

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE NAMBUCCA VALLEY



*22nd Sunday
in Ordinary Time*
**Year A,
30th August 2026**

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Our Lady Star of the Sea-Nambucca Heads,

Corpus Christi- Bowraville, St Patricks-Macksville

First Reading

Jeremiah 20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.' Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 62(63):2-6,8-9

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation

cf Ephesians 1:17. 18

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord;' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Stoking the fire in our hearts

A woman once shared her experiences as a youth leader. She had to deal with a child who, having been twice warned about his misbehaviour, was told to leave the group. However, the boy kept turning up. "Why do you keep coming back?" she asked. The boy said, "Because no one else remembers my name." This simple story is a reminder that sometimes people will hang around, will keep coming back, not through anger or rage, but because that someone needs to hear their name spoken with love. It is a quiet fire within them. Jeremiah knows that fire. He says to the Lord, "You have seduced and overpowered me, Lord." However he also realises the Word of the Lord has become a reproach for him. "There is in my heart a fire, a burning fire imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it." Jeremiah tries to stay silent, because speaking God's Word brings ridicule and threat. But he can not. The fire in his heart keeps him going. Peter, after Jesus shares with the apostles that he will go to Jerusalem to suffer, says, "God forbid it, Lord! This must not happen to you!" Peter wants a messiah without suffering, a path without a cross. Jesus turns to him and says, "Get behind me, Satan. . . If anyone wants to be my follower, let them deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me." Jesus' journey to the cross is not about seeking pain. It is about not walking away when God's fire says, "Stay!" or "Go!" It is about choosing love over comfort, truth over popularity, sacrifice over safety. It is the fire in his heart. From the second reading, Saint Paul teaches us about how to live: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Present your body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God." That is not a call to one dramatic act of sacrifice. It is rather a call to small acts of sacrifice and offering to the Lord every day, such as when we are patient with difficult people, or generous when we would rather save and hold back, or speaking the truth when silence would be easier. This week we are invited to examine the fire in our hearts. Where is God pressing on us to act, even though it is inconvenient? Maybe it is forgiving, or serving, or simply remembering and speaking someone's name.

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding office can be contacted if you have any safeguarding concerns. we will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact safeguarding office: Phone 0266219444 or email safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

Following Jesus can be costly and painful, but the One who carried the cross has walked the path from death to life. And he walks with us now, turning our small sacrifices into something that will last. May we never run from the fire. Let it light our way and lead us home. Let it encourage us to be active in social justice, supporting positive movements to create a better world. Amen. Sam Kono CSsR © Majellan Media 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

During Fr Peter’s absence, Fr Vinod Lobo will be celebrating Mass on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only.
For Urgent matters contact Fr Vinod 0478 675 816.

On 29th August, we celebrate a very special birthday - Mary Henry’s 80th - Happy Birthday Mary !

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA- will be selling raffle tickets from this Saturday for Fathers Day - you could be the lucky winner!!

Drawn after Mass on 5th September

CORPUS CHRISTI Would like to celebrate **Fathers’ Day** with a morning tea after Mass on **Sunday 6th September**, all welcome!

The Cagliero Project is seeking volunteers from Australia and New Zealand for 6–12 month educational placements in various locations, including Cambodia and Timor Leste, starting in January 2027. Applications for these Salesian way roles in schools and youth centres close on October 31, 2026. For more details, visit cagliero.org.au.

Adult Online Faith Formation-Registrations for the Cycle 6 (five week) Courses with the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) are now open and close on 3/9/26. Courses begin on 7/9/26. More information can be sought by contacting Tony Worner at VLCFF.LismoreDiocese@stagneparish.org.au or 0436941280. Learn more about the VLCFF at <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/about/> We have also recently held our first cohort of Foundations of Lay Led Liturgy and have limited places left for our next cohort, to commence Oct26. This is a closed course, only available for people in the Diocese of Lismore. Please contact Madeline Beveridge mbeveridge@lismore.catholic.org.au to express interest.

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.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE

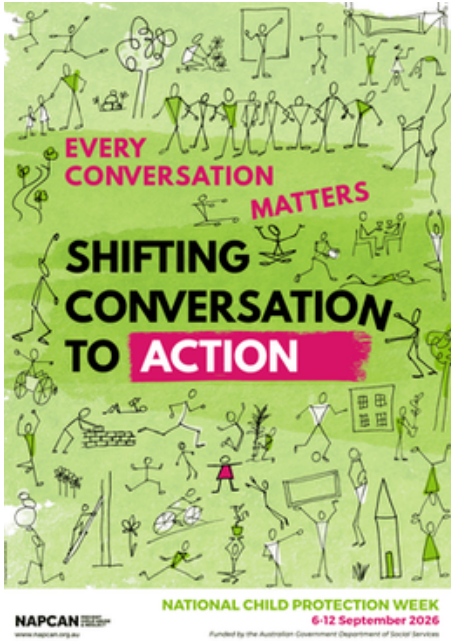
ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Max & Monica Dunbar, Fr Chris Riley,
Joseph Hong, Luke Latham, Arnold Cooke,
Joe Cooke, Ron Piggott

WE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY

DECEASED

Bede Laverty,
Mick Schuppe, Heather Freeman



Photographer : Fr Peter , Dubai 2026

Tue 1 st September	No Mass
Wed 2 nd September	No Mass
Thu 3 rd September	No Mass
Fri 4 th September	9am Adoration, 9.30am Mass at Nambucca Heads
Sat 5 th September	4:30 Confession 5:00 pm Mass at Nambucca Heads
Sun 6 th September 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8am Mass at Macksville 9:30 am Mass at Bowraville

Safeguarding Sunday will be marked on September 13. 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.

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

