

BULLETIN NOTICES

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| From: | Mr Jude Hennessy | Ref: | JH/hb:2022/17 |
| Phone: | 4222 2403 | Email: | helen.bennett@dow.org.au |
| Date: | 3 May 2022 | For weekend: | 7–8 May 2022 |

RSVP details are essential for adequate catering, seating, handouts etc. We ask that details are kept in notices where included.

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| URGENT | <p>Urgent Euthanasia Petition (Paper Version for Signing)</p> <p>Please urgently consider signing the petition opposing Euthanasia in NSW that is available for signing near the entrances to the Church.</p> <p>For more information contact Dominica Connor, Right to Life NSW on P: 02 9299 8350 or via www.righttolifensw.org.au</p> | |
| NEW (Shorter Version) | <p>Discovering God’s Plan for our Lives: Vocations Event</p> <p>You are invited to join with vibrant people from around the Diocese including an expert panel, addressing all 4 Vocations, with the opportunity for Q and A. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn how to hear, discern and respond to God’s call in our lives. There will be more details in coming weeks but to book your spot, follow the links below!</p> <p>DATE: Sunday 19 June TIME: Light refreshments 1:30pm for 2pm start PLACE: Xavier Centre, next to St Francis Xavier’s Cathedral, Wollongong, RSVP: www.dow.org.au/events</p> | |

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| <p>NEW – (LONGER PREFERRED VERSION)</p> | <p>Discovering God’s Plan for our Lives: Vocations Event</p> <p>This Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, is known as “Good Shepherd Sunday”, with a focus on Vocations. In our Diocese we are keenly aware of the need for more priests to serve our people now and into the future. However, the Bishop and Vocations Team want us all to go deeper than just “getting more priests” and rather to work together throughout our Diocese to create a “culture of vocation” (to borrow a phrase from St John Paul II). This will be a collaborative effort in our parishes, schools, and families, to ensure that every young Catholic will be actively seeking to discern how they are called to serve Christ and his people - whether in Marriage, Ordained Ministry, Religious Life or Single Life. The stronger this culture of vocation, the more we will find ourselves blessed with faithful priests and religious, inspiring marriages and generous single Catholics.</p> <p>With this in mind, this Good Shepherd Sunday we are pleased to announce a Vocations Event with a panel addressing all 4 Vocations and an opportunity for Q and A. This will be a wonderful opportunity especially for young people to come together and learn how to hear and respond to God’s call. There will be more details to follow but for now please invite anyone you think may be interested, and if you're interested RSVP as soon as possible!</p> <p>DATE: Sunday 19th June TIME: Light refreshments 1:30pm for 2pm start PLACE: Xavier Centre, next to St Francis Xavier’s Cathedral, Wollongong, RSVP: www.dow.org.au/events</p> <p>We also give thanks for the Ordination to the Diaconate of James Arblaster last weekend, a truly joyful occasion for him and for our Diocese. Please continue to pray for him and for the 4 seminarians continuing their vocational journey with our Diocese – posters and prayer cards from the Diocese will help you to get to know their names and faces – and let’s pray for all young people discerning their vocation, and for our Diocese as we continue to work together to build a culture of vocation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Fr Duane Fernandez</i></p> | |
| <p>UPDATED</p> | <p>The XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops</p> <p>The Diocese has completed its XVI Synod Synthesis Report, with the advice gleaned from the discernment, discussion and writing of the faithful of the Diocese, used as the basis of Bishop Mascord’s submission in contributing to the XVI Ordinary Synod global church feedback.</p> <p>The Diocese of Wollongong Synthesis Report will be made publicly available in coming weeks. Please pray for this ongoing process of prayer and discernment for the XVI Ordinary Synod.</p> | |

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| Continuing | <p>Diocese of Wollongong menALIVE Weekend 14-15 May 2022</p> <p>Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 193 St Andrews Road, Varroville Calling all Catholic MEN. You are invited to Rediscover God’s Presence in, and Purpose, for your Life. Is your faith life all it could be? Are you dozing in the back pews?</p> <p>The menALIVE Men’s Weekend is an opportunity for all men from 18 years of age to explore what makes them feel fully alive.</p> <p>Led by experienced facilitators and speakers from the menALIVE team, the weekend is powerful and dynamic experience, during which Catholic men are inspired and encouraged with a new sense of purpose and mission.</p> <p>Register via brochure or online www.dow.org.au/events</p> <p>Enquiries: Helen Bennett (Diocesan Contact) 4222 2403; Paul Quirk (Parish Contact) 0412 216 589 or Peter Crowe (menALIVE Contact) 0407 913 696</p> | |
| Continuing | <p>Bishop Brian’s Flood Relief Appeal</p> <p>My prayers and thoughts are with you all as this “never ending rain” continues to cause so much damage and distress in our communities. <i>In a heartfelt video message to his flock in early March, Greg Homeming OCD, Bishop of Lismore, said it had been “a very tragic few days”. To those who had “lost everything” in these floods, Bishop Greg said that everyone across the diocese was suffering with them. “This has all happened at a time when we were hoping that 2022 would be a year of hope, a good year,” he said. As a diocese, I would like to provide practical support for the people of Lismore. I also want to provide pastoral and practical support for the people in our own diocese who have been and will continue to be impacted by these floods.</i></p> <p>I invite you to join me in prayer for these people, and to donate to my Flood Relief Appeal https://www.dow.org.au/giving/ , so that with your support, we can meet this goal. +BM</p> | |
| Continuing | <p>Charis CCR Monthly Mass 6 May 2022 7pm</p> <p>Sacred Heart Church, Stewart Street Wollongong Celebrant Fr Damian Mosakowski Prayer for healing following Mass.</p> | <p>Click to download flyer</p> |
| NEW | <p>Divine Retreat Centre (DRC) Somerby, NSW</p> <p>Refer to the May Flyer which includes all services conducted by DRC. In April, we were also very privileged to be designated a shrine for the veneration of St Faustina Kowalska following the installation of a first class relic of St Faustina.</p> <p>You are welcome to be a part of all the services conducted by DRC and visit the Centre for veneration of St Faustina’s first class relic.</p> | <p>Click to download DRC May Flyer</p> |

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| Continuing | <p>Do you want to help parishes move from maintenance to mission?</p> <p>Divine Renovation Ministry is hiring! We're currently seeking candidates for 3 Relationship Guide roles for Queensland, NSW, and Victoria. If you (or someone you know) feels called to serve the Church through ministry work by accompanying and offering support to priests and parishes on the renewal journey, we encourage you to check out the position and apply at www.divinerenovation.org/jobs.</p> <p>Please contact us at australasia@divinerenovation.org for more information.</p> | |
| Continuing | <p>May Retreats: St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sinews of the Heart 6 Days: 6-12 May \$930/ Weekend: 6-8 May \$310 (Presenter: Paul White) • Men's Weekend - Journeys Homewards: 13-15 May 2022 \$310 (Presenter: Paul White) • Living More Deeply in God - Praying with Ignatius of Loyola: 6 Days: 20-26 May \$930/ Weekend: 20-22 May \$310 (Presenters: Retreat Team) • Seeing with Fresh Eyes: Encountering the Risen Christ: 6 Days: 27 May - 2 June \$930/ Weekend: 27-29 May \$310 (Presenter: Elizabeth Lee) <p>Enquiries: contact@towersretreat.org.au Phone 02 46300233 https://www.towersretreat.org.au</p> | |
| Continuing | <p>Mary Help of Christians Walk for Australia/Walk for Life Friday 20 May 2022</p> <p>We walk to raise PRAYERS for Australia for all life issues, the day before the Federal Election. You are warmly welcome to join us in our tenth year, praying along the Kiama Coastal Walk to Gerringong (13km). B.Y.O Lunch, snacks, water, and hat. Support vehicle provided all the way, shuttle cars return pilgrims to Kiama.</p> <p>BENEFITS: Mass. Prayer. Hymns. Exercise. Spectacular scenery. Joyful fellowship. Blessings in abundance.</p> <p>START: 9:30am Kiama Catholic Church (Holy Mass) FINISH: 3:30pm Gerringong Catholic Church (Benediction, confession also available).</p> <p>For information contact Sue Hill: 0435 336 195 or Gabriella De Battista, (02) 4261 2500</p> | <p>Click to download Flyer</p> |

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| Continuing | <p>“Towards a better kind of politics” Australian bishops issue election statement</p> <p>The Australian Catholic bishops have called for a shakeup that focuses the country’s politics on the common good of all, including—and especially—those who struggle to participate in the community.</p> <p>Although no one political party fully embodies Catholic social teaching, the bishops are offering an election statement to encourage Catholics and people of good will to reflect on the good they can do for their community by using their vote for the good of all. The statement advocates for vulnerable people in the community, including those in need of aged care, First Nations peoples, asylum-seekers and refugees. It calls for a government committed to the common good that will deliver a medium to long-term plan for eradicating poverty in Australia. The bishops also say people who have a religious faith should be protected from discrimination, “including the ability to undertake activities and form religious bodies that can pursue their religious mission”.</p> <p>You can download the statement at: dow.sh/ElectionStatement</p> <p>A prayer for the election</p> <p>God of this land and of every people, who shape all things according to your own design and write your law in every human heart: we thank you for this country we call home, from the First Nations people to others born here and those you have gathered from across the earth.</p> <p>We pray for the citizens of our land in this troubled time, that we may be committed to justice, to the dignity of each human life, and to solidarity with all Australians and with the world.</p> <p>Guide all who seek election to serve the nation; may the Holy Spirit inspire them to pursue a better politics that is wise and courageous and governs for the good of all.</p> <p>May all of us see and hear you in the most vulnerable, that we may respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, that we may respond to you.</p> <p>Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> | |

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| Continuing | <p>Deeper: Pentecost Intensive Carmel House, Varroville 1-5 June 2022</p> <p>Join the MGL Sisters as we deepen together in the experience of Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Come for a five-day intensive retreat in the lead-up to Pentecost and be encouraged in discipleship, activating the charismatic gifts, and being equipped for mission through inputs, discussion, prayer, and practical workshops.</p> <p>Enquiries: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com Bookings: https://www.trybooking.com/BWMJI</p> | |
| Continuing | <p>Caritas Australia Ukraine Appeal</p> <p>The escalating violence in Ukraine is rapidly becoming a dire humanitarian crisis. In a matter of days, over half a million people have been forced from their homes and at least 400 civilians have lost their lives. Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground, supporting people in need during this unfolding humanitarian crisis. Your urgent support today will help provide critical assistance including emergency shelter, food, clean water, transportation services, and psychological support to people affected by this crisis. Donate today or call 1800 024 413 toll free.</p> | |
| Continuing | <p>Wollongong Diocesan Resource Centre</p> <p>The Diocesan Resource Centre is in transition to its new premises at the Catholic Education Office, 86-88 Market Street, Wollongong. Resources are still available to borrow during this transitional period.</p> <p>For more information or to request resources, please contact Anne Russell on 0427 072 363. By arrangement, resources can be collected and returned to the Office of the Bishop, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong.</p> <p>For Catechist in the Macarthur and Southern Highlands – Contact Cindy on (02) 4640 8550 or cindy.oliver@dow.org.au for more information.</p> | |

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| Continuing | <p>Technology skills workshops</p> <p>CatholicCare and the Being Connected network are teaming up to facilitate small group sessions aimed at assisting older Australians with improving their digital skills and knowledge. Sessions will be held at Wollongong Golf Club on Monday 2 and 9 May from 10am-12pm spaces are very limited. This is a great opportunity to learn new skills and connect with others. Morning tea will be provided, and we encourage you to stay, purchase lunch from the club and continue the conversation. For more information: Jane Hollier, Parish and Community Liaison Officer 0417 018 152 janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au</p> <p>Note: all NSW Health Covid 19 guidelines will be adhered to.</p> | |
| Continuing | <p>LIVE LOCAL Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) has arrived in the Illawarra! LIVE Local is a Regional Youth Group run by the CYMW and NET Team which runs every Friday night during school term from 7 - 9pm, at St Therese West Wollongong school hall. This regional youth group is for all parishes and is open to young people aged 13 -17 who want to make new friends and grow in their faith. Come along for snacks, games, formation, prayer, and music.</p> <p>For more information, please contact our deanery youth group coordinator, Luke Vail at luke.vail@dow.org.au</p> <p>For more details on youth groups, visit https://www.dow.org.au/cymw/</p> | <p>Click to download CYMW Poster</p> |
| Continuing | <p>LIVE Local Macarthur</p> <p>Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) is back with LIVE Local in the Macarthur, running every Sunday night in the school term from 6:15pm–8:15pm, at St John the Evangelist Parish Campbelltown. This regional youth group is for all Parishes and is open to young people aged 13–17 who want to make new friends and grow in their faith. Come along for snacks, games, formation, prayer, and music.</p> <p>For more information, please contact our deanery youth group coordinator, Luke Vail at luke.vail@dow.org.au</p> <p>For more details on youth groups, visit https://www.dow.org.au/cymw/</p> | |

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| Continuing | <p>ePetition to abolish the Death Bill</p> <p>Bishop Mascord urges you to take a stand to ABOLISH Alex Greenwich's Death Bill. It is imperative that all our supporters of life sign this ePetition—WITHOUT DELAY—encouraging others to do the same. To do so, please click here or go to www.dow.org.au/abolishdeathbill/</p> | |
| Continuing | <p>menALIVE's—reFUEL Weekly Sharing and Journaling Sessions— Every Tuesday 7.30pm</p> <p>reFUEL is a weekly hour-long gathering of men every Tuesday evening on Zoom providing the chance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • break open the Sunday reading using a Lectio Divina style exercise • “catch up” with great men from across Australia and New Zealand. • gain strength and inspiration by the witness of other men. • pray as a group for individual needs and the needs of others. <p>Join via this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88436558468</p> | |
| NEW | <p>The Journey, 8 May 2022 – Your Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast</p> <p>On the Journey this week we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday with a great Gospel reflection and input from Mother Hilda Scott. Wonderful music this week too as we enter into the joy of the Easter Season. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au</p> | jcr.org.au |
| Continuing | <p>An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving</p> <p>Given that some parishioners are unable to attend Mass in our church, many who support our parish planned giving envelope program have asked how they can continue to financially support the parish. So, we respectfully encourage all parishioners to join our electronic parish planned giving program to help us ensure that we limit the financial pressure this current situation will impose on our parish.</p> <p>Please visit www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving/ to learn of the two simple ways you can give to our parish electronically.</p> <p>Importantly, we are mindful that some of our parishioners will sadly be experiencing a change in their financial circumstances. Please contact the Parish Office (<i>insert phone number/email</i>) if you need to decrease/discontinue your planned giving contribution, but mainly to let us know how we can support you.</p> | |

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| Continuing | <p>Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese</p> <p>Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at subscribe dow.sh/stayingconnected or visit dow.sh/weeklybulletin to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes weekly.</p> | |
| Continuing | <p>The Chosen – A TV Series about Jesus</p> <p>The Chosen is a new ‘free to view’, television program that creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and are receiving acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via <i>The Chosen app</i> (download)</p> | |
| NEW | <p>A vocation view</p> <p>Who will shepherd God’s people? Pray that good leaders, filled with joy and the Holy Spirit, will serve our Church. (Acts 13:14, 43-52)</p> <p>If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au</p> | |
| NEW | <p>Social Justice Statement</p> <p>The Church does not assume responsibility for every aspect of life in society, but speaks with the competence that is hers, which is that of proclaiming Christ the Redeemer. – <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church - Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace</i></p> | |
| Continuing | <p>Formed (Free for DoW Parishioners)</p> <p>Join hundreds of other families around the Diocese of Wollongong in nurturing your faith at home, in your own time and at your own pace? FORMED.org is a large Faith Formation Resource library website containing thousands of faith formation documentaries, courses, movies, audio and books covering all aspects of our Catholic faith. Materials for both adults and children. Sign-up for Free using our Diocesan Subscription by contacting darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au or helen.bennett@dow.org.au</p> | |

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| Continuing | <p>Faith Circles—free small group resource:</p> <p>During this period of COVID pandemic, you are encouraged to spend time in prayer and spiritual reading and faith Circles is one way that you can do this. The weekly Faith Circles resource is available for free to download. It is easy to use and could easily be done in your household or even by skype / phone with others at this time, with its questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/ or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.</p> | |
| Continuing | <p>CatholicCare - Have you thought about becoming a foster carer?</p> <p>We need foster carers who provide love, care, and support to help these children thrive and reach their full potential. Carers receive comprehensive support from the Fostering Futures team to ensure they have a full range of resources and networks to nurture their forever home. Our team have over 30 years' experience helping carers give vulnerable children a loving home and a brighter future.</p> <p>You can find out more by calling 0418 783 956, email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or go to www.catholiccare.dow.org.au more information.</p> | |
| Continuing | <p>We're always here if you ever need...</p> <p>These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes. To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au</p> | |
| Continuing | <p>CAtHFAMILY</p> <p>CAtHFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts, and recipes from their website to assist parents and grandparents in being the first educators in faith for their kids. Don't miss CathKids cathfamily.org/activities/</p> | |