



PARISH OF ST JOSEPH
ORDINARY TIME WK 25
20–21 SEP 2025

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MASS THIS WEEKEND

(Lyra Sat – 16:30)
St Joseph's: Sat – 18:30
St Joseph's: Sun – 08:30

LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Mon 22 Sep — 8.00am
Liturgy of the Word and H.C.
Tue 23 Sep — No Mass
Wed 24 Sep — No Mass
Funeral Liturgy 10:30
Thu 25 Sep — 7:30am
Fri 26 Sep — 8:00am
Liturgy of the Word and H.C.

MASSES NEXT WEEK

(Wallangarra Sat – 16:30)
St Joseph's: Sat – 18:30
St Joseph's: Sun – 08:30
(Texas – 17:30)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

No Adoration this week

VINNIES CONFERENCE

3rd Wednesday of the month
1:30pm – Mary Agnes Centre

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

First Tuesday of the month
7pm – Mary Agnes Centre

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Friday 17:30 in the church.



THE MYSTER OF THE EUCHARIST

We often use the term 'sacrament' – something beyond a sign, symbol, and making-present – to describe the Eucharist. The Eastern Tradition highlights it with the simple term 'mystery'. Growing up in a world post Agatha Christie novels, and with countless mystery movies and series, this term might not ring as its theological definition is inclined. Terming the sacraments 'mysteries' is not to say that they are beyond any understanding; it simply means that they have superabundant or are overflowing with meaning. The Eucharist is a wonderful example of this. Below are listed some different true descriptions or terms that can be applied to the mysterious Sacrament of the Eucharist. I invite you to reflect on which might resonate with you or speak into your experience of the divine.

- **Holy Communion:** This is a common term applied specifically to the community reception of the Eucharist. Even when one receives the Eucharist at home or in the hospital, it is in communion with the Eucharistic assembly (at which the sacrament was consecrated). This acknowledges that such an act unites the communicant with the wider community of faith through not only reception but true participation in the mystery.
- **The Bread of Heaven:** Since our forbears in the faith – the people of Israel – were fed with Mana in the desert, we have spoken of this 'bread from heaven'. We do not live only by our own means, but rely on the providence of God.
- **Bread of Life:** Sure, the bread is the 'work of human hands'; but it becomes, by a gift from beyond our own selves, the 'bread of life'. "Whoever eats this bread will live forever" (Jn 6:51). It is a promise and a preparation for the new life that Jesus promises to Nicodemus (Jn 4) and elsewhere (all through John)
- **The Bread of the Presence:** Jesus even refers to this (Matt 12:3–4; *c.f.* 1 Sam 21) in conversation with the pharisees. In temple Judaism, there were loaves of bread in the temple to mark the presence of God. These needed to be replaced often (as bread does), which itself is a sign of the living presence of God (rather than a statue, for example, which was also not a part of their tradition). The Eucharist is a sacrament of presence.
- **Foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet:** Heaven is in many ways beyond our imagination. However, it is not beyond some poetic anticipation and expression. This understanding builds on the above as we look forward to fulfilling our created end in eternity life.
- **Memorial of the Lord's Supper:** Mass is a meal. This much cannot and should not be denied. However it is not *simply* a meal (as these other points help us to recognise). It will always stand as a memorial (a 'making-present') of the supper that Jesus shared with his Disciples before undertaking His passion and resurrection; a reminder of His love.
- **The Word of God:** Each Sacrament ('mystery') is a proclamation (a 'declaring and manifesting') of Jesus, our Saviour. Many confuse the verbal communication of the scripture readings for the extent of it. However, the 'Amen' that is and must be offered, the faithful acknowledge this Eucharist is a communication of the Truth.
- **The Sacrificial Victim (Host):** Much language concerning the Mass in recent centuries has focused on sacrificial terms (*e.g.* referring to the consecrated wafer of bread as 'hosts'). This recognises that the Jesus proclaimed is the one who offered Himself for our sins. Jesus is not sacrificed again and again, but we participate anew.

Louis Bouyer (*Liturgical Piety*, 1955) – a great liturgist and convert to Catholicism, who himself was a part of the working group that gave us the *Novus Ordo* of the missal (1970) – encourages us to not silo in any one of these mystical meanings. He encourages something of a pluralistic or combined approach. So, **when you look at the list above, which resonate/s with you?** And is there one that is truly at odds with how you have come to understand the mystery of the Eucharist? And, recognising this list was compiled from memory while 37,000 ft over some ocean, **are there any other terms or images that you feel could be used to express or grasp at the mystery of this sacrament?**

Our two newest saints had great devotion to the Eucharist, while also living comparatively 'normal' lives in accessibly recent times.

Carlo Acutis (1991–2006) was an Italian teenager. He was known for his devotion to the Eucharist and his use of digital media with the faith. Born in London and raised in Milan, he had an early interest in computers and video games. Active in parish life, he served as a catechist and helped inspire several people to convert to Catholicism. He was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukaemia and died at the age of fifteen. Acutis has been referred to as the "patron saint of the Internet", "God's Influencer" and the "first millennial saint."



Pier (Peter) Giorgio Frassati (1901–1925) was an Italian Catholic activist and a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic. He was dedicated to social justice issues and joined several charitable organizations, including Catholic Action and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, to better aid the poor and less fortunate living in his hometown.



This weekend and next, young people in our parish will complete their journey of Christian initiation with participation in their First Holy Communion. They set out on a journey of discovery. They will be one with us for the first time at this table of the Lord in any and all of the senses listed above. Let us pray for them and also for ourselves: that all may enter ever-more-deeply into the mystery that is the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

N. Webb, PP

First Reading

Amos 8: 4-7

1. Throughout Hebrew scriptures the orphans and widows were the responsibility of those in right relationship with God. What are some things people can do when they feel responsible for people in need? What can you do to help correct an unjust situation?

2. Israel's covenant mandated love of the neighbour. Was it on a collision course with the people's behaviour in this reading? What drives people to be oppressive and exploitive? Is money evil, or is it the love of money that is—to the exclusion of everything else, including love of neighbour? Give examples from today.

Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-8

1. Paul was appointed preacher and apostle to take the Good News to the Gentiles. Can you take such a message beyond the sphere of the Church?

2. Paul asks prayers for kings and for those with authority. Do you think the Church should address political, economic and social problems, or just stick to "religion"?

Gospel

Luke 16:1-13

1. Was the unjust steward dishonest or simply clever? How would the kingdom of God benefit from resourcefulness?

2. Several years ago in his morning homily Pope Francis spoke on the parable of the crafty steward. What would you use the grace of Christian cleverness for if you received it? If you ask for it, will you receive it? © 2025, Anne Osdieck

NEW ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

Last week (11 September), Brisbane welcomed its new Shepherd: The Most Rev. Shane Mackinlay, DD, PhD. Previously the bishop of Sandhurst, prior to this an academic and master of studies, and first a priest of the Diocese of Ballarat, +Shane brings a wealth of experience, keen nuanced perspectives, and pastoral prowess to collaborative but deliberate decision-making. Two of his recent roles included major positions in the Australian Plenary Council (2020–2021) and Vatican Synod (2022–2024), at both of which he demonstrated a keen capacity to draw together people of various positions and perspectives in the pursuit of orthodoxy.

YOUTH IN/FROM THE PARISH

On Friday night, another successful **youth pop-up event** brought was conducted in the Convent. A special thanks to Genevieve and the crew for all you did in preparation and on the night. This coming week, the next instalment from the **Storm King Youth Camp** is headed up into the **Bunya Mountains** for a few days. Nathan and a crew of most capable leaders will delve into the theme of friendship. Then, a contingent from the school will be attending the **Ignite Conference** in **Brisbane**. Both events are promising formation, fun, and friends a plenty!

'KUTZ 4 KAZ' Proudly sponsored by St Joseph's

8am Saturday 11 October, Outside the Country Club. Street Stall, raffles & more; Fiona Patti's hair cutting (donated for Cancer Council wigs); live broadcasting from Ten FM. A fundraising event for the Leukemia Foundation in memory of Karen Anderson (10 years).

SUPPLY: WHAT A JOY TO HAVE FR BRIAN WITH US!

Many thanks to Fr Brian for his presence and work in the community these past few weeks. We are richer for his gift.

PUBLIC ROSARY 11 OCTOBER 9AM

This year's annual public Rosary will be held on Saturday 11 October at 9am. The gathering will be held at Rotary Park, Leslie Parade. All are welcome.

IN OUR PRAYERS

RECENT DEATHS: **Noel Wright** (12.09.2025 Husband of Libby, Father & Father-In-Law of Colleen, Robert & Sue, Michael & Patty, Annette & Steven, Peter & Noelene - Funeral Liturgy Wednesday 10.30am); **Bonnie Hickling** (02.09.2025 Cleveland - Wife of Brian [Dec], Mother of Robert, Debbie & Kenneth [Dec] - Graveside Funeral Liturgy - Tuesday 10.30am Wallangarra Cemetery); **Marcella (Carniel) Pozzebon** (Townsville 21.08.2025 Sister of Gilda Volpato); Venera Tornabene & Terry Leotta

TO REMEMBER: Francesca Gangemi (1st Anniv 06.09.2025), Leonardo Romeo, Agustinno Soares Dos Reis, Mary Hannigan, Dorrie O'Reilly, Orazio Cannavo, Giovanna Romeo Lippino, Fr Myles Patrick Smith, Bishop William Brennan DD, Fr Lino Valente, Fr Francis Burke, Fr Michael Skehan

FOR THE SICK: Robert Ebenestelli, John Morrison, Greg Fletcher, Lucy Targato, Nick Brac, Nancy Hickey, Renee Simpson, Con Torrisi, Paul Russell, Tina Ryan, Iva Baxter, Grace Marini, Catherine, Elizabeth & Monika, Terry Hopgood, Jack Lawson, Margaret Doro, Hayden Smith, Nalda Sciuto, Graham (Gossie) Vale, Liz Billings, Sr Cecelia OCD, Alan Colyer, Amanda Boardman, Bron Larner, Sr Therese Margaret OCD, Russell Fahey, Norma Bertinazzi, Lesley Robbins, Wayne Jackson, Angela Gannon, Glen Slater, Cassie May, Sam Leonardi, Josie Torrisi, Barry Driscoll, Steven Campbell, Paul Voss, Des Fossey, Kate Sturgeon, Anne Black, and all the sick of the Parish & families.

FOR VOCATIONS: For all the young in our parish; Rev. Fr. BJ Perrett, Sister Teresa Gasparin, and Sister Marie Tania as they continue their vocation journeys. For an increase in vocations to priesthood and religious life from our own communities.

MINISTRIES	SATURDAY 27 Sept 2025	SUNDAY 28 Sept 2025
READERS	Nita Gasparin Stephen Tomasel	Mary McLucas Angie Sims
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	Clelia Patti Bernice Steele Norm Steele	Margarita Aviles Jacinta Manahan Trish McCosker
COUNTERS		Lance Guteridge Nella Guteridge
FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK Tue 23 Sept – S. Pius of Pietrelcina [Padre Pio], Priest Fri 26 Sept – Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs Sat 27 Sept – S. Vincent de Paul, priest		

PLAY FOR PURPOSE: RAFFLE 28 AUG – 18 SEPT 2025

Support the restoration of the historic St Patrick's Cathedral and go in the draw to win luxury prizes - including two Audis and \$60,000 in gold by joining our Play for Purpose raffle today! More info <https://playforpurpose.com.au/catholic-diocese>.



ST VICENT DE PAUL DONATIONS

There are two dimensions to the Society:

- The local Conference:** These parishioners and friends spearhead the day-to-day works of charity – helping those who are struggling. Donations of nonperishable goods can be left at Spano's IGA. Cash can be donated by marked envelope in the collection or through the office
- The Op Shop:** The funds generated are pooled within the region; they support larger initiatives like crisis housing and DV survivor support programs. Cash donations made at the shop are allocated accordingly.

Date Claimer: St Joseph's Parish Prayer Walk

Sunday 12 October after 8:30am Mass at St Joseph's, Stanthorpe. Parishioners and friends are invited to walk to Mt Marley via Alice St and back to church. Refreshments at the top. We will seek parishioners' input for future walks.