



## PARISH OF ST JOSEPH

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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 1 Sep — 5:30pm**  
*Mass for OLSC Solemnity*  
**Tue 2 Sep — 7:30am**  
**Wed 3 Sep — 11:45am**  
**Thu 4 Sep — 10:30am**  
*Funeral Mass*  
**Fri 5 Sep — 5:30pm**

### MASS NEXT WEEKEND

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

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursday 4pm–Midnight;  
& Friday 8.00am Holy Hour

### 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

Time to be advised.



# What you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God,

SUNDAY 22 IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

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30–31 Aug 2025

## REVERSALS OF FORTUNE

*“Some who are first will be last”* (Heb 12:11)

One tradition in the Hebrew scriptures, especially in the wisdom literature, frequently highlights the irony of inverted expectations. Thus, Sirach's sage teaches that love is experienced in giving, rather than receiving; that greatness is revealed in humility; that wisdom is a better listener than talker. The Psalms tell us that God becomes the dwelling of the homeless, the liberty of prisoners, and refreshing rain for dry hearts.

The Letter to the Hebrews has the same tinge of paradox. While many might think God is as unapproachable as the highest mountain, or an all-consuming furnace of rage, or an abyss of impenetrable darkness, or a booming voice so terrible one might wish it had never been heard, the God of the Letter to the Hebrews is a loving parent. God's mountain is Zion, full of life, bright with light, ringing with festivity. God's sound is the voice of Jesus, through whom our maimed limbs will become whole again.

Luke's Jesus is fully a child of this oral tradition of paradoxical reversals. His own wisdom teaching, offered at a banquet of elite lawyers and pharisees, actually draws upon the advice in Proverbs ([Prov 25:7](#)) that it is “better to be invited, ‘Come up here,’ than be humiliated in the presence of the prince.”

Jesus' own parable portrays people seeking the place of honour who are eventually asked to move, now blushing, to a lower place. “What you should do when you have been invited is go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host approaches you he will say, ‘My friend, come up higher.’”

This seems like a bit of advice from Dale Carnegie on how to win friends and influence people: If you want to look good, put on the mask of humility. But it is clear that Jesus is not offering mere courtly etiquette. He is talking about an existential reality. Those who exalt themselves, whether covertly or openly, will be humbled, and all who humble themselves shall be exalted.

It is not only guests who have the problem of ego-enhancement. The host does too. Elite house parties, whether hosted in Greek and Roman times or our own day, are honoured by the best and brightest who attend. Such worldly wisdom is reversed as well. It is better, Jesus says, that we invite the unwanted and discarded to our dinners and be happy when they cannot repay us. For our payment will be in heaven.

This poses a still deeper paradox. Is Jesus suggesting that we act humbly only for the reason that we might be exalted? Is he advising us to use the poor as our stepping stone to heaven's highest places?

I think not. Jesus is speaking to a group of people who set traps to catch him, who seem to understand only the logic of self-enhancement. Even on their own terms, their tactics are self-defeating. No matter what tactic of self-promotion they try, they will fail.

Pretending to be the least will not yield greatness in the kingdom of heaven. Luke is not presenting a stratagem to win approval. He is describing again something already expressed by Mary herself, that God routs the proud of heart, dethrones the worldly prince, and exalts the lowly. In such matters, faking it will not do the trick.

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**First Reading**                      **Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29**  
1. The word used by the ancient Romans, “*humus*,” had a lot of meanings, among which were ground, earth and soil. Using this meaning as a springboard, make up your own definition of the word humility.  
2. Name someone you think is a truly a great person. Is that person humble? What does humility look like in him/her? The Gospel mentions the lame, poor, crippled and blind. From your experience with these people would you say most of them are humble?

**Second Reading**                      **Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a**  
1. What do you feel when you read the words from the old covenant (“blazing fire,” “gloomy darkness,” “storm,” “trumpet”)? What mood do the words from the new covenant bring to you (“heavenly Jerusalem,” “countless angels in festal gathering”)?  
2. What is a covenant? What does it mean to say that Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant? Why does the sprinkled blood of the new covenant speak more eloquently than that of Abel, as this reading asserts?

**Gospel**                                      **Luke 14:1, 7-14**  
1. Does anything cripple you, or sometimes make you blind? Discuss the fact that Jesus experienced our human pain along with us in order to help us get to the banquet. Do you feel any responsibility as a member of the body of Christ to help other people get to the banquet?  
2. Have you experienced the blessing of hospitality with the poor, the weak, and the forgotten?                      © 2025, *Anne Osdieck*

**JUNIOR SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**  
First Holy Communion classes resume this Sunday 31 August. Contact Dorothy at the office for details.

**TEEN RETREAT IN THE BUNYAS 22–24 SEPTEMBER**  
Nathan will be leading a retreat for teens in the first week of the school holidays. Offered in the Storm King Youth Camp series; details at [stormkingyouthcamp.org](http://stormkingyouthcamp.org). Promising formation, fun, and friends a plenty!

**IGNITE CONFERENCE BRISBANE**  
The biggest youth gathering in Queensland with rallies, talks, and festival vibes; for highschoolers and young adults. **Thu 25 to Sun 28 September.** Groups attending from Stanthorpe and Warwick. Travel and subsidies possible on application. For more info, please contact Nathan or Mary <[mary.roberts@twb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mary.roberts@twb.catholic.edu.au)>.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL CENTENARY JUBILEE**  
St Vincent de Paul Stanthorpe celebrated their 100-year Jubilee with a retreat in Stanthorpe last weekend. This included joining us in a special way for the 8.30am Sunday, followed by Morning Tea in the Mary Agnes Centre. Thank you to the society for their work and witness, but especially our local conference.

**SUPPLY – WELCOME BACK FR BRIAN!**  
It is such a joy to have Fr Brian back in the parish on supply. Indeed, I have full trust that the parish will be all the richer for the time he has generously offered. Please keep an eye on the weekday Mass times this month as they will be slightly varied from the norm. The same holds true for location, as we move back to the Mary Agness (Convent) chapel (at least) for the time being.

**UPCOMING ABSENCE**  
Nathan will be away most of September between conferences, retreats, and two weeks leave. Updates on his travels will appear in the next few newsletters.

**IN OUR PRAYERS**  
**RECENT DEATHS:** **Venera Tornabene** (25.08.2025 Wife of Egidio [Dec], Mother of Carmelo – Requiem Mass Thursday 10.30am), **Terry Leotta** (22.08.2025 Burrum Heads, Husband of Therese, Father of Megan & Danielle, Grandfather of James & Logan, Brother of Paul, Dianne & Natalee), **Eileen Vichie** (19.08.2025 Wife of Paul [Dec], Mother & Mother-In-Law of Paulen & Michael Gatt, Phill & Jenny, Peter & Keri, John & Lisa - A private family funeral has been held), **Alfina Leonardi** (08.08.2025 Ingham Sister of Sam Leonaardi & Grace Costanzo), **Salvatore (Sam) Grammatico**, **Therese ‘Tere’ Bonner**, **Ray Adams**, **Noela Mattiazzzi**, **Fr Chris Riley**  
**TO REMEMBER:** Egidio Tornabene, Carmelo & Maria Concetta Torrisi & DFM, Silvia Pozzebon, Francesca Moxham, Augusto Stefanon, Helen McMeniman, Santo & Angela Domanti, Fr Mervyn Ziesing, Bishop Edward Krilly, Fr Sydney Kattie  
**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 and elderly of Parish & families.  
**FOR VOCATIONS:** For Anthony and Martina who celebrated their marriage at St Joseph’s on Friday 22 July. 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 6 Sept 2025	SUNDAY 7 Sept 2025
READERS	Nita Gasparin Stephen Tomasel	Shirlee Russell
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	John Patti Joyce Pozzebon	Fern Ausland Johanna Campbell Megan Mahney
COUNTERS		Johanna Campbell Paul Campbell Kurt Empen

**FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK**  
**Mon 1 Sept – Our Lady Of The Southern Cross**  
**Wed 3 Sept – St Gregory The Great, Pope**  
**Fri 5 Sept – St Teresa Of Calcutta / Ember Day**

**PARISH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**  
There was a well-attended meeting on Wednesday night. This involved a process of guided discussion to understand the strengths of the various communities and the challenges that we face now and into the future. A report has been brought to the Board and the Bishop, who have noted this in their determinations for appointment of the next Pastor.

**PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL**  
Our priests have dedicated their lives to serving our communities with faith and compassion. In retirement, they continue to live simply and prayerfully, supported by the Priests’ Retirement Foundation. Your tax-deductible gift helps provide essential care, accommodation, healthcare, and daily support, ensuring they are looked after with dignity. Every donation makes a difference. Please consider giving today: [www.twb.catholic.org.au/donate](http://www.twb.catholic.org.au/donate) There will also be a special collection taken up after Holy Communion.

**DIOCESAN SOLEMNITY** This Monday marks the diocesan feast day: Our Lady of the Southern Cross. Bishop Ken Howell will be celebrating Mass at 10am in St Patrick’s Cathedral to mark the occasion. All are warmly welcome to attend. Mass is also offered here in the parish at 5:30.