

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

11 October 2026 — Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary time

1st Reading: Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6; Psalm: Ps 95 (96): 1,-5,7-10.

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-15; Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-21

Parish News

1. Appel for Day-to-day Running and Maintenance of our Parish.

Dear friends,

I wish to share an urgent concern regarding our parish finances. Our operating account currently holds only \$3,890.39 (YTD, 30th Sept 2026) from which we must meet all regular expenses, including utilities, insurance, administration, maintenance and repairs. This balance is insufficient to sustain our day-to-day parish operations.

I therefore sincerely appeal for your generous support according to your means. Recognising that many people no longer carry cash, we will now pass the EFTPOS machine alongside the collection baskets during both collections at weekend Masses.

The strength of our parish lies not simply in Mass attendance, but in our sense of belonging, generosity and shared responsibility for the community we call our own.

A financial report for the first quarter of this financial year will be presented in October, allowing us to review our position and plan responsibly for the future. However, our immediate financial needs cannot wait.

Thank you for your understanding, generosity and continued commitment. Every contribution, large or small, makes a difference.

2. Formation and Training for Parish Ministries

Over the coming months, we are planning several formation and training opportunities for our liturgical ministers. We are grateful to all our volunteers, including those who have faithfully served our parish community for many years.

Every ministry benefits from ongoing formation. Knowledge develops, pastoral circumstances change, and good practice can always be strengthened. This is equally true of our liturgical and spiritual ministries. Training is not a criticism of what has been done in the past; rather, it is an opportunity to renew our understanding, develop our skills and serve the community with greater confidence, reverence and competence.

Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is scheduled for Wednesday 21 October at 6.30 pm at Panola Room, Shortland and Saturday 24 October at 10.30 am, St Patrick's Church, Wallsend.

We are also planning a formation session for our Musicians during October and, depending upon the availability of suitable resource persons, hope to arrange training for our Readers/ Proclaimers of the Word before Christmas.

A thoughtful and well-prepared approach to ministry is ultimately an expression of love and respect for the people we serve and for the sacred responsibilities entrusted to us. In the coming weeks, we will continue to reflect on our various parish

ministries and how each of us can contribute to building a prayerful, welcoming and vibrant parish community.

3. St Pat's Roof Repair Appeal - A Heartfelt Thank You

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our generous parishioners who contributed, whether in large or small amounts, towards the roof repairs of St Patrick's Church, Wallsend.

I am delighted to announce that the full amount required has now been raised, and we are therefore bringing the appeal to a close with sincere appreciation. Every contribution has been valuable, reminding us of the poor widow in the Gospel, whose small offering was precious in the eyes of Jesus because of the generosity and sacrifice behind it.

I am equally grateful to everyone who continues to support the daily operations, maintenance and upkeep of our parish and its properties through Planned Giving, regular Mass collections, direct debit, Credit Card, bank transfers and EFTPOS contributions. Your generosity and commitment enable our parish to continue its mission and meet its ongoing responsibilities.

We expect to present the first quarterly financial report for this financial year on the weekend of 24-25 October, providing an opportunity for greater understanding, transparency and shared responsibility for our parish finances.

May Jesus, who recognised and praised the generosity of the poor widow, look with love upon your generosity, bless you and your families abundantly, and provide for you in all your needs.

Thank you for your faith, generosity and commitment to our parish community.

Electronic Bank Transfer to the Parish

Parishioners and friends who wish to support Divine Mercy Parish through an electronic bank transfer may use the account details below.

(These bank details are for electronic transfers only and cannot be used for cash or cheque deposits at a Commonwealth Bank branch).

Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)

BSB: 066-739 **Account Number:** 100003361

Account Name: Wallsend Shortland Church

Please note: Due to banking technicalities, the account name may not always appear as an exact match. You may still proceed with the transfer, provided the **BSB and Account Number are entered correctly**, as these details determine where the funds are transferred.

Thank you for your generous support of the mission and ministry of our parish.

WE PRAY FOR

The Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Victor Manickum, Ada & Max Staadder, Bryan Wilson, Herney Escobar and Gloria Castano.

Please Note: Masses will be offered upon request. Mass Request Envelopes are available in the church foyer. In accordance with privacy legislation, the names of the sick and deceased may only be published in the parish Newsletter with the permission of the immediate family.

The Sick:

Stanley & Jacinta, Helena Kim, John Murray, Maxine Norris, Garry Roberts, Liam Potter, Betty Nyman, Len Johnston, Pat Jones, Karyn Jones, Tracy Butler, Tracey Coates, Arlette Nicholls, Audrey King, Anne Gleeson, Janina McPherson, Mary Vimala, James Crook, Michael Bartley, Theresa Lee, Mary Neider, Janelle Anderson, Brenda Matulis, Julie Matulis, Allison Hillery, Denise McGee, Vicki Feenan, Phillip Hamilton
(Once the person is no longer in need of prayer, would you kindly inform the Parish Office.)

Divine Mercy Parish Wallsend-Shortland promotes safeguarding which involves the implementation of proactive, common sense and practical ideas that ensures the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our community.



DIVINE MERCY Parish

WALLSEND-SHORTLAND

PARISH NEWSLETTER



OUR LADY OF VICTORIES, SHORTLAND

262 Sandgate Rd,
Shortland NSW 2307



ST PATRICK'S, WALLSEND

11 Macquarie St,
Wallsend NSW 2287



LOVE



SERVE



GROW

A welcoming
community

: United in Faith,
: Guided by Mercy,
: Alive in Christ.



We acknowledge the Awabakal people
the traditional custodians of this land.

Priest - Urgent After Hours Phone: 0428 624 287

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: FR PAUL CHACKANIKUNNEL

Email: paul.chackanikunnel@mn.catholic.org.au

PARISH OFFICE: Sr Mary Hue Tam, IHM

Ph: 0406 726 611 or 02 49559575

Email: wallsendshortlandparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9.00 am - 2.00 pm

Address: 11 Macquarie Street, Wallsend NSW 2287

Mail: PO Box 301, Wallsend NSW 2287

Parish Pastoral Council: Mrs Diana Brodie (Chair)

Parish Finance Council: Mrs Caroline Walker (Chair)

Sacramental Coordinator: Mrs Tinah Deluca-Tohi

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults:

Richard Thomson 0424 503 183

Funeral Ministry: Joy Cork 0432 239 610

PARISH SCHOOLS:

1. Saint Patrick's Primary School

11 Macquarie Street, Wallsend NSW 2287

PRINCIPAL: Mr Michael Deed

Postal Address: PO Box 190, Wallsend NSW 2287

Phone: (02) 49558570

Email: admin@wallsend.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.wallsend.catholic.edu.au

2. Our Lady of Victories Primary School, Shortland

15 Lovell Parade, Shortland NSW 2307

PRINCIPAL: Mr David Treloar

Phone: (02) 49511003

Email: admin@shortland.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.shortland.catholic.edu.au

Weekend Masses:

St Patrick's Wallsend, 11 Macquarie St, Wallsend NSW 2287

Sunday - 9:30am, 5:30pm.

Our Lady of Victories, 262 Sandgate Rd, Shortland NSW 2307

Saturday - 5.30 pm (Vigil Mass) Sunday - 8:00am

Weekday Mass Times

Tues	9.15 am St Patrick's Wallsend
Wed	7.30 am St Patrick's Wallsend
Thu	8.00 am OLV Shortland
Fri	9.00 am OLV Shortland
Sat	8:00 am St Patrick's Wallsend

Confessions: on Saturdays after 8.00 am Mass at St Patrick's Wallsend and from 5.00 - 5.20 pm before the Mass at OLV Shortland, and other times by appointment.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION - WALLSEND

St Patrick's Church is open daily from morning to evening for personal prayer. On Tuesdays, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration after the 9.15 am Mass until 6.00 pm, provided sufficient rostered adorers are available. Please check the Parish Newsletter or Parish Office for updates.

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026

Dear friends,

A man once received a beautifully printed invitation to the wedding of a close friend. He placed it carefully on his desk, intending to reply later. Days became weeks. He saw the invitation many times and repeatedly thought, "I must respond to that." Eventually, the wedding day arrived—and the invitation was still sitting unopened on his desk. He had been invited, he was wanted, and a place had been prepared for him. Yet he missed the celebration, not because he was excluded, but because he never responded to the invitation.

Jesus speaks in today's Gospel about another invitation: a king prepares a magnificent wedding banquet for his son. Everything is ready. The tables are prepared, the feast awaits, and the invitation has gone out. Surprisingly, those invited refuse to come. Some are indifferent; others are simply too occupied with their farms and businesses. The tragedy is striking: they allow ordinary things to make them miss something extraordinary.

The wedding banquet is a beautiful image of the Kingdom of God. God does not invite us primarily into a system of rules or obligations. He invites us into communion, joy and relationship with himself. Christianity begins with God saying to humanity, "Come—the banquet is ready." Yet an invitation requires a response.

Our lives can become so crowded with work, possessions, plans, worries and countless distractions that God is gradually pushed towards the margins. None of these things may be wrong in themselves. The people in the parable were attending to farms and businesses—ordinary responsibilities. Their mistake was allowing something important to become more important than God.

The parable then takes a beautiful turn. The invitation is thrown open to everyone. The servants go to the crossroads and gather whoever they find, "good and bad alike." God's Kingdom is not an exclusive gathering for the spiritually accomplished. Grace goes searching along the roads for everyone. There is room at God's table for sinners, failures, wounded people and those who are beginning again.

However, Jesus adds the challenging image of the guest without a wedding garment. Being invited is grace; remaining unchanged is not the purpose of grace. God welcomes us as we are, but his love calls us to become something more. The wedding garment represents the life that corresponds to the invitation: a life increasingly clothed in compassion, forgiveness, integrity, generosity, justice and love.

This is particularly meaningful when we gather for the Eucharist. Every Mass is, in a sense, God saying again, "Come to the feast." We gather not because we are perfect, but because we have been invited. We receive Christ so that gradually we may become more like the Christ we receive.

Perhaps this Gospel invites us to ask two questions: What is preventing me from responding more fully to God's invitation? And what needs to change in me because I have accepted it? The invitation is already in our hands. The banquet has been prepared. The door is open.

May we never become so busy with the ordinary that we miss the extraordinary gift God places before us. And having accepted his invitation, may our lives become the beautiful wedding garment of faith expressed through love.

Fr Paul Chackanikunnel

