

All current EMHCs are requested to attend one of these sessions. Parishioners interested in joining this ministry are also warmly welcome. Following the formation, ministers will be formally commissioned at a parish Mass and presented with a certificate of commissioning.

Proclaimers of the Word (Readers)

- Sat 31 Oct, 10.00–11.30 am – St Pat’s Church, Wallsend.

Parish Musicians

- Sat 28 Nov, 10.00–11.30 am – OLV Church, Shortland.

These opportunities remind us that liturgical ministry is both a privilege and a sacred responsibility. Through prayerful preparation, ongoing learning and active participation, we honour God and enrich the worship of our parish community.

Let us continue working together to build a prayerful, welcoming and vibrant parish, where every ministry reflects our love for Christ and our commitment to one another.

NOVEMBER SPIRITUAL BOUQUET OF MASSES:

Remembering Our Loved Ones in Faith, Prayer and Hope

“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.”

November holds a special place in the Catholic Church as the Month of the Holy Souls, when we prayerfully remember our departed loved ones and commend them to God's infinite mercy.

Death may separate us physically from those we love, but it cannot destroy the bonds of love and faith that unite us in Christ. Our Christian hope rests upon the promise of Jesus: “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live” (John 11:25).

During November, Divine Mercy Parish, Wallsend–Shortland, invites parishioners to participate in a Spiritual Bouquet of Masses, offered for the eternal repose of our departed family members, relatives, friends and benefactors.

Why Do We Pray for the Departed?

The Church teaches that our prayers can assist those who have died in God's friendship and are undergoing purification before entering the fullness of heavenly glory. This purification, traditionally called *Purgatory*, is an expression of God's merciful love, preparing souls for perfect communion with Him.

Through prayer, acts of charity, sacrifices and especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we entrust our departed loved ones to God's mercy.

The Eucharist is our greatest prayer because it makes present Christ's saving sacrifice. When we offer Mass for someone who has died, we unite our love and remembrance with Christ's perfect offering to the Father.

The Second Vatican Council reminds us that our communion with those who have died in Christ is not interrupted by death but strengthened through the sharing of spiritual gifts.

How Can You Participate?

Parishioners are warmly invited to arrange Mass intentions throughout November.

Write the names of your departed loved ones and your preferred dates on the Mass request envelop marked “November Masses”, available at church foyers.

Return the envelope with the Mass stipend (\$20.00) to Fr Paul personally, Sr Mary at the Parish Office, or through the collection

plate. If you prefer the names not to be announced publicly, please indicate this on the envelope or request sheet.

Mass intentions will be scheduled according to availability. Family members are especially encouraged to attend the Mass offered for their loved ones, joining the parish community in prayerful remembrance.

Love Continues Beyond Death

Our prayers for the departed are not simply expressions of sorrow. They are profound acts of faith, gratitude, mercy and hope.

As a parish dedicated to Divine Mercy, let us make November a sacred opportunity to remember those who have gone before us, pray for those who have no one to pray for them, and renew our own hope in eternal life.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

All Souls Day, Mon 2nd Nov Mass times: at 9.00 am at Our Lady of Victories, Shortland and at 6.30 pm at St Pat’s, Wallsend.

Safeguarding: The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and well-being of children and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility if you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: P 4979 1390, Email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

Welcome to Divine Mercy Parish Wallsend–Shortland

If you are new to the area, visiting our parish for the first time, or seeking a place to worship God and build friendships in Christ, we warmly welcome you. We are a vibrant Catholic parish enriched by many cultures and united in our faith in Jesus Christ.

We invite you to consider our parish as your spiritual home. We would be delighted to pray for you and with you as part of our parish family.

If you would like more information about our parish or wish to register as a new parishioner, please contact the Parish Office at Wallsend via email: wallsendshortlandparish@mn.catholic.org.au or Phone: 0406 726 611 to obtain a New Parishioner Form. It would be a pleasure to meet and welcome you personally.

If you are new to our parish, we extend to you a special welcome. We encourage you to register with the parish so that you may stay informed about parish news and receive our weekly newsletter online. To register, please contact the Parish Office.

WE PRAY FOR

The Recently Deceased: Michael Johnson
Judy Chidgey

Anniversaries:

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:

- 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
- 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

Mon	6.00 pm St Patrick’s Wallsend (Spiritual Retreat)
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.

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2026

Dear friends,

A little boy once received some money from his grandfather. His mother suggested, “You could put some in your money box, spend some, and perhaps give something to God at church.” The boy looked carefully at the coins and replied, “But Mum, they all have the King's picture on them. Which ones belong to God?” Without realising it, the child had asked a deeply theological question: What actually belongs to God? That question lies at the heart of this Sunday's Gospel.

The Pharisees and Herodians approach Jesus with a carefully designed trap: “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” If Jesus says “yes,” he risks appearing supportive of Roman occupation. If he says “no,” he can be accused of rebellion against Rome. Jesus asks them to show him the coin used for the tax. “Whose image and inscription is this?” They answer, “Caesar’s.” Then comes one of Jesus’ most memorable teachings: “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

We often hear this Gospel simply as a teaching about the relationship between religion and government. It certainly reminds us that Christians have genuine responsibilities within society. We pay taxes, obey just laws, respect legitimate authority, vote responsibly and contribute to the common good. Faith does not remove us from the world; it sends us into the world as responsible citizens. But Jesus takes us much deeper.

The coin belongs to Caesar because it bears Caesar's image. What, then, bears God's image? We do. The very first chapter of Genesis declares that human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. If the coin bearing Caesar's image can be returned to Caesar, then the human person bearing God's image belongs ultimately to God. Suddenly the Gospel is no longer mainly about money. It is about our whole life.

God does not ask merely for an hour on Sunday, a prayer occasionally, or something from what remains after everything else has been attended to. God desires our hearts, our decisions, our relationships, our gifts, our priorities and our way of treating one another. Yet belonging to God does not diminish us. It reveals who we truly are. When we give ourselves to God, we gradually become more fully the people we were created to be.

This has profound consequences for how we see others as well. Every person we encounter bears God's image—the elderly person who feels forgotten, the child needing encouragement, the person with whom we disagree, the stranger, the lonely, the poor and the wounded. To honour God's image means also to honour the dignity of the person before us.

Here at Divine Mercy Parish, this Gospel invites us to become a community where God's image can be recognised in everyone who enters our doors and everyone whom we encounter beyond them. Perhaps this week we might hold one question in our hearts: If my life bears God's image, does the way I live reveal whose image I carry?

Coins may carry the image of earthly rulers. But we carry the image of God. Let us therefore give Caesar what belongs to Caesar—but above all, let us joyfully give to God what already belongs to him: ourselves.

Fr Paul Chackanikunnel

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 16:6,8

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First reading

Isaiah 45:1.4-6

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:
It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.
The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. (R.)

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.
We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.
The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 22:15-21

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'
The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Mark 10:45

The Son of Man has come
to give his life as a ransom for many.

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.

Ladies Morning Tea – Cancellation Notice

Please note that the Morning Tea scheduled for Tuesday, 20th October 2026, at Elizabeth Kearn's residence has been cancelled.
For further information, please contact Margaret on 0413 493 272 or Liz on 0428 804 000.
Apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Divine Mercy Parish Wallsend Shortland

warmly welcomes

Valerie James Zangari

new members through Baptism, this Sunday.

Baptisms are usually celebrated in our parish on **Sunday 11.00am** at St Patrick's Church, Wallsend and at Our Lady of Victories on Saturday 11.00 am. For more information and to arrange a baptism, please contact the Parish Office.

Please check Sr Mary, Parish Secretary, for documentation required when making a booking. Baptism preparation sessions will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at St Patrick's Church at 6.00 pm.



The Ten Commandments

The Third Commandment – Remember the Sabbath Day and Keep It Holy.

“Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.”
Exodus 20:8

Imagine receiving a personal invitation every week from someone who loves you deeply—and week after week replying, “Sorry, I have other things to do.” Eventually, we might ask: *What has become more important than this relationship?*

The Third Commandment raises a similar question about our relationship with God. In a culture filled with work, shopping, sport, entertainment, technology and endless responsibilities, God gives us a countercultural invitation: Stop. Remember. Worship. Rest. The Third Commandment is not simply about attending church for an hour. It is about allowing God to reclaim sacred time in our lives.

The Sabbath: A Gift of Creation and Freedom

The biblical foundation of the Sabbath reaches back to Creation: “For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth... but rested the seventh day” (Exodus 20:11). God does not rest because He is tired. His rest expresses the completion and enjoyment of creation. Human life therefore needs a healthy rhythm of work and rest, activity and contemplation, productivity and gratitude.

Deuteronomy adds another meaning: Israel must remember that they were once slaves in Egypt and that God set them free. Slaves cannot control their own time; free people can rest. The Sabbath therefore proclaims that human beings are more than workers and consumers. Our dignity does not depend upon how much we produce.

From Sabbath to the Lord’s Day

The Jewish Sabbath is Saturday. From the earliest days of Christianity, however, believers gathered especially on Sunday, the first day of the week, because Jesus Christ rose from the dead on that day. Sunday became the Lord’s Day—a weekly celebration of the Resurrection, a “little Easter.” The Sabbath commandment therefore finds its Christian fulfilment in the Lord’s Day, with the Eucharist at its heart.

Catholics are obliged to participate in Sunday Mass unless prevented by illness, serious caring responsibilities or another grave reason. Yet if we see Mass only as an obligation, we miss its beauty.

At the Eucharist we hear God's Word, give thanks, offer our lives with Christ, receive His Body and Blood, and are strengthened for mission. We also remember that Christianity is not simply “Jesus and me.” We belong to the Body of Christ, and we gather as God's people. The deeper question is therefore not merely, “Do I have to go to Mass?” but, “Why would I willingly live without the gift Christ desires to give me?”

Rest Is Holy

The Third Commandment also protects our need for rest. Rest is not laziness. Our culture can make constant busyness appear admirable. Yet when we never stop, we can lose our ability to notice God, our families, other people, creation, and even what is happening within ourselves.

Sunday reminds us that productivity does not determine our worth. We are human beings before we are workers. True Sunday rest creates space for prayer, family, friendship, recreation, silence, nature, conversation and gratitude. Sometimes, after celebrating the Eucharist, one of the most valuable things a family can do is simply share a meal and enjoy being together.

..... Will be continued in the next newsletter

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

25 October 2026 — **Twenty–Nineth Sunday in Ordinary time**
1st Reading:Exodus 22:20-26 ; **Psalm:** Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; **Gospel:** Matthew 22: 34-40.

The next Wallsend Spiritual Retreat is on Monday 19th October at 7pm at St Pat’s. Includes Mass, Adoration and prayers for the sick with Father Sam Samuel VC from Somersby. All Welcome.

POF: Next week 1/11 –Cathy White

RENEWED AND SENT
Parish Renewal Summit 1-3 October2026.

At the beginning of October along with Father Paul, Sister Mary and Dianna Brodie, I attended the Renewed and Sent Summit held at St Gregorys School Campbelltown. The event was organised by the Wollongong Diocese and facilitated by Divine Renovation. When I was asked to attend, I reflected on a past attempt by Father Brady to move the Parish from one of Maintenance to a Missionary one through the Alpha program. Unfortunately, due to Covid and other issues, this floundered just as it was starting to gain traction, and I saw this as our chance to reignite the passion with the enthusiasm of Father Paul and parishioners.
Our days were a mixture of Mass, Keynote speakers, Breakout (Small group) activities and prayerful reflection. Friday began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Mascord together with 5 bishops and 120 priests who were in attendance. (Total attendance was almost 600 people from across Australia and NZ.) The focus for the Keynote speakers and Breakout sessions, was that our mission is not maintenance but “to evangelise, to make disciples, and to become communities where people can encounter the living Jesus, be formed as his disciples, and be sent out for the sake of the world.” (Bishop Mascord). This will involve a look at what we do and why? It could involve a change in culture, but repeatedly on the weekend the guidance of the Holy Spirit was emphasised and the need for prayerful reflection and discernment.
We were on the road with Parish Renewal previously, and my feeling is that, following the inspiration and practicality of the recent weekend it should not be too difficult to get underway again. The St Carlo Acutis weekend showed what is possible when, as a Parish, we all have the same focus. The aim is to make that the new normal. To rearrange a well-used saying **“Ask not what your Parish can do for you, rather what you can do for your Parish.”**

John Setz

Parish News

1. Formation and Training for Parish Liturgical Ministers
Over the coming months, our parish will offer several formation and training sessions for liturgical ministers. We sincerely appreciate the dedication and faithful service of all our volunteers, particularly those who have generously served our community for many years.
Ongoing formation is an essential part of every ministry. As pastoral needs evolve and liturgical understanding develops, these sessions provide valuable opportunities to refresh our knowledge, strengthen our skills and renew our commitment. They are not intended to criticise past practices but to help us serve with greater confidence, reverence and understanding.
The following sessions have been arranged:
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC)

- Wednesday 21 October, 6.30 pm – Panola Room, Shortland.
- Saturday 24 October, 10.30 am – St Pat's Church, Wallsend.