

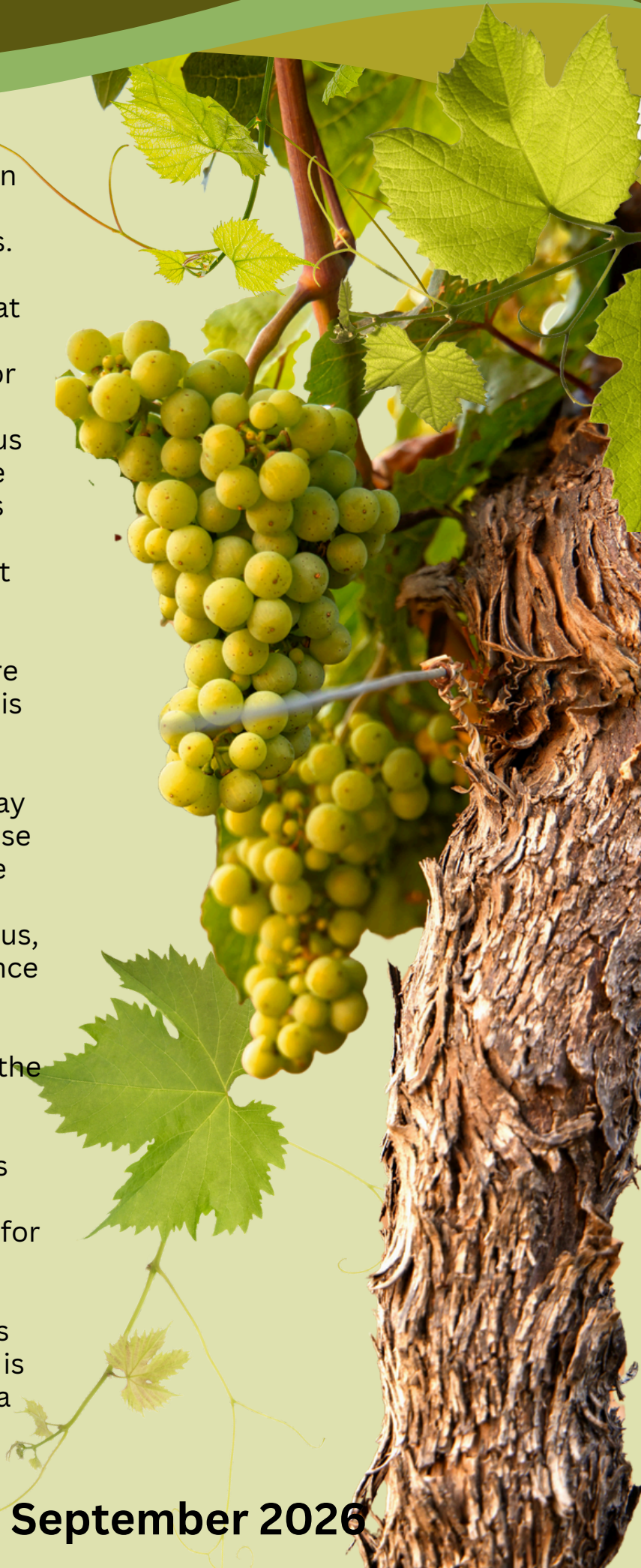
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

In every life there is a struggle between obedience and disobedience, and this struggle takes various twists and turns. At times we are willing to conform to regulations set from the outside, and at times we are not. We are invited to choose in favour of the reign of God, or we are free to ignore the invitation. Those who are fundamentally righteous sometimes fall from grace, and people considered evil to the core sometimes reform their lives. What ultimately counts are not the promises made, but the actions taken.

We are called to discipleship, and there may well be urgency in this call, but it is an invitation that is to be accepted freely. As is the case with life itself, options are placed before us all the way along the road. We are invited to choose in favour of the reign of God, or we are free to ignore the invitation. However, the invitation always remains open to us, because God's desire for our acceptance is persistent and enduring.

The real choice set before us today is the imitation of Christ. The specific characteristic of Christ today is his humility. Since demanding one's rights can undermine the loving quality of community, Jesus' humility is offered for our imitation. It is very clear that whichever aspect of discipleship we examine, some aspect of community is also present. To be a disciple of Jesus is to follow him humbly as a member of a believing community.



Sunday, 27th 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

2 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



Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

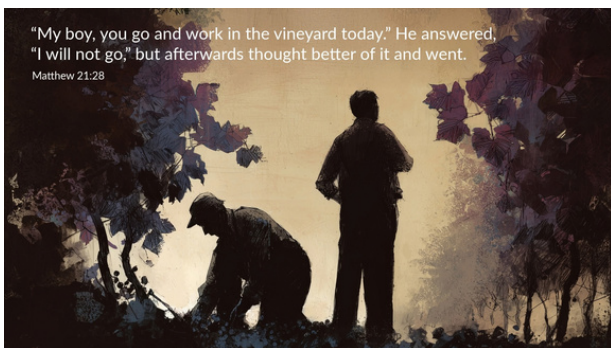
Save the Date

All Extraordinary
Ministers of Holy
Communion who
attended training in
July, both existing and
those who are new to
this ministry, will be
formally commissioned at Masses on
the weekend of 17th-18th October.



**"Which of the two
did the father's will?"**

Matthew 21:31



"My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today," He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went.
Matthew 21:28

First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-5

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

Come and join us on 9th – 11th October, 2026 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or scan this QR code



**Or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on
0490 774 419 or
nswbookins@wwme.org.au**

FAMILY GROUPS

On a stunning spring day last Sunday, the **Bryant Family Group** enjoyed a lovely lunch and chat at the Leaf and Bean Cafe at the Botanic Gardens.



The **Samut Family Group** had an enjoyable catch up and lunch in a friendly, relaxing atmosphere with delicious food and celebrating their September birthdays.



The **Banksia Family Group** had lots of fun and games at their last event where they were excited to welcome three new members.



Tea & Togetherness – Parish Connections



Our September morning tea was the best yet! Fr Joy and the Parish Office staff are loving our monthly morning tea with residents and parishioners from the wider parish area. There are lots of ‘frequent flyers’ who have come along each month, but also a few new faces at each event. Everyone is most welcome to join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 10am.

NEXT DATE:
WEDNESDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2026



Saturday Coasters: Men's Breakfast

Save the date!

All men are invited to join with the Saturday Coasters Men's Breakfast on 10th October at The Link. Breakfast will be served from 7:30am.

We invite a \$10 donation, or feel free to pay it forward to support someone else.

If you registered last time and gave us your phone number, you will receive a text reminder. If this is your first time, please RSVP QR CODE or call the Parish Office on 02 6658 3544.



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.





Eucharist28 - Walking with Christ

The International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028 ('Eucharist28') will be a global gathering of the Church centred on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives. It will be a celebration of faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music, culminating in a

Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be an important moment of Eucharistic renewal for the Church in Australia and beyond. The journey to Eucharist28 has begun!

Our lives this side of heaven are a continuous journey of walking with Christ. We are called to walk alongside Him during our trials and our triumphs. In Micah 6:8, scripture tells us, "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

This journey of walking with Christ is interior, but it can also be expressed physically. We can become pilgrims by walking and prayerfully moving with Him, including through processions.

In 2028, the global church that gathers in Sydney for Eucharist28 will have an opportunity to be pilgrims by participating in the Eucharistic Procession. This journey through the streets of Sydney will be a witness to our nation and our world, as tens of thousands of pilgrims walk alongside Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist.

In the years leading up to this moment and beyond, the prayer of Eucharist28 is that across Australia, Eucharistic renewal will continue to flourish, and Eucharistic processions and pilgrimages will become a commonplace way for all to walk with Christ in their lives.



Scan the QR code to access Walking With Christ: A Companion for Eucharistic Renewal, a resource designed to accompany you in your spiritual preparation for the continuing journey with Christ.

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



Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sunday 4th October 2026 YEAR A (green)

MASSES	Coordinator	Welcomer	Ex. Minister	Sacristan	Offertory	Reader	Powerpoint Op	Senior Altar Server
Saturday 6pm	Cheryl Hughes	Cate & Graeme Clark		Les Michalik	Greg & Christine Baker	Jenny Triglone	Pam Conroy	Les Michalik
Sunday 7:30am	John Hendriks	John & Marie Hendriks	Leanne Gennat	Lyn Hollyman	Eric & Sue Garvey		Paul Daly	Lyn Hollyman
Sunday 9am	Don Kirkaldy	Madonna Dechphant	Louise Thompson	Carolyn Tumminello	Biddle Family	Don Kirkaldy	Stephanie Devine	Joe Baiada



CURSILLO MOVEMENT Invitation

Discover Cursillo

A Weekend of Spiritual Renewal

Are you looking to deepen your relationship with Christ and find a vibrant, supportive faith community? The Lismore Diocesan Cursillo Movement warmly invites men and women across the Diocese to our upcoming 3-day live-in weekend.

When: Thursday evening, 15 October to Sunday evening, 18 October 2026

Where: Marian Valley Retreat Centre

This short, intensive course in Christian living offers a powerful space for personal spiritual renewal, prayer, and fellowship.

For more information, itinerary details, or to book your place, please contact Joan (President) on 0413 99 360 or email joanboyle0@gmail.com or Maxine (Secretary) on 0429 669 029 or email: mscole945@gmail.com

Recently Deceased

Helen Amos

Fr Bernard Frize

Anne Higgins

The Sick
Pat Verity

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



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



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