



# Mary Immaculate Church, Waverley

PARISH OF ST CHARLES BORROMEO - CHURCH OF MARY IMMACULATE

## MISSION STATEMENT

Waverley Parish is a sign of God's love for all people. We welcome and care for all as a community which embraces the Gospel of Jesus in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We walk on a land once occupied by the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. May we continue to love and respect the land as they have.

## MASS TIMES

**Monday - Friday:** 9:15am

**Saturday:** 9:15am followed by Reconciliation & 5:00pm Vigil.

**Sunday:** 9:15am & 5:00pm.

**Baptism:** 3rd & 4th Sundays of each month at 10:30am. Bookings essential.

## STAY CONNECTED

Follow our social media platforms to keep up to date with the latest news in the Parish.



## PARISH CENTRE

**Address:** 45a Victoria St, Waverley NSW 2024

**Postal:** PO Box 577, Waverley NSW 2024

**Ph:** (02) 9369 9399

**Email:** [office@waverleycatholic.org.au](mailto:office@waverleycatholic.org.au)

**Website:** [www.waverleycatholic.org.au](http://www.waverleycatholic.org.au)

### Parish Priest:

**Fr Bernie Thomas OFM - (02) 9369 9328**  
[parishpriest@waverleycatholic.org.au](mailto:parishpriest@waverleycatholic.org.au)

### Parish Secretary:

**Mrs Carla Korkor - (02) 9369 9399**

[office@waverleycatholic.org.au](mailto:office@waverleycatholic.org.au)

**Monday - Friday (Mondays email only)**

### Pastoral Coordinator:

**Mr Barry Blake**

### Music Director:

**Mr Kurt Ison**

[music@waverleycatholic.org.au](mailto:music@waverleycatholic.org.au)



## 2nd Sunday of Lent

### REFLECTION: FREEDOM TO LET GO

I came across a sentence in a book I was reading recently which struck me very forcibly: 'all love relationships flourish only when there is freedom to let go of what is precious, so as to receive it back as a gift'. It is not easy to let go of what is precious. The more precious someone is to us, the harder it is to let go of that person. The more attractive someone is to us, the more we feel inclined to possess that person. Yet, in the effort to possess someone we can easily lose them. At the heart of all loving relationships is the freedom to let go of the other, and in letting go to receive the other back as a gift. Parents know that there comes a time when they have to let go of their sons or daughters, even though they are more precious to them than anything else. They may have to let them go to another country or to the person whom they have chosen as their future spouse. Yet, in letting go of their children, parents invariably discover that they receive them back as a gift. Single people too have to learn the freedom of letting go what is precious so as to receive it back as a gift. In any good and healthy friendship, people need to give each other plenty of space.

In today's reading Abraham is portrayed as being willing to let go of what was most precious to him, the only son of his old age. In being willing to let his son go to God, he went on to receive him back as a gift. Many people find it a very disturbing story, because it portrays God as asking Abraham to sacrifice his only beloved son as a burnt offering to God. We are rightly shocked by the image of God asking a father to sacrifice his son in this way. Abraham lived about a thousand years before Christ. In the religious culture of that time it was not uncommon for people to sacrifice their children to various gods. The point of the story seems to be that the God of Israel is not like the pagan gods. If Abraham thought that God was asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac like the people who worshipped other gods, he was wrong. God was not asking this of Abraham. Yet, the willingness of Abraham to let go of what was most precious to him if that was what God was asking remained an inspiration to the people of Israel. He had already shown a willingness to let go of his family and his homeland as he set out towards an unknown land in response to God's call.

The early church came to understand the relationship between Abraham and Isaac as pointing ahead to the relationship between God the Father and Jesus. Like Abraham, God was prepared to let go of what was most precious to him, his one and only Son, out of love for humanity. God was prepared to let his Son go to humanity, with all the dangers that entailed for his Son. Saint Paul was very struck by this extraordinary generosity of God on our behalf, as he says in the 2nd Reading, 'God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all'. God let his precious Son go to humanity even though the consequences of that were the rejection of his Son and, ultimately, his crucifixion. Even after Jesus was crucified, God continued to give him to us as risen Lord. When Paul contemplates this self-emptying love of God for us, he asks aloud, in the opening line of that 2nd Reading, 'With God on our side who can be against us?' Paul is declaring that if God's love for us is this complete, then we have nothing to fear from anyone. Here is a love that has no trace of possessiveness, a love that makes us lovable.

Continued - >

**APOSTLES' CREED**

We believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
 Creator of heaven and earth;  
 and in Jesus Christ,  
 His only Son, our Lord:  
 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the Virgin Mary;  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died and was buried.  
 He descended into hell;  
 on the third day  
 He rose again from the dead;  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand  
 of God the Father Almighty;  
 from there He will come to judge  
 the living and the dead.  
 We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church,  
 the communion of Saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and life everlasting.

*Amen.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

**CWBII 120**

Forgive our sins as we forgive

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

**CWBII 289**

From ashes to the Living Font

**THANKSGIVING HYMN**

**CWBII 301**

The glory of these forty days

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**WEEKDAY READINGS**

**26 Feb** Daniel 9:4-10 Luke 6:36-38

**27 Feb** Isa 1:10, 16-20 Matt 23:1-12

**28 Feb** Jere 18:18-20 Matt 20:17-28

**29 Feb** Jere 17:5-10 Luke 16:19-31

**1 Mar** Gen 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28  
 Matt 21:33-43, 45-46

**2 Mar** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20  
 Ps 102:1-4, 9-12  
 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
 It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
 hide not your face from me.

**FIRST READING: GENESIS 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18**

God tested Abraham. God said to him,  
 "Abraham!" And Abraham said, "Here I am."  
 God said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac,  
 whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah,  
 and offer him there as a burnt offering on one  
 of the mountains that I shall show you."  
 When Abraham and Isaac came to the place  
 that God had shown him, Abraham built an  
 altar there and laid the wood in order. He  
 bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar,  
 on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached  
 out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.  
 But the angel of the Lord called to Abraham  
 from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"  
 And he replied, "Here I am."  
 The angel said, "Do not lay your hand on the  
 boy or do anything to him; for now I know  
 that you fear God, since you have not  
 withheld your son, your only son, from me."  
 Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in  
 a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and  
 took the ram and offered it up as a burnt  
 offering instead of his son.  
 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a  
 second time from heaven, and said, "By  
 myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because  
 you have done this, and have not withheld  
 your son, your only son, I will indeed bless  
 you, and I will make your offspring as  
 numerous as the stars of heaven and as the  
 sand that is on the seashore. And your  
 offspring shall possess the gate of their  
 enemies, and by your offspring shall all the  
 nations of the earth gain blessing for  
 themselves, because you have obeyed my  
 voice."

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 115:10, 15-19**

I trusted, even when I said:  
 I am sorely afflicted,  
 O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
 is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
 you have loosened my bonds.  
 A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;

Continued...

I will call on the name of the Lord,

My vows to the Lord I will fulfill  
 before all his people,  
 in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
 in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**9.15AM SUNDAY:**

*I will walk in the presence of the Lord,  
 in the land of the living.*

**SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:31-34**

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did  
 not withhold his own Son, but gave him up  
 for all of us, will he not with him also give us  
 everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's  
 elect? Is it God who justifies? Who is to  
 condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, and  
 indeed, who was raised, who is at the right  
 hand of God, who intercedes for us?

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: LUKE 9:35**

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is  
 heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
 Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**GOSPEL: MARK 9:2-10**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and  
 John, and led them up a high mountain apart,  
 by themselves. And he was transfigured  
 before them, and his clothes became dazzling  
 white, such as no one on earth could bleach  
 them. And there appeared to them Elijah and  
 Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then  
 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to  
 be here; let us make three tents, one for you,  
 one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did  
 not know what to say, for they were terrified.  
 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from  
 the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son,  
 the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when  
 they looked around, they saw no one with  
 them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain,  
 Jesus ordered them to tell  
 no one about what they  
 had seen, until after the  
 Son of Man had risen from  
 the dead. So they kept the  
 matter to themselves,  
 questioning what this rising  
 from the dead could mean.

**REFLECTION CONTINUED...**

In today's gospel reading, Peter, James and John are taken up a high mountain by Jesus, and there they have an experience of Jesus which took their breath away. It was an experience that was so precious that Peter could not let it go. He wanted to prolong it indefinitely and so he says to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is wonderful for us to be here, so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He and the other two disciples had a fleeting glimpse of the heavenly beauty of Christ, and did not want to let go of it. Beauty always attracts; it calls out to us. Yet, Peter and the others had to let go of this precious experience; it was only ever intended to be momentary. They would receive it back in the next life as a gift. For now, their task was to listen to Jesus, 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him'. That is our task too. We spend our lives listening to the Lord as he speaks to us in his word and in and through the circumstances of our lives; we listen to him as a preparation for that wonderful moment when we see him face to face in eternity and we can finally say, 'it is wonderful to be here'.

### WISH TO DONATE, NO CASH?

If you wish to donate for candles or 1st & 2nd Collections, you can do so with our Smart Terminals available in the church. The terminal at St Anthony's for Candles only, and the other on the back table near the glass dividers for Collections only. These terminals are NOT for Planned Giving. If you wish to donate online, we are also pleased to offer this option by visiting our donation page. Scan this QR code to view options.

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### MAILING LIST

Do you wish to receive this bulletin via email each week? Any updates from Fr Bernie or events in the Parish will also be announced via our Friday Parish News email. Scan this QR code or visit:



### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

The Christian Meditation Group meet in the Parish Centre at 5.30pm on every Monday except Public Holidays. All welcome. For more info, please call Trisha on 0405 516 972.

### DEVOTIONAL SHOP OPEN

The Devotional Shop is open after the Saturday vigil and Sunday 9:15am Mass. Franciscan Calendars are now available \$10 each and God's Word 2024 at \$24 each. All Sacramental gifts, cards and candles are available too.

Don't miss out!



### MOTHER'S PRAYER GROUP

The St. Charles' Mothers' Prayer Group meet in Mary's Chapel during school term on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. You are warmly invited to spend time in prayer and reflection with us. Contact Laura via email:

[laura@habitatmedia.com.au](mailto:laura@habitatmedia.com.au)

### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**President:** We are called in this Lenten season to a renewed effort in prayer, to fasting, and to engage in works of charity and selfless giving. We are also called together today to be formed as God's People, to be one Body in Christ and as one people, to celebrate this time of prayer.

We pray for the Church that the glory of God be seen in the world through our works and words. In your mercy Lord **hear our prayer**

We pray for the leaders of our local Church in Australia that the strength of the Holy Spirit, and the compassion of Jesus be evident in their lives. In your mercy Lord **hear our prayer**

We pray for the leaders of nations in our troubled world. Send your Spirit upon them so that they may be open to the wisdom of living a life based on love. In your mercy Lord **hear our prayer**

We pray for all those who suffer war and persecution. Give them the strength and courage to find a way to come to a better life and inspire those of us who live in safety and peace to be generous to them. In your mercy Lord **hear our prayer**

We pray for those who work in the area of health and medicine. May they be inspired to help all those in their care with a sense of generosity and patience. In your mercy Lord **hear our prayer**

We pray for all of us gathered here, that we may truly listen to the words of Jesus as the Father announced during the Transfiguration. May we see his glory and his suffering and keep living the life of the Gospel so that we too are transformed. In your mercy Lord **hear our prayer**

**Father, as you transfigured your Son in glory, transfigure us and our world as we wait in faith and hope for our prayer to be heard, through the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen**

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Those who are sick:** Michael Connery, Ella Connery, Ken Smith, Annette Connelly, Pamela Cooper, Sabrina Kafka Girard, Kevin Brookes, Peter Timmins & Tania Gerzina (Murray)

**Those with anniversaries at this time:** Dziedzic Family (23/2), John Chong (25/2), Christine Harrison (28/2), John Harrison & Luis Trindade (2/3), Anthony Chin (3/3), Bridie Clarke (6/3), Rose Chin (7/3), Alice Aston & Lisa Rivera (8/3)

### NEWS & NOTICES

#### PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new series of Planned Giving envelopes starts next Sunday, 3 March 2024. Please collect your next series of envelopes from this weekend at the back of the Church to save on postage. Thank you for your support!

#### FAMILY LENTEN CALENDAR

Don't forget to download or take home our Family Lenten Activity Calendar for the kids to complete. Download [HERE](#) or grab your copy at church!

#### YEAR 3 FIRST EUCHARIST - NEW DATES

**Parent Information Evening:** 24 July @ 6.30pm at Waverley Parish Centre. **Commitment Mass:** 27 July @ 5pm at Mary Immaculate Church. **First Eucharist Training:** 30 August @ 2.15am – 3.15pm at Mary Immaculate Church. **Sacrament of First Eucharist:** 31 August @ 5pm (photos 4:20pm)

#### STAFF ON LEAVE

Fr Bernie will be away until Fri 1 Mar. The Parish Secretary will be away Fri 23 Feb returning, Wed 28 Feb. Emails will be checked.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - To avoid last minute organising we are seeking interested people for the following ministries for our weekend Masses: **Offertory procession** to bring forward the gifts at Masses on Sunday as per the new "way" of presenting the gifts. **PowerPoint operators** to learn how to set up and use the PowerPoint – this will require arriving at Mass 10-15 minutes early to help with the set up especially if Fr Bernie is away. Please contact Carla which Mass time you would prefer. Sunday 5pm needs help most :)

## LOCAL AFFILIATED SCHOOLS

### St Charles' Primary School

53-63 Carrington Road, Waverley 2024

P (02) 9387 3845

W <https://stcwaverley.catholic.edu.au>

School Principal: Mr Michael Manton

REC: Mrs Jessica Keeley

Family Educator: Mrs Caroline Doherty

### St Clare's College, Waverley

41-51 Carrington Road, Waverley 2024

P (02) 8305 7100

W <https://stclares.nsw.edu.au/>

School Principal: Mrs Ann Freeman

REC: Mr Mark McCoy

### Waverley College, Senior Campus

131 Birrell Street, Waverley 2024

P (02) 9369 0600

W <https://waverley.nsw.edu.au/>

Principal: Mr Graham Leddie

Dir of Identity & Student Formation:

Ms Suzanne Walsh

### Waverley College, Junior Campus

44 Henrietta Street, Waverley 2024

P (02) 9387 5022

W <https://waverley.nsw.edu.au/2>

Director of Junior School (Acting):

Ms Gabrielle Bransby

Asst Dir of Identity & Student formation:

Mr Stephen Ghattas

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Waverley Parish, as part of the Archdiocese of Sydney, is wholly committed to ensuring the safety, well being and dignity of all children, and acknowledges its important legal, moral and spiritual responsibility to create a safe and nurturing environment for those children. Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, contact Safeguarding Office on 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org).

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**Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP**  
MEMBER FOR COOGEE



If you need help with any local issue,  
please get in touch with my office  
using the details below!

P: (02) 9398 1822  
E: [coogee@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:coogee@parliament.nsw.gov.au)  
W: [marjorieoneill.com.au](http://marjorieoneill.com.au)

**Sieberi Escape**



Sieberi Escape is a comfortable  
holiday home in Katoomba  
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<https://bluemountainsescapes.com.au/listings/sieberi-escape/>

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**ADVERTISE WITH US** - Our weekly bulletin is viewed by many inside and out of the Parish. For a small monthly donation, you support the printing costs of this bulletin. Please contact us on (02) 9369 9399.

## AFFILIATED SCHOOLS OPEN DAYS

### ST CHARLES' PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Wed 6 Mar, 9:15 – 10:45am; Sat 9 Mar, 2 – 4pm; Wed 27 Mar, 9:15 – 10:45am**

Register: <https://stcwaverley.syd.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/visit-our-school>

### ST CLARE'S COLLEGE - Tuesday, 5 March 2:00pm – 6:00pm

Ph: (02) 8305 7100 E: [info@stclares.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stclares.catholic.edu.au)

### WAVERLEY COLLEGE - Wednesday, 6 March 10am Junior & 11:20am Senior

Ph: 9387 5022 E: [juniorschool@waverley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:juniorschool@waverley.nsw.edu.au)

Ph: 9369 0600 E: [wavcoll@waverley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:wavcoll@waverley.nsw.edu.au)

Register: [waverley.nsw.edu.au/events/opendays/](http://waverley.nsw.edu.au/events/opendays/)



## ROSTER

24– 25 FEBRUARY 2024	SAT 5PM VIGIL	SUN 9.15AM	SUN 5PM
ALTAR SERVING	Barry Blake	Marchellas Tjipto	Sofia Baricevic & Matthew Woolaston
PROCLAIMER OF WORD	Margaret Blake	Des Durkin & Anne Fahy	Brigid Zengeni
EUCARIST MINISTER	Susana Hansen & Vincent Conroy	Jackie Durkin, Gisella Musumeci, Francine Darvill & Genevieve Roberts	Kathy Reilly & Teresa Vigroux
HOSPITALITY	Ruth Lucas	Jackie Durkin	Kathy Reilly
OFFERTORY		Eloise Linfoot	Valentine & Timeo Vigroux
POWERPOINT OPS	Toni Dickson	Lidia Linfoot	Dominic Hearne
CHILDREN'S LITURGY	-	Miriam Wairau & Nick Jeha	-