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Bargo – Balmoral – Buxton – Couridjah –  
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Picton – Pheasants Nest – Tahmoor –  
Thirlmere – Wilton – Yanderra

**Parish Priest: Fr Peter Tien**  
**Married Deacon: Rodney Mackrill, jnr**



*Parish Bulletin* THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH YEAR B 30/31 December 2023

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**  
The Shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**FIRST READING:** Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3  
A reading from the book of Genesis  
*Your own son will be your heir*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**  
The Lord remembers his covenant forever.

**SECOND READING:** Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19  
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews  
*The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;  
now he speaks to us through his Son.  
Alleluia

**GOSPEL:** Luke 2:22-40  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**  
Our God has appeared on the earth,  
and lived among us.

**Next week's readings:**  
**The Epiphany of the Lord—Year B**  
Is 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12

**ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH—TAHMOOR**

**Saturday Vigil—6.00 pm**  
**Sunday—8.30am**

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**  
**Monday— 8.30am—Tahmoor**  
**MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD**  
(New Years Day)

Tuesday - NO ADORATION OR MASS  
Wednesday - NO MASS  
Thursday - 8.30 am — Tahmoor  
Friday— 8.30 am— Tahmoor

*Arabic Mass 6pm, every 2nd Friday—  
January dates: 5th and 19th*

**Reconciliation (Confession)**  
Saturday 5.00—5.30pm

**Baptism and Marriage**  
Please contact the parish office.

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Tuesday & Thursday 9am—3pm  
Wednesday 9am—1pm  
**Parish Phone** 4683 2230  
**Fr Peter** 0406 001 540  
20 Stratford Road, Tahmoor 2573  
**Email:** picton@dow.org.au  
**Website:** www.stanthonyspicton.org.au

**REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate**

*The Liberation of Women*

In today's Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was 'purified'. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy.

No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence.

This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God's plan for humankind by birthing us into the world.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church changes rules and structures which confine women in cages built from ideologies foreign to the Gospel, lest those rules become swords which pierce Mary's soul.

## PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED:

*Lord grant them eternal peace & joy and to their families and friends strength and comfort*

## ANNIVERSARY:

### RECENTLY DECEASED :

**PRAY FOR THE SICK** Archie McGregor, Eva Bastac, Debbie James, Jean Le Roux, Marie Darlington, Christine Jupe, Graeme Menser, Ross Spirou, Mauro Mariano, Melony Cox, Joanne McMahon, Daniel Clarke, James McNeil, Stephanie Macnamara, Elizabeth Linsell

### ACOLYTES THIS WEEK NEXT WEEK

VIGIL J O H N R Y A N  
8.30AM STAN CICHOCKI ADRIAN VANNAN

### READERS

VIGIL: SANDRA RYAN TRISH LINDNER

8.30AM TERESA CICHOCKI JOHN BUTLER

**CLEANERS:** COLIN DUNN HELEN WILLIS  
LISA BRUFFER

**FLOWERS:** SUE SPITERI JO McELGUNN

**SACRISTY:** M A R Y G I L B E R T

### MORNING TEA:

NICOLE NEWTON MARG & JENNY

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE PARISH

Your financial support of St Anthony's Parish is always appreciated and much needed.

Direct debits can be set up to deposit into the parish account:

### **Bank details**

Account name—St. Anthony's Parish

BSB—066-711

Account number—001783

Reference—Name/collections

To set up a direct debit using your credit card please contact the office.

### **EFTPOS—Tap and Go**

We now have Tap and Go at the back of the church.

### **Cash/Envelopes**

If you wish to use envelopes, please contact the office on 46832230 or picton@dow.org.au Place your envelopes on either the first or second collection plate.

## OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed this Tuesday 2 January 2024

## 2024 ROSTERS FOR READERS & CLEANERS

New rosters have been prepared for 2024.

If you are on the parish email list, the relevant roster will be emailed to you, if not, a copy will be available for you to collect from the church kitchen.

Thank you for your commitment to the parish, your time and talent is greatly appreciated.

## PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Parish is in need of a qualified **Electrician** to undertake periodic inspections of Church property. Also we are in need of someone with the experience to help build/create a new **parish website**.

If you would like to volunteer some time for these valuable activities, please contact the church office.

## COME & SEE, GO & MAKE - a vision for Parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong by Bishop Brian Mascord

The beating heart of the parish is the person of Jesus, made present in Word, Sacrament, and the living community of believers. This heart beats with the words "come and see", and "go and make". Come and see! Encounter the person of Jesus, be transformed and renewed, and become disciples. Go and make! Share the joyous Good News with a world that does not know, or has forgotten Christ—our Lord Jesus is King, not by violence, force, or coercion, but by an invitation of love, mercy and grace! The following are available from the foyer of the church.

- *Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes*—the vision I have developed which I now invite you to prayerfully read.
- *Principles and Foundations*—a short explanation of key principles described in the vision document.
- *Go Deeper*—a short compendium of additional reading on key concepts discussed in the vision.

In addition to the previous books, available from this weekend is *Come & See, Go & Make Worksheet Activities* books. This book is a collection of reflection questions which are designed to enable you to prayerfully move through *Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes* in a slow, methodical way.

## POSITIONS VACANT—DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG CCD Administration and Support Officer

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for This position. Appropriate skills and a passion for the work of SRE Catechists in State schools is essential.

Applications close on Wednesday, 10 January 2024.

For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: <https://dow/sh/ccdadminpv>

For enquiries contact [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

### Diocesan Youth Ministry Leader

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Youth Ministry Leader in the Diocese of Wollongong.

Applications close on Friday, 12 January 2024.

For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: [dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/enquiries](https://dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/enquiries) contact Helen Bennett as above.

## EXCITING NEWS! - "IT'S WHO WE ARE" VIDEO

Our newest "It's Who We Are" video has been launched. Narrated by our beloved Bishop Brian, this uplifting sub-three-minute clip illuminates the remarkable people and everyday works within our diocese.

It celebrates all that is "Good News" in our diocese and features many of our Clergy, Seminarians, Parishes, Schools, CatholicCare programs and more!

To view, please visit our website:

<https://www.dow.org.au/about-us/>

and/or our FB page <https://fb.watch/oOktvOG8-6>

Many thanks to all who participated in its production, and to those parishes who have already liked it and shared it on their Facebook page, played it at their Masses, or have included it on their website.

## SUMMER BIBLE CAMP-19-20 January 2024

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Varroville, through the Children's Ministry Team, will conduct a Summer Bible Camp. It is an overnight event for children ages 8 to 14. This is an opportunity to grow in the knowledge of God, to deepen their love of Him and to serve Jesus through others, by Learning the Bible in their own way. Through fun activities, they will also learn values in life and skills they need as they grow up in the society, witnessing the Christian way of living. Come along and join with us. Parents, please encourage and support your children to join this BIBLE CAMP. Last day of Registration will be on 31 December 2023. Fee by donation.

For more information, please contact Sr Jill through email:

[asolmcp parish@gmail.com](mailto:asolmcp parish@gmail.com)

## CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION (CPE)

### 400 Hour Foundational Unit

Are you interested in:

- Growing in knowledge, understanding, and developing skills that will enable you to offer effective pastoral and spiritual care.

• Deepening your awareness of God's presence in your life and of people's needs, hopes, and concerns during times of illness.

• Becoming more aware of your own values, attitudes, and assumptions.

CPE Foundational Unit will be offered at Carrington Aged Care with face to face sessions conducted one day a week, Thursday from 8 February to 27 June 2024.

Please contact Carmen Karauda at [ckarauda@gmail.com](mailto:ckarauda@gmail.com) or phone 0419 430 676 for more information and/or application form. Applications close 25 January 2024

## A VOCATION VIEW

Mary was called to be open to the extraordinary. What do you need to say "let it be" in response to God's call to you? Trust that the Lord is with you and will guide you always. (Luke 1:26-38)

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan Vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

**PILGRIMAGE OF MERCY 11 – 21 JUNE 2024** Father Christopher Sarkis, Parish Priest of Rosemeadow, will be the Chaplain accompanying Harvest Journeys Eastern Europe Pilgrimage of Mercy in June 2024, visiting Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. It includes the Shrines of Divine Mercy, the Black Madonna of Czestochowa and the Infant of Prague. It visits places of importance to St John Paul II, St. Faustina and St. Maximilian Kolbe, among others.

**Optional Extension:** There is also an optional 6 night/7-day extension (21 – 27 June) to Bavaria and Austria. It will include the Marian Shrine of Altotting, as well as Markt in Bavaria; Salzburg of the Sound of Music fame and the hometown of Mozart; and the historic, cultural, and artistic city of Vienna in Austria. We will also visit various other shrines and attractions along with some spectacular churches and monasteries. Enquiries: 4628 1385 or directly at: [harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimage-of-mercy](https://harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimage-of-mercy)

O Holy Family, bless and protect all the families of the world; safeguard their unity, fidelity, integrity and dignity. Enable them to live according to God's law that they may fulfill their sublime vocation. May their lives be a reflection of yours and may they enjoy your presence forever in heaven. Amen.

