



Westmead Catholic Community PARISH HEARTBEATS

Official Weekly Bulletin of Sacred Heart Parish, Westmead

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'The sacred heart of Jesus is an open heart...' St Teresa of Kolkata

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

6 - 7 September 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 118: 137, 124

**You are just, O Lord,
and your judgement is right; treat your
servant in accord with your merciful love.**

FIRST READING

Wis 9:13-18

What man can know the intentions of God?
Who can divine the will of the Lord?
The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our
intentions unstable; for a perishable body
presses down the soul, and this tent of clay
weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard
enough for us to work out what is on earth,
laborious to know what lies within our reach;
who, then, can discover what is in the
heavens? As for your intention, who could
have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from above?
Thus have the paths of those on earth been
straightened and men been taught what
pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 89:3-6, 12-14. R.v.1

**R. In every age, O Lord,
you have been our refuge.**

1. You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.
2. You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades.
3. Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.
4. In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

SECOND READING

PHIL 12-17: PHLM 9-10, 12-17

This is Paul writing, an old man now and,
what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus.
I am appealing to you for a child of mine,
whose father I became while wearing these
chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him
back to you, and with him – I could say
– a part of my own self. I should have liked
to keep him with me; he could have been

a substitute for you, to help me while I am in
the chains that the Good News has brought
me. However, I did not want to do anything
without your consent; it would have been
forcing your act of kindness, which should be
spontaneous. I know you have been deprived
of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that
you could have him back for ever, not as a
slave any more, but something much better
than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear
to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-
brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if
all that we have in common means anything
to you, welcome him as you would me.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Lk 14:25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way
and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man
comes to me without hating his father,
mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes
and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple.
Anyone who does not carry his cross and come
after me cannot be my disciple. 'And indeed,
which of you here, intending to build a tower,
would not first sit down and work out the cost
to see if he had enough to complete it?
Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then
found himself unable to finish the work,
the onlookers would all start making fun of
him and saying, "Here is a man who started
to build and was unable to finish." Or again,
what king marching to war against another
king would not first sit down and consider
whether with ten thousand men he could
stand up to the other who advanced against
him with twenty thousand? If not, then
while the other king was still a long way off,
he would send envoys to sue for peace.
So in the same way, none of you can be my
disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 41:2-3

**Like the deer that yearns for running
streams, so my soul is yearning for you,
my God; my soul is thirsting for God,
the living God.**

Take up your
Cross
and follow me

PARISH CONTACTS

(02) 9635 9262

www.sacredheartwestmead.com.au
www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Westmead

Parish Priest

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Parish Primary Schools:

Sacred Heart Primary

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Principal: Natalie Mifsud

Assistant Principal: Jodie Smith

Mother Teresa Primary

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Principal: Julianne Regan

Assistant Principal: Katherine Stennett

Westmead Hospital Chaplain

Fr Domingo Barawid MI

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday & Friday: 9.30am - 4pm

Wednesday & Thursday: 10am - 3pm

MASS TIMES - Parish Church

Saturday: 6:00pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8:00am & 9:30am

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat: 9:00am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 5:00pm to 5:30pm

BAPTISMS

1st Sundays or by arrangement

MARRIAGES & FUNERALS

By arrangement with the Parish Priest

(min 6 months notice for weddings)

ANOIDING OF THE SICK

By arrangement with the Parish Priest

*The Westmead Catholic Community
acknowledges the Burramattagal people
of the Darug nation, traditional custodians
of the land on which we gather, recognising
elders past & present. We aim to be an
inclusive faith community, welcoming people
of all ages, races, creeds, genders,
orientations, marital status & cultures.*

PARISH DIARY DATES

6 / 7 September	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	
7 September	Fathers Day	
9 September	Confirmation Mass	7pm
8 September	Nativity Blessed Virgin Mary	Feast
13 September	St John Chrysostom	Memorial
13 / 14 September	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Feast
6/7 Sept - 11/12 Oct	Penance Enrolment forms available at weekend Masses	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Full dates and eligibility requirements for the **Parish's 2025 Sacramental Program** are listed on our website - www.sacredheartwestmead.com.au.

6/7 Sept - 11/12 Oct Penance (Reconciliation) Enrolment forms available weekend Masses

Penance (Reconciliation) Program - Attendance is required at the following

18/19 October	Enrolment Ceremonies at one weekend Mass (6pm Vigil, 8am or 9.30am)	
21 October	Parent Meeting	7pm
29 October	Groups start for 4 weeks	
25 November	Penance (Reconciliation) Liturgies	6.30pm & 7.30pm

Grant Eternal Rest to the recently deceased and those we remember at this time . . .

Bill Eltakchi
Pat O'Flynn
Michael Sutherland



At Sacred Heart Westmead, **Baptism** is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month at 11am. Please contact the parish office to book for 2025.



We welcome the newly Baptised to our Christian family . . .

Jasmine Lee
Rose-Celine



Fathers Day Appeal 6/7 September 2025

This Father's Day Appeal supports the retired and unwell priests in our Diocese – the spiritual fathers of our community service.

Please donate to the Fathers Day Appeal via envelopes in the church or online (specifying Westmead as your parish) at: parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal



A FATHER IS NEITHER AN ANCHOR TO HOLD US BACK, NOR A SAIL TO TAKE US THERE, BUT A GUIDING LIGHT WHOSE LOVE SHOWS US THE WAY.



Happy Father's Day!

Westmead Catholic Community - 75 Years in February 2026

The Parish Office is busily archiving and updating our parish history. So much of that which has shaped our parish community cannot be found in books or even in online resources, but in the hearts and memories of those who have been a part of its evolution.

Now as we prepare to celebrate our 75th Anniversary in 2026, we invite those in our parish community to share recollections of special celebrations and events in our parish history; and also details of those who have served in ministry at our parish over its history. It will be through these extra details that we can compile a more complete picture of our parish from our very beginnings.

If you would like to participate in the interview process, please contact Virginia at the parish office; or to share your stories or photographs, please post, deliver or email your submissions, so we may continue to expand our archive.



Today's Message

Discipleship demands that, in the face of all the choices available to us, we keep our priorities straight. Jesus insists that we must be single minded. We must cling to the one thing necessary, and that one thing is authentic discipleship. In choosing Jesus, we choose other things as well. We choose new relationships with the very people to whom we have already been committed. Those who were slaves, or lower class, or employees, or providers of service are now regarded as sisters and brothers in Christ. In choosing Jesus, we also choose the cross. We choose to live in a way that calls us to travel the high road: to forgive offences committed against us; to live simply so that others can simply live; to take responsibility for the moral character of society.

Dianne Bergant

Discipleship must be put above even that which is most important and most intrinsic to life in this world. Discipleship is more important than anything else and there are huge costs associated with taking it on. A believer has to literally 'count the cost' of what it will mean to place discipleship above family, friendships, career, politics and even life itself. Jesus makes no apologies that what he is asking is incredibly demanding. Our 'possessions' are all those things – material, emotional, and psychological – that we cling to and that we think give us our identity and status. We cannot truly be disciples if we continue to cling to those things considered important in this world and have to surrender the things that bind us to this world's ideas of status and position to fully embrace the kingdom.

Greg Sunter



NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 13/14 SEPTEMBER

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

1ST READING: NU, 21:4-9

2ND READING: PHIL 2:6-11

GOSPEL: JN 3:13-17

