



**Catholic Archdiocese of
Canberra & Goulburn**

WEST WYALONG MISSION

Established out of the Western Mission in 2012

St Mary's West Wyalong
founding Parish for the Bland
1894 (St Patrick's Wyalong)
Present St Mary's Church
1928;
St Mary's School 1896

St Kevin's Rankins Springs
Weethalle-Tallimba
St Kevin's RS 1955;
Weethalle Parish founded 1934;

St Joseph's Ungarie
Ungarie – Burcher
Parish founded 1931
Present St Joseph's
Church 1978;

Our Lady of Lourdes
Lake Cargelligo-Tullibigeal
Parish founded 1923.
Present Church 1957;
St Isidore's Tullibigeal;
St FX School
Christ The King Chapel,
Bolo, 2008

Fr Hilary Rotich PP & Administrator

Our Lady of Guadalupe Pray for us

47 Church St; PO Box 64,
West Wyalong, 2671; Tel: 6972 3655
Email: wyalongwest@cg.org.au
Website: <http://cg.org.au/wyalong/Home.aspx>

Lake Cargelligo,
78 Reef St, 2672
(please contact the West
Wyalong Parish Office)



Catholic Schools:

West Wyalong: **St Mary's Principal, Mr Damian Collins: 6972 3003;** <https://smwms.nsw.edu.au/>

Lake Cargelligo: **St Francis Xavier Principal, Mrs Rachael Morris & Mrs Jacinta Elwin: 6898 1611;** <https://sfxlake.nsw.edu.au/> Continuing Catholic Schooling or High School Yrs 7-12: **St Anne's Central School,**

Temora: **69771011**

4th Sunday of Lent Yr C, 30th March, 2025

	West Wyalong	Ungarie	Lake	Tully
Monday 31st	No Mass			
Tuesday 1st	8am Mass			
Wednesday 2nd <i>St Francis of Paola</i>	8am Mass			
Thursday 3rd	8am Mass			
Friday 4th <i>St Isidore</i>	8am Mass		11:30am Mass	5:30pm Mass
Saturday 5th <i>St Vincent Ferrer</i>	No Mass		6pm Mass	11am Bolo
Sunday 6th <i>5th Sunday Lent</i>	9:30am Mass	8am Mass		

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie, Dean of Academic Studies, Jane Franklin Hall, Hobart

Pope Francis says that today's Gospel parable 'leads us to the heart of God'.

On the one hand, it shows us that 'God always forgives. We are the ones who tire of asking for forgiveness.' What the prodigal son's Father shows us is God's boundless mercy.

But on the other hand, the parable also shows how easily we humans can slip into what the Pope calls 'the indignation of the elder son'. If we do not see God as our merciful Father, then we can easily fall into 'living a distant religion, made of prohibitions and duties.' When we judge and exclude, we try to limit God's mercy.

Falling into that mindset, we lose sight of our relatedness. We can become like the resentful elder son who calls his own brother 'this son of yours'.

To combat this mindset of 'rigidity towards our neighbour' the Pope suggests that, like the Father, we 'make merry and rejoice'. We should try to 'demonstrate our closeness to those who repent or who are on the way, to those who are in crisis or who are far away ... we have to offer them a warm welcome that encourages them to go ahead.'

In our lives, we should always treat others without judgment. And in our churches, we should always warmly welcome them home.

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Prayer of the Faithful

Introduction: We are called to taste and see what the Lord has given to us. God is a well of goodness and mercy without limit, so with confidence we offer all our needs.

We pray for Pope Francis and the leaders of our Church. May they always be ambassadors of divine reconciliation. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for the leaders of our world whose actions and values are shrouded in misinformation and disinformation. May the truth be revealed to them all. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for those across our Western Mission waiting patiently for the gift of autumn rain. May we receive the blessing of abundant rain to replenish our parched and thirsty land. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all those who care for the underprivileged and disadvantaged. May the generosity of our Church provide what is needed for their humanitarian work in this time of turmoil. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for those in our community who bring the word of God to others. May they truly be ministers of reconciliation. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all those who suffer loss and bereavement. May they find a way to enjoy the peace and freedom that comes from Christ. We pray to the Lord.

Conclusion: God of all mercy, you always welcome back the lost and provide for all our needs out of the eternal reservoir of your love. Therefore, we humbly offer our needs with confidence in divine love. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Baptisms: Congratulations and welcome to Sabrina and Martin Fair, children of Peggy and Jonathon who were baptised last Sunday in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Lake Cargelligo. Sabrina and Martin's godparents are Ronald Fair and Renee Fair.

Pray for our sick: Gwenda McConnachie, Paddy Doughan, Noel Pettit, Pat Mason, Fiona Frame, Liz Jones, Greg Withers, Marie McKenzie, Peter Campbell, Geoff Collins, Barry Cooper, Mary Turner, Sarah Pettit, Archie Boneham, Lesley Wright, Brian Lynch and Shirley Sullivan.

Jesus, grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick.

Recent Deaths & Anniversaries: Dorothy Daniher, Steve Herridge, Tony Galton, Dave Shearer and Lurensa Rowling.

Mary, Helper of Souls pray for them.

St Mary's 2025 Sacramental Program Dates:

First Reconciliation:

Sacrament of Reconciliation - **Wednesday 9th April @ 5pm, St Mary's Church**

First Eucharist:

Enrolment and Information Session - **Wednesday 21st May @ 5pm, St Mary's Church**

Sacrament of First Eucharist - **Sunday 22nd June @ 9:30am, St Mary's Church**

Fourth Sunday of Lent



One of the most beautiful expressions in the Bible comes from the prophet Ezekiel (Ezk 11:19). 'Thus says the Lord, I will take their hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh.' It is a call to be tender and compassionate.

You would need a heart of stone not to be affected by the stories we encounter today. Most of us have heard the story of the two sons in today's Gospel over and over. The brilliance of the way Jesus tells stories is that it still gets under our skin. Here are two young men who think they can live on their own terms. One has a sense of entitlement and demands his share of his father's estate which he then squanders. He is finally prepared to eat humble pie and find his way home. The other son has a different sense of entitlement. He believes that his hard work and reliability should provide him with a greater share of his father's love. At different times in our life, we can relate more to one or other of these people. Jesus implies that they are both blind to the way God's love works and that they both need to grow. They have both been dead and now must come to life.

The story we encounter this week is also deeply moving. Irene, aged 25, lives in the Kongolo region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Her father was killed during a war and Irene lived with her mother on very meagre resources, often going hungry for extended periods of time. Irene first became pregnant as a teenager and later had to raise her two children on her own, with the support of her mother. As a single mother, it was challenging for Irene to care for her two sons without a stable income.

Irene's life changed after she participated in the Youth Capacity Strengthening program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas Kongolo. Through the program, she undertook training in sewing and livestock farming, enabling her to generate income to support her family.

Our second reading today reminds us that we are 'ambassadors for Christ.' St Paul says, 'for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation.' Let us all be part of building that new creation, setting the world to rights as best we can. Our part is to reach out in compassion and love to heal the wounds of the whole human family. Let us all Unite Against Poverty as pilgrims of hope in this Year of Jubilee.

1ST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

RESP PSALM:Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.
3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

2ND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

ACCLAMATION:Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

4th Sunday of Lent Yr C

Processional - United As One

Matthew Walker

What can we give as we come here today
But the stories of our lives?
What can we bring, what can we give
To raise your spirit high

***Gathered here today, united in love.
Your Spirit is with us to share and celebrate.
Gathered as God's people, under one cross,
We are Christ's body, united as one.***

What do we share, as we come here today
But the story of His life?
How can we learn, to love as He loved,
To proclaim Your power and might?

Now that we've all, been renewed in Your love
And felt Your hand in our lives,
We must all go and be saints of this day
And spread Your message wide.

Offertory – Hosea – Come Back to Me

Fr Greg Norbert

Come back to me with all your heart
Don't let fear keep us apart
Trees do bend, though straight and tall
So must we to others call

***Long have I waited for your coming
Home to me and living, deeply our new life***

The wilderness will lead you
To your heart where I will speak
Integrity and justice

With tenderness you
shall know

You shall sleep secure
with peace
Faithfulness will be
your joy



Reflection – Purify My Heart *Brian Doerksen*

Purify my heart
Let me be as gold and precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold, pure gold

***Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
Is to be holy, set apart for You Lord
I choose to be holy, set apart for You my mas-
ter
Ready to do your will***

Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within and make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin deep within

Recessional – We Are God's Hands

Andrew Chinn

***We are God's hands, we are God's eyes
We are the love, the heart of Christ
Oh Spirit move, our hearts and minds
That we may see, peace in our time***

May our hands reach out to those
Who've come across our seas to find a home
May we reach out across the seas
To touch the poor, be God's mercy

May we see with open eyes
And comfort those with lonely lives
Look all around and see the need
With eyes of hope, be God's mercy

May our hearts be the love of God
Bring the love of Christ to one and all
May our love sow seeds of peace
And may our hearts, be God's Mercy

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