

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE NAMBUCCA VALLEY

 **Administrator:** Fr. Peter Rebello ocd

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 Tue, Wed 8:30 am - 4:00pm.

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 **Our Lady Star of the Sea**-Nambucca Heads,

 **Corpus Christi**- Bowraville,  **St Patricks**-Macksville

**Year A,
13th September
2026**



FIRST READING

ECCLESIASTICUS 27:33-28:9

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 102(103):1-4,9-12

The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

JOHN 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.' And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

SEEING YOURSELF THROUGH ANOTHER -REFLECTION

In his letters, St Paul often provides a pithy saying for his readers to digest and integrate into themselves. In other words, he writes aphorisms. Stoic and Cynic sages of ancient philosophy did this too. One of my favorite modern philosophers, Blaise Pascal, in a book he wrote called Thoughts (Pensées), included one about our constant need for distraction: 'Humans can't be happy because of their inability to sit quietly in a room alone.' (Two years before he died, Pope Francis wrote an extraordinary but little-known letter on Pascal, 'The Grandeur and Misery of Man'.) Philosophers often distilled their teachings into sharp little punches of wisdom that left a mark long after the philosophers were gone. The marketing industry attempts much the same, though they aim to tie their product to an emotionally potent song or image or phrase. Songwriting might be a closer example to St Paul's writing. The song's 'hook' or the chorus repeats a memorable line that can stick in your memory for decades. Recently, as I was thumbing through shirts in my closet, the refrain from a hymn we sang in the church I attended as a child jumped into my mind: "Trust and Obey! For there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but trust and obey." Aphorisms are meant to be memorized and meditated on. They are meant to encapsulate a whole way of seeing, of acting, of existing in the world. Here are couple of my favorite Pauline aphorisms: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me. There is one God. There is one mediator between God and humanity, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all. The second reading today (Romans 14:7-9) includes an aphorism. It begins: 'The life and death of each one of us has its influence on others ... alive or dead we belong to the Lord.' Let's ponder this deeply. If you were to memorise it, recalling it often,

asking God to allow it to shape your outlook, your actions, your relationships, what might happen? One thing is that you might start to see the world in a way that reorients you amidst the chaos of our western culture’s failed individualistic, self-interested, and materialist patterns that are so deeply engrained in us. The aphorism teaches you to see the meaning of yourself through another (the Lord) and through a community (we’) that extends beyond the horizon of physical life. St Paul continues: ‘This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord of both the dead and of the living.’ Sayings like this tell the truth. They articulate the essential. In a world of relentless shallow speech, glossy fakes, and curated illusions, it is more important than ever to apprentice ourselves to the school of St Paul, the philosopher, learning how to chew on his aphorisms until we become what they say. W Chris Hackett © Majellan Media 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

During Fr Peter’s absence, Fr Vinod will be celebrating Mass on Fri, Sat, Sundays . Urgent matters ☎ Fr Vinod 0478 675 816.

A big thankyou to everyone at OLSS who purchased tickets in our Father’s Day raffle! Your support is greatly appreciated, all proceeds going towards our new sign.

Thank you so much to **John Nebauer** for organising **OLSS** roof repairs, no more leaks!!

A big thank you to **John Harris** for all the unseen work you do for our Parish, we truly appreciate you.

St Therese
Dc. of the
Church

Sat 3rd Oct 4pm
Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
4 Mann St Nambucca Heads

Rose Petal Prayer
Evening:

"God would never inspire me with desires which cannot be realised; so in spite of my littleness, I can hope to be a saint."

St. Therese of Lisieux

4 pm: Adoration & praise; write a letter to St. Therese

4:30 pm: Reflection on Hope to be a Saint

4:40 pm: Place your prayer intention letters at the altar

4:50 pm: Divine praises.

5 pm: Mass.

Your letters will be returned to you next year for your reflection.



Beautiful flowers in India.
Photographer Fr Peter.

Safeguarding Sunday will be marked today 13th Sept. This annual observance is a time for Catholic communities across Australia to reflect on their commitment to creating safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for all.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Luke Latham, Arnold Cooke, Joe Cooke,
Ron Piggott, Margaret Smith,
The Piggott & Ryan Families

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pauline Baker, Joye Thorne, Elaine Gosson,
Nicky Hemsworth, Roy Pritchard,
Kathleen Mitchell, Peter Butros

WE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

Bede Laverty, Mick Schuppe, Heather Freeman

Nepal Floods
Appeal

Stand with communities affected by devastating flash floods.

Your donation can help provide emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, healthcare and protection support.

Donate now
caritas.org.au/nepal | 1800 624 413

EMERGENCY ACTION ALLIANCE

Caritas AUSTRALIA



September Renewal Newsletter

In this edition, we look back on a season of real connection across the diocese. Parishes gathered to share their stories with the Diocesan Pastoral Council, Catholic Youth Lismore launched across the region, and our first Foundations of Lay Led Liturgy cohort completed their formation. We also share how Eucharist28 is taking shape in our parishes, invite young people to register their interest in upcoming youth events, and look ahead to this year's Diocesan Art Prize giving.



Scan the QR code to read the newsletter

Eucharist28 Update: Eternal Life in the Eucharist 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, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be a festival of faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music – a truly ‘once in a lifetime’ experience, and a transformative moment for our nation. To help your parish and community experience this moment of Eucharistic renewal on the journey to Eucharist28, head to eucharist28.org for more.



Tue 15 th September	No Mass
Wed 16 th September	No Mass
Thu 17 th September	No Mass
Fri 18 th September	9am Adoration, 9.30am Mass at Nambucca Heads
Sat 19 th September	4:30 Confession 5:00 pm Mass at Nambucca Heads
Sun 20 th September 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8am Mass at Macksville 9:30 am Mass at Bowraville

Mass Intention envelopes are located at the back of the Church

Our bulletin is sponsored by Diocesan Investment Fund (DIF) paying 4.15% effective on 1st of August 2026.Call 1800802516 or www.dif.org.au