to the church grounds for a special blessing!

When?

Immediately following the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, 11th October

Where?

The church annex and carpark

Special Note for 9am Mass attendees:

If you plan to bring your animal to the 9am Mass, designated seating will be available in the annex and undercover area. For your convenience, Mass will also be live-streamed directly to the annex television so you can fully participate with your furry (or feathered or scaled!) family members close by.



First Reading **Isaiah 55:6-9**

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm (R.)

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second Reading **Philippians 1:20-24. 27**

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 20:1-16**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

St John Paul College - Congratulations!

COLLEGE CAPTAINS



Archie Foy



Paula Gutierrez
Santana

COLLEGE VICE CAPTAINS



Ben Melinz



Danica Harrison

Seasons of Creation Reflection

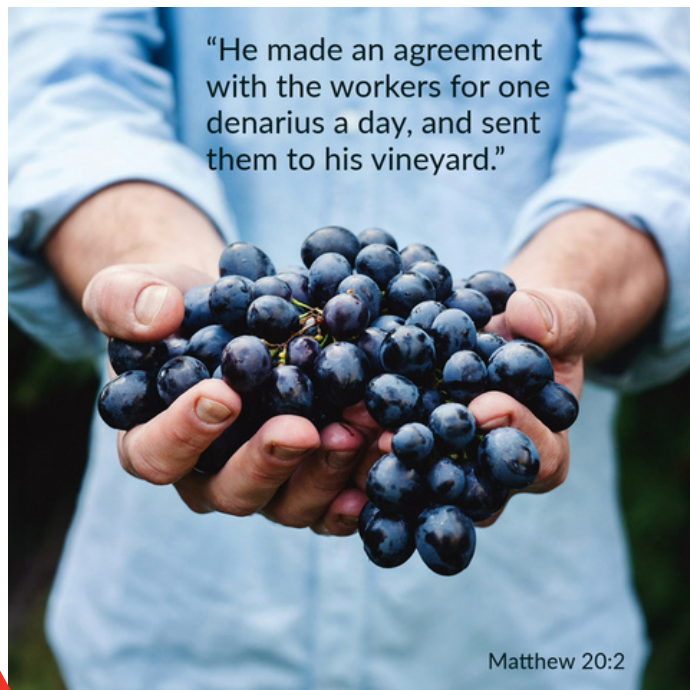
by Nick Brodie

The complaining workers in today's Gospel assumed they were near the top of some unspoken hierarchy. They thought they deserved more than some of their co-workers. If we think of the earth as God's great vineyard, we can see obvious parallels today. Nations can think they deserve more than their less developed neighbours; perhaps because their economies have been industrialised longer. People can assume they are right to own multiple properties while others remain homeless; perhaps because they inherited or worked hard for them. But we Christians are called to work in the vineyard for its good, and for the good of all, not merely ourselves. 'The way humanity treats the environment influences the way it treats itself, and vice versa', declared Pope Benedict XVI in the encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, reminding us that justice for others and good stewardship of our world are intimately connected. During this Season of Creation, we might ask ourselves: How can we tend the vineyard into which God has sent us? Do we attend to the needs of our fellow workers, especially refugees and immigrants who have only recently arrived?

Tea & Togetherness



See you on
Wednesday
(23rd September)
at Marian Grove,
Rec Hall
for morning tea.
All welcome!



"He made an agreement
with the workers for one
denarius a day, and sent
them to his vineyard."

Matthew 20:2

Pastoral Care & Home Visits

If you or an immediate family member is unwell or housebound,
our parish is here to support you.

Privacy Note: Due to privacy regulations, requests must be made directly by the person or an immediate family member. If you know someone who needs care, please ask their permission before passing on their phone number to the parish. We will then contact them to discuss their pastoral needs.



♥ Holy Communion at Home:

- Marian Grove or Mater Christi residents:
Contact Matt or Kathryn via the SCC Pastoral Office.
- Wider Parish area:
Contact the Parish Office directly.

♥ Anointing of the Sick:

Contact the Parish Office.
For urgent after-hours requests, call the office and press 2 to be connected to a priest.

♥ Bulletin Prayer List:

Contact the Parish Office to add an immediate family member to our prayers for the sick.

♥ Mass Transport:

If you need assistance getting to Mass, please contact the Parish Office.

Contact Us

Parish Office Hours:

9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday
02/6658 3544
admin@mhocsawtell.org.au

After-Hours Calls:

Press 1 to leave a non-urgent message for the next business day, **or**
Press 2 for an urgent priest request



Lismore Catholic Youth Launch ~ The Gathering



The youth of the diocese gathered in Sawtell on Saturday for the launch of Catholic Youth Lismore. Excitement is building with World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea only one year away!

The celebration began with Mass, followed by a Korean-themed lunch. Thank you to our generous parish volunteers who cooked and served Korean Beef with sticky rice and Asian salads. Delicious!

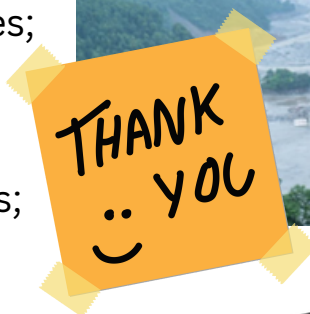


MASSES	Coordinator	Welcomer	Ex. Minister	Sacristan	Offertory	Reader	Powerpoint Op	Senior Altar Server
Saturday 6pm	Greg Ryan	Amber, Will & Patty	Margaret Ryan	Cheryl Hughes	Ivan & Judy Wheeler	Trish Maxwell	Ann Brennan	Les Michalik
Sunday 7:30am		Leanne Gennat	Eric Garvey	John Hendriks	M & K Sharman		Des McDermid	John Hendriks
Sunday 9am	Wal Samut	Dolores Dal Pozzo	Sarah de Byl	Louise Thompson		Brigid Flannery	Kathryn & Megan	Joe Baiada

Sawtell for Nepal Appeal

Thank you for your generosity in the Sawtell for Nepal Appeal. Over \$11,000 was raised to support the work of Caritas to provide;

- ready-to eat meals for affected families;
- emergency shelter materials and household essentials;
- hygiene kits;
- solar lighting for displaced households;
- emergency medical support;
- cash assistance for highly affected families;
- essential medicines for damaged health facilities.



Choir Practice

The choir will be singing at 9am Mass on Sunday, 27th of September.

Practice will be in the church on 22nd September at 7pm.

Everyone is welcome to join the choir family. Come and be a part of a very rewarding ministry.



Recently Deceased
Helen Amos
Fr Bernard Frize

The Sick
Pat Verity

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office

the Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office - Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or Email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au



Cenacle Rosary
Every Tuesday at 3pm in the Church.
All welcome.



Diocesan Investment Fund

Interest Rate—4.15% (eff 1/8/2026)

For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516