

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MARY'S MACLEAN



ST JOHN'S CHURCH



ST MARY'S CHURCH



ST JAMES' CHURCH

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THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A: 28 JUNE 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord Jesus Christ wants his disciples to entrust their lives to him so that he could permeate them with his divine life and make them living instruments of his presence and saving action wherever they are sent. This is the lesson that we can learn from the gospel reading this thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

God's messengers bring God and his message wherever they go. This is also shown in the first reading, 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16. The prophet Elisha, the successor of prophet Elijah, was given hospitality by the couple from Shunem. They later realised that Elisha was "a holy man of God" and so they built a small room on the roof of their house where the prophet could stay and rest while travelling. Their goodness of heart was reciprocated by a miraculous gift of a son.

The passage shows that Elisha, having been chosen and consecrated by God, could not only speak the word of God, but also do miraculous deeds. By responding to the call of God and committing his life to his service, Elisha was made a sharer in his holiness and divine work. The ambassador of God possesses the holiness and authority of God. As such, to receive his messenger is to receive God himself.

In the gospel, Matthew 10:37-42, Jesus requires his disciples to entrust their whole lives to him. From anyone who wants to be his disciple and share in his work of saving the world he demands the giving up of all the dearest and most natural feelings, such as love for one's parent and children. A true disciple does not love father, mother, son, or daughter more than Christ. In a culture that placed great importance on family ties, this was a challenging demand: loyalty to Jesus must come before even the closest family relationships. He can ask this because he is God, the ultimate source and meaning of true life.

Still more demanding is Jesus' call to take up the cross and follow him. His disciples must be ready to endure the trials and sufferings that come from sharing in his mission. Discipleship also requires daily dying to self and to disordered self-love, so that one may be filled

with divine love. Self-enclosure, self-centredness, and selfishness have no place in Christian discipleship, for divine love opens us to God and to one another.

Those who have entrusted their lives to Christ are made one with him. They become a living instrument of his presence and divine love. As such, anything done to Christ's messengers is as if it were done to Christ himself. "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me, welcome the one who sent me."

The eternal Father sent his Son into the world to make his saving presence known. As the eternal Son made man, Jesus is God's ambassador, messenger, and representative. Because he is God, he can call for loyalty above family ties, acceptance of suffering for his sake, and self-renunciation. To welcome him is to welcome God. And because his disciples are united with him—Christ living in them and they in Christ—whoever welcomes them welcomes Christ himself, and the gift of salvation he offers through them. The apostles do not teach and perform miraculous deeds on their own authority. Behind their preaching and miracles is the authority of Christ himself. United with Christ, the apostles speak and act in his person.

Through faith and baptism, Christians are united with Christ and receive the gift of divine life. This is what St Paul teaches in the second reading, Romans 6:3-4, 8-11. Baptism joins us to Christ's death, cleansing us from sin, and to his resurrection, giving us a share in divine life. Through baptism, the old self is made new; we become sharers in the life of the Blessed Trinity and are enabled to think and act as children of God.

When Christian disciples live in communion with God, follow the teachings of Christ, and are guided by the Holy Spirit, they make the presence and saving action of the risen Christ visible in the world. In this Mass, let us pray for the grace to persevere and grow in discipleship and in our participation in the life and mission of the Church.

Fr Roland

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

COLLECT

O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16

A reading from the second book of the Kings

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 88:2-3. 16-19. R. v.2*

(R.) *Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss
(R.)
3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;
it is by your favour that our might is exalted:
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel.
(R.)

SECOND READING

Romans 6:3-4. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Peter 2:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:37-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who graciously accomplish the effects of your mysteries, grant, we pray, that the deeds by which we serve you may be worthy of these sacred gifts. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE I: SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and received fill us with life, O Lord, we pray, so that, bound to you in lasting charity, we may bear fruit that lasts for ever. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

If a common thread is to be found between today's First Reading (2 Kings 4:8-11, 13-16) and the Gospel (Matthew 10:37-42), it probably lies in the idea of 'welcome'. The reward promised to the Shunamite woman who welcomed and gave hospitality to the prophet Elisha foreshadows the promise contained in the Gospel for those who 'welcome a prophet because he is a prophet.'

There is a delightful humanity in the thoughtful provision the Shunamite woman made for Elisha: a small room on the roof of the house, containing not only a bed, but also a table, a chair, and even a lamp. These basic gestures of hospitality, offered simply out of respect for a man of God and with no thought of a reward, receive in fact a wonderful reward: next year, she and her husband, childless up to this point, would rejoice in the gift of new life: 'you will hold a son in your arms.' So too, according to the Gospel, even so simple a gift as a cup of cold water will not go unnoticed by the Author of life.

But the idea of 'welcome' is only part of what is contained in the Gospel. First there is a very challenging instruction of Jesus, warning that 'anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me.' The challenge doubtless reflects the situation of believers for whom the threat of persecution was very real. In cases where some members of a family were Christian and some were not, the stark choice between 'preferring' mother or father to allegiance to Christ faced such believers daily.

A glance at our newspapers or television screens makes clear that this was not simply a challenge for the first generations. Many Christians in countries where they are a minority or where inter-community divisions with a religious basis are intense, will hear this part of today's Gospel with a sense of far deeper relevance.

We, who live in societies that are either majority Christian or tolerantly post-Christian, do not face the

challenge of the Gospel so starkly. The problem for us is to hear the challenge at all – or at least to hear it and not simply dismiss it as extremist and impossible of application in the world in which we live. The words of Christ, however, do apply to all believers. If we are simply comfortable in our world, largely sharing its values and aspirations, then there is probably something that we are failing to notice, some aspect of Christ's message that is not getting through.

It is here, perhaps, that the second part of the Gospel text, with its sense of 'welcome', comes into play. One of the truly striking features of Matthew's Gospel is the sense of 'Emmanuel – God with us' which attends the presentation of Jesus from beginning to end. It comes to a climax, of course, in the parable of the Great Judgment (25:31-46) where, over and over again, we hear the refrain, 'As often as you did it (or failed to do it) to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it (or failed to do it) to me.' Exactly the same identification appears in the central statement in the present text: 'Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me; and those who welcome me, welcome the one who sent me.' The theological dimensions of this statement are profound: the stranger who stands before us comes not simply as an emissary and representative of Christ but of the Father who sent Christ into the world. In dealing with this person we are dealing with our God.

This theme of welcome and hospitality in the second part of the Gospel does perhaps, in a very complementary way, point out where the challenge contained in the opening words applies for followers of Christ in a First World situation. As scarcely ever before in human history, save perhaps in the immediate aftermath of World War II, have so many of our fellow human beings been displaced and on the move. Strangers in their millions line up at frontiers or make risky, desperate voyages in an attempt to escape for themselves and their children from war, tyranny or economic misery. In contemplation of this mass movement the words of Christ may not seem so far away and inapplicable as at first sight.

Paul's message to the Christians of Rome in the Second Reading, Romans 6:3-4, 8-11, stresses the radicality of the change effected in baptism: it is really a 'death' to an old existence dominated by selfishness and sin and an entrance into the world of the new creation inaugurated by the resurrection of Christ. There, in union with him, one 'lives for God', caught up in the rhythm of his self-sacrificial love.

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ONLINE GIVING

Internet donations to assist our parish are always welcome. Details for donating online via Electronic Funds Transfer BSB: 032582 Account Number: 810033 [Surname, parish envelope no]

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for the Sick: Maureen Robertson, Clive McLachlan, Audrey Hancock, Ben & Nadine Shaw, Patrick Wheeler, Denise & Bob, Tim Scherger, Jan Taylor, Miriam Scherger, Kathy Leseberg, Ava Blay, Mark Thurbon, Alma Bailey, Mary Wiseman, Sue Gravolin, Ron Weekes, Pam Lewis, Matthew & Paul Gallagher, Chris Naismith, Trevor Nicolai, Peter Burns, Matthew Tierney, Sharon Grayson, Dennis Catheral, Allan Dick. **Recently Deceased:** Jennifer Nicholson, Judith Want. **Anniversary:** Rodney Couper, Bonnie Tonkin, Col McDonald, Bill Wolff. **Pray for:** All the suffering souls in Purgatory especially the dec'd members of F.O.S.S.

MASS TIMES:

Sunday Masses: Yamba: 5:30pm (SAT); Maclean: 8:30am (SUN); Iluka: 10:30am (SUN).

Weekday Masses: Tuesday, 9:00am: Iluka; Wednesday, 9:30am: Yamba; Friday, 12:00nn, Maclean; First Saturday: 11:30am, Maclean.

RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturday, 11:00am, Maclean; 5:00pm, Yamba

Sunday, 8:00am, Maclean

Tuesday, 9:30am, Iluka

Wednesday, 10:00am, Yamba

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

First Wednesday: 10:00am, Yamba

First Saturday: 12:00pm, Maclean

MINISTRY ROSTER: 4/5 JULY 2026

Readers: Yamba: A Ricketts/F Robertson; Maclean: R Harvey/S Winter; Iluka: H Naug. **Commentators:** Yamba: M Dee; Maclean: J de Roos, Iluka: T Sullivan. **E Communion:** Maclean: J Moloney. **Count team:** Robertson/Stephenson.

READINGS: 4/5 JULY 2026

First: Zechariah 9:9-10; **Second:** Romans 8:9. 11-13;

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30.

NEWS & EVENTS

Emergency contact: In case of emergency outside of parish office hours, contact Fr Roland 0401 508 812.

Office days/times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00am-2:30pm.

Parish bulletin online: Our bulletin is now uploaded weekly to our website <http://stmarysparish.org.au>

Thinking of Becoming a Catholic? Contact Fr Roland 0401508 812

Ignite Conference 2026: This youth conference will be held in Sydney 9-12 July, and Brisbane 24-27 September. This national youth conference is a real world formation with something for everyone. For

more information see hello@igniteyouth.com or the poster on the notice board.

Diocesan Investment Fund Interest rate 3.90% effective 1/6/26: For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516.

ASPIRE Young Adults Spiritual Formation

invitation: Please see the noticeboard for the dates on the poster.

Subscribe to our Diocesan newsletters: Join our online community and receive news, inspiration and updates across the diocese. Catholic Life Magazine, The Light, Youth Newsletter and Renewal Journey Newsletter. Subscribe to our newsletters to stay connected via the QR code on the noticeboard.

Planned giving envelopes: the planned giving envelopes for the upcoming financial year are now available for collection.

Cursillo Weekend: 5pm 15/10—5pm 18/10 at Marian Valley for the Lismore Diocese. The team encourages anyone willing to put their name forward to contact Rex or Carryl Tory PH: 0478 793 618.

Eucharistic Adoration: in Yamba on Wednesday, 1 July after the weekday Mass.

First Saturday Devotion: 4 July, 11:00am in St Mary's Church, Maclean: Rosary, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.

Working with Children Week is from 22 to 28 June 2026. This year's theme, Start safe: smarter recruitment for child safety, is less about compliance and more about judgement. It's a reminder that child safety is built through people, culture and systems, often long before a child ever walks through the door.

Part-time cook position: Lismore Congregation of the Presentation Sisters are seeking applicants. Please see the noticeboard for the job advertisement.

DLCS Schools' Newsletter: Diocese of Lismore Catholic Schools is pleased to present the newest edition of its newsletter. To stay up to date with the latest in Catholic education, please use this link: <https://bit.ly/4gwOpX0>

The Diocese of Lismore deeply mourns the passing of Frank Hannigan KSG, who died on Friday 19 June 2026. Frank was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court and for over 45 years, he generously contributed to the works of the Church and diocese through his legal expertise. In 2020 he was honoured by Pope Francis with a Papal Knighthood in the Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great. Please see the noticeboard for the Bishop's Memorandum.

Walking stick found: please contact the office if you have lost one.