

Catholic Parish of the Nambucca Valley

 **Administrator:** Fr. Peter Rebello ocd

 **Parish Secretary:** Gill Dewar

 78 Wallace St (PO.Box 38) Macksville 2447

 02 6568 1107

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

 parish@nvparish.org.au

 www.nvparish.org.au

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

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

**25TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A,
20TH SEPTEMBER, 2026**



Photo courtesy Fr Peter

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 144(145):2-3,8-9,17-18

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:20-24,27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

cf Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

An ever-generous God

In the gospel parable we might wonder is this the way God acts? It doesn’t seem fair to pay everyone the same wage, whether they have worked the entire day or for an hour, even if it was agreed to by the workers at the beginning. Then, at the parable’s end, the landowner says to these upset workers, ‘Why be envious when I am generous?’ But we could say it’s unjust; what about a fair go for all, not simply those who waited all day for work. Justice is central to the parable, but justice as a form of compassion, ensuring everyone gets paid a living wage, from the first to the last. However, if the wage is a metaphor of salvation, whether we’ve worked for a long time or not isn’t really the issue; we can’t earn salvation, it’s a gift, and wanting more of it doesn’t make sense. We begin to see how generosity and envy too are at the heart of this gospel, and how envy is a response to a perceived lack of generosity on God’s part. It distracts us from what we have been given, and we fixate on what others have – such as money, house, car, status – and that’s what we want. The media thrives on this, whether social or otherwise, as the cartoon character called Envy reminds us: she has ‘a big appetite for everything she doesn’t have.’ This is why gratitude is important, because it enables us to give thanks for what we have been given. So too trust: trust in what Jesus has promised us. As we come to trust in God, we begin to realise that God provides for us and we’re able to give thanks for the gift of Jesus’ life. In doing so, we come to see that God gives us all we need and gradually we begin to recognise that we have been living in a self-enclosed world where scarcity and ambition rule. It’s then that we come to understand our need to be free of envy if our lives are to be open to the generosity of God; and it’s not just St Francis, giving up his lavish lifestyle, who reveals this to us, but it’s to be seen in our own lives.

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

Or are we too locked into a way of life that prevents us from seeing it, and so denies us the freedom to live in God's love? In the second reading Paul, in prison, sees clearly the meaning of his life: 'Life to me, of course, is Christ.' Jesus is our life too and the gift of himself is more than enough. He gives himself to us so we might give away to others what we have received. While the first reading from Isaiah speaks of God's love for his people. God's thoughts and ways are beyond our understanding, and yet God is close to us and rich in forgiveness. This is the ever-generous God who gives us everything we'll ever need. Damian Coleridge © 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 thank you to **John Harris** for all the unseen work you do for our Parish, we truly appreciate you.

On Saturday, Oct 3rd: Our Lady Star of the Sea, Nambucca Heads

You're invited to celebrate the feast of St Therese! Join us for a Rose Petal Prayer Evening. including adoration, praise, confession, letter writing, and reflection. Please see below

HOPE TO BE A SAINT!

You can pray this Novena at any time and for seemingly impossible requests. St Therese is considered one of the spiritual giants of the Catholic Church because she teaches that we can all hope to be saints!

You're Invited:

To a Rose Petal Prayer Evening of adoration, praise, and reflection on why we can all Hope to be Saints
3rd Oct 4pm followed by 5pm Mass

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
4 Mann St Nambucca Heads

Write a letter, asking for Therese's intercession and friendship.

We will place our letters at the altar. They will be posted back to us, unopened, in October 2027. So we can reflect on the graces we have received.

This is a tradition from the community of the Béatitudes in France.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48DxuZW53ds>

Bring your friends & a stamped self-addressed envelope!

St Therese Novena

Pray this Powerful prayer for 9 days



Dearest Saint Therese of Lisieux, you said that **you would spend your time in heaven doing good on earth.**

Your trust in God was complete.

Pray that He may increase my trust in His goodness and mercy as I ask for the following. (State your intentions)

Pray for me that I, like you, may have great and innocent confidence in the loving promises of our God. Pray that I may live my life in union with God's plan for me, and one day see the Face of God whom you loved so deeply.

Saint Therese, you were faithful to God even unto the moment of your death. Pray for me that I may be faithful to our loving God.

May my life bring peace and love to the world through faithful endurance in love for God our savior.

Loving God, you blessed St. Therese with a capacity for a great love. Help me to believe in your unconditional love for each of your children, especially for me.

I love you, Lord. Help me to love you more!
Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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, Peter Moroney

WE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

† Heather Freeman



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As smart watches and glasses with recording capabilities become more common, we must protect the privacy and dignity of everyone in our parishes.

Recording people or conversations without consent is not permitted, especially in child-related and pastoral environments. Please check with your parish or ministry before using personal recording devices.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment.



Eucharist28 Update: Walking with Christ 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. It will be a celebration of faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be an important moment of Eucharistic renewal for the Church in Australia and beyond. The journey to Eucharist28 has begun!

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 024 413



Mass Times	
Tue 22nd September	No Mass
Wed 23 rd September	No Mass
Thu 24 th September	No Mass
Fri 25th September	9am Adoration, 9.30am Mass at Nambucca Heads
Sat 26 th September	4:30 Confession 5:00 pm Mass at Nambucca Heads
Sun 27 th September	8am Mass at Macksville 9:30 am Mass at Bowraville
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	World Refugees & Migration Day

Mass Intention envelopes are located at the back of the Church