

## “Love One Another”: Living Christ’s Commandment in Our Catholic Families

*"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

— John 13:34-35

These words from Jesus are a timeless call to action, especially for our Catholic families today. Amidst the challenges of modern life—busy schedules, digital distractions, and a growing culture of individualism—our homes are still called to be places where Christ’s love is made visible. Our Catholic families, with their rich diversity and deep sense of community, have a vital role to play in witnessing this love in everyday life.

### LIVING LOVE AT HOME

For love to flourish in the wider world, it must first be nurtured at home. The family is the “domestic Church,” where faith and love are first experienced and expressed.

#### 1. Everyday Acts of Care and Respect

Love is shown in simple, practical ways—sharing time together around the dinner table, helping each other with daily tasks, supporting one another through struggles, and showing respect in our words and actions. Whether in a bustling household or a quiet home, these acts make love real and tangible.

#### 2. Building a Prayerful Home

In a secular society, prayer can easily be sidelined. But our Catholic families can strengthen their bond by creating space for prayer—whether it’s a quiet moment in the morning, praying the Rosary together, or offering intentions at Sunday Mass. Prayer brings God into the centre of the family and teaches children that faith is a daily relationship, not just a Sunday obligation.

#### 3. Valuing the Sacraments

The sacraments—especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation—are gifts that renew love within families. Attending Mass together not only connects our families to the wider parish community but also deepens our shared faith. Participating in Reconciliation as a family helps foster a culture of forgiveness, humility, and grace.

#### 4. Serving Each Other With Joy

In a culture that values fairness and mateship, our Catholic families can go further by modelling Christ’s selfless love. Serving one another with generosity—doing chores without complaint, caring for ageing parents, or simply being available to each other—is a powerful way to live the Gospel at home.



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### BEING WITNESSES IN THE COMMUNITY

The love experienced at home should not stop there. Our families can be a quiet yet strong witness in our neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces, and wider community.

#### 1. Embracing Hospitality

We are called to be welcoming. Our families can do this by creating spaces of warmth—inviting neighbours, fellow parishioners, or newcomers into our homes and lives. Simple acts of hospitality reflect the love of God.

#### 2. Living Faith Proudly

In today’s society, it can be countercultural to live openly as Catholics. But when our families attend Mass regularly, celebrate feast days, and uphold Christian values with consistency and joy, they stand out—not by being preachy, but by being faithful.

#### 3. Serving Together

Whether it’s volunteering at Vinnies, joining a parish outreach, or supporting environmental initiatives in line with Laudato Si’, our families can live out love through service. Doing so together strengthens family bonds and shows the world a faith that acts.

#### 4. Practicing Forgiveness

Every family faces tensions, but it’s how we respond that shows our Christian identity. Choosing forgiveness, saying sorry, and starting again—even when it’s hard—is one of the clearest ways to mirror Christ’s love.

### CONCLUSION

Jesus’ command to “love one another” is not limited by time or place—it is for every family, in every street, suburb, and town. When our Catholic families love generously, serve humbly, and pray faithfully, we become true disciples of Christ. In doing so, we offer the wider world a glimpse of a better way—rooted in faith, built on love, and open to all.

**Let us renew our commitment to make our homes places of Christ-like love—so that others may see and believe.**

Fr Sebastian

# Faith B4U...

## Farewell and Thank You Fr Jack

**11.30am next Sunday 25th May.**

By now most people have heard that Fr Jack has received a new appointment and will be moving to Springwood straight after his current annual leave. *(If you were away when details of this were shared, you can go to [www.olqp.org.au](http://www.olqp.org.au) and see the parish bulletin from 27th April).* We will fire up the BBQ and have other eats and drinks ready to enjoy with Fr Jack next Sunday morning. ALL WELCOME

## FAITH of ORIGIN

**Join us in Camilleri Hall to celebrate faith, community and where that began for you!**

**11.45am in the hall on Pentecost Sunday - 8 June.**

Bring a plate of food from your culture of origin to share with others - (finger food preferred)

Write your name on the sheets in the foyer if you will be attending to help us with numbers.

At 2pm you are invited to move to the Church for Prayer and Praise led by the Emmaus Prayer Community. Everybody welcome!

## Prayer and Praise

**Sunday 8 June 2025 - 2pm to 4:30pm**

Pentecost Celebration at OLQP Church. Prayer & Praise, Testimonies, Talk and Prayer Ministry. "HOPE - Opening our hearts & minds to the presence of the Holy Spirit in Times of Change."

Enquiries **Desiree 0478 765 772**

## Walking with Mary

As we journey through May, a month traditionally devoted to Mary, you are invited to a time of reflection. Let us walk with Mary, our parish patroness, Our Lady Queen of Peace, as we are guided by Sr Anne Suma Lata smsm.

**There are two opportunities to come together: Tuesday 20 May, 10am in the St George Preca Centre OR 7pm, in OLQP Church RSVP to the Parish Office on 9631 8135 or [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)**

## Let us pray...

**FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.**

Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Solonge Faddoul, Margaret John, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Brendon Onorato, Delma Ryan, Benjie Santiago, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb

**FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.**

Ronald Ellis, Isabel Nahlous, Gianna Nahlous, Tarcisja Teuma

**FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope.** *Funeral dates listed below when known. Funeral notices are displayed on the notice board in the church foyer. Every attempt is made to stay current, but it is best not to make that your only or final source of personal information.*

Antonio Nardo - 20 May @ 10.30am, Carmen Theuma

## Be part of our new Care Ministry!

OLQP is excited to share the formation of a new **Care Ministry**, dedicated to providing practical and compassionate accompaniment and support, with a focus on the elderly in our community. This could include offering:

- Friendly calls or visits
- Support during illness or recovery
- Being a listening ear
- Sharing information about resources

There are many ways to be involved - even through prayer support. We are growing our team and invite those interested to attend introductory gatherings offered by the Diocese of Parramatta during the Wednesdays in June. We will follow up these sessions with more preparation for this ministry as a parish group.

To find out more or to register for the sessions, please contact Lisa Bright at the parish office on 9631 8135 or [lisa.bright@olqp.org.au](mailto:lisa.bright@olqp.org.au).

## Ministry of Care - Facilitated by the Office for Worship

Those who visit the sick and are involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and in Homes are invited to attend this course on the Ministry of Care. The course will take place every Wednesday from 4 to 25 June at 7pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown.

Session dates

**4 June – Pastoral Care and Safeguarding**

**11 June – Jesus our Model of Ministry**

**18 June – Skills in Pastoral Care**

**25 June – A Holistic Approach to Pastoral Care**

Attend all 4 sessions to receive a certificate of completion or just attend the session(s) that interest you.

Please contact the parish office to register your name and the dates you would like to attend.



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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

## MASS CHANGES THIS WEEK

**PRIESTS** conferencing away with the **BISHOP**.

**6.30am on Wednesday plus 6.30am & 9.15am on Friday, will be a COMMUNION SERVICE led by Sr Anne.**

Bishop Vincent has requested all the active priests of the diocese to attend a residential conference out of Sydney from Tuesday afternoon to Friday of this week. This has not occurred for almost ten years and is a critical time to work on pastoral priorities with the bishop. We thought all of our Mass times would need to be communion services BUT we received late notice that a retired priest will come to OLQP for the 9.15am Mass Wednesday and Thursday. There will be visitors from other surrounding parishes where there is no Mass on those days, so kindly do be particular to make them very welcome. *(6.30am on Wednesday and 6.30am & 9.15am on Friday will proceed as a Communion Service, led by and with thanks to Sr Anne and the adult servers)*

## LAUDATO SI Parish Nature Walk

We invite you to join members of the Social Justice Group on a Nature Walk celebrating ten years of the Papal Encyclical, Laudato Si. We will be meeting at Central Gardens (Merrylands Road entrance) at 10.30am on Sunday 25th May. Come along and experience the smells of God's Creation.

## Position Vacant - Sacramental program & Special Religious Education Coordinator

St Anthony of Padua Parish Toongabbie is looking for a Sacramental program and Special Religious Education Coordinator. This is a permanent part-time position with 15 hours per week. Please forward applications and resumes to the Parish Secretary [secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au](mailto:secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au) by 9th June 2025.

For more information you may contact 96313316

## Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal - next weekend

**Will you help our seminarians to be 'Pilgrims and Sowers of Hope' for God's people?**

With your prayers and generosity, they can continue to grow in faith and formation, as they prepare to become priests who will sow hope, faith and love in the hearts of God's people. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal next weekend or visit at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) to donate online. Thank you.

## FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

24<sup>th</sup> Saturday **OUR LADY, HELP of CHRISTIANS**

## Save the Date - Men's Group

**Saturday 14 June at 8am**

In the St George Preca Centre

Share faith and friendship. All men 18 years to senior welcome

For more information contact **Nicky on 0403 124 345**

### This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Acts

14:21-27

2nd Reading

Revelation

21:1-5

Gospel

John

13:31-35

### Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Acts

15:1-2, 22-29

2nd Reading

Revelation

21:10-14, 22-23

Gospel

John

14:23-29

## Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

**Memorial Mass** - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

**Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick** - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

### Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, [olqp.org.au](http://olqp.org.au), every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

**Rosary in the church:** Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 7:30pm

*ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.*

*Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary*

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