




St Mary Immaculate & St Patrick's PARISH OF THE CLARENCE VALLEY

Copmanhurst & Cowper  *Grafton & South Grafton*



Cowper

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Office Hours:
8.30am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday

St. Mary's Church, Grafton
Victoria Street, Grafton

St Patrick's Church
Skinner Street, South Grafton

Mary Immaculate Church
Cowper

St John of the Cross
Copmanhurst

McAuley Catholic College
Hennessy Drive, Clarence
Phone: 02 66431434
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St. Mary's Primary School
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St Joseph's Primary School
Hyde Street, South Grafton
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Parish Priest: Fr Felix Ekeh
Assist. Priest:
Fr Emmanuel Okparanaku



Copmanhurst

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

21st September 2025

Parish Family News

The wealth that matters

We often draw a careful line between our spiritual lives and the economic and political realities of everyday existence—as if God somehow stops paying attention when we open our laptops or balance our budgets. But Jesus, like the prophet Amos before him, finds the divine in spreadsheets and business dealings, in the messy intersection of faith and finance.

In this week's readings, we find ourselves once again in the company of an accomplished raconteur, listening to tales that are both wonderfully ordinary and mysteriously profound.

Jesus' parable of the dishonest steward is a perfect example of his storytelling genius. Here's a tale that would make any modern HR department break out in a cold sweat—a story about a manager who, facing termination, essentially cooks the books to secure his future. Yet somehow, this ethically questionable character becomes the hero of Jesus' parable.

Jesus doesn't traffic in simple moral platitudes. His stories make us wrestle with complexity, discovering that the kingdom of God operates by different rules than our world. The dishonest steward's cleverness becomes a metaphor for the kind of creative urgency we should bring to our spiritual lives.

Amos understood this centuries earlier, railing against merchants who trampled the poor and made "the ephah [the measure or weight] small and the shekel [the money or payment] great"—an ancient form of "shrinkflation" that sounds remarkably familiar. The prophet saw clearly that there's no separating our relationship with God from our relationship with money, power, and each other. God, it seems, is indeed in the details of everyday life. The olive oil debts, the wheat measures, the awkward conversations between masters and servants—these aren't just narrative props. They're the very fabric of existence where the sacred and secular meet.

This brings us to the question of true wealth. The steward in Jesus' parable understands something profound: relationships matter more than balance sheets. When he reduces the debts, he's investing in human connections that will outlast his employment. The "friends" he makes through his generosity become his true treasure.

Paul's letter to Timothy echoes this theme—the love of money is the root of evil. Notice he doesn't say money itself is evil, just our relationship with it. True wealth isn't measured in dollars but in faithfulness, gentleness, and godliness. It is found in choosing relationships over riches, recognising that we are all stewards of the "things" that have been gifted to us by fate or fortune.

Jesus' storytelling continues to surprise us. Two thousand years later, we're still debating the finer points of the dishonest steward's actions, still discovering new layers of meaning in these ancient tales. That's the mark of a master storyteller—creating stories that remain alive, that continue to provoke and inspire long after the original audience has gone home.

In our own lives, we are called to be both storytellers and characters in the ongoing narrative of faith, finding God in the ordinary details and choosing the kind of wealth that truly matters.

Ian J Elmer © Majellan Media 2025

Television Free to Air—Channel Ten—Sunday Mass at 6am

Mass Sunday—Livestreamed on Lismore Diocesan You Tube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/LismoreDioceseAU>

Also the following has Mass on demand.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjiVimr-hcHFJD_HVaQ



DIARY OF THE WEEK: LITURGIES, DEVOTIONS ETC

Saturday 20th September - Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, priest

Paul Chŏng Ha-sang & companions, martyrs

9.00am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

4.15pm—4.45pm Reconciliation at St Mary's Church

5.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Sunday 21st September - Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper

9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

11.00am Mass at St John of the Cross Copmanhurst

Monday 22nd September

NO MASS

Tuesday 23rd September - St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest (Padre Pio)

5.15pm Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Wednesday 24th September

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Thursday 25th September

9.15am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

Friday 26th September

11.30am—11.55am Reconciliation and

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

12.00noon Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Saturday 27th September - St Vincent de Paul, priest

9.00am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

4.15pm—4.45pm Reconciliation at St Mary's Church

5.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Sunday 28th September - Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper

9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

Father Frank Mulcahy - (1934 - 2025)

Fr Frank was *Administrator of Grafton Parish*
1969-1975 and *Parish Priest* 1975-1981.

Fr Frank's Funeral Mass will take place at
St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore on
Wednesday, 1 October 2025 at 11am.

May he rest in peace.

Mass in honour of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus

at the *Carmelite Monastery, Goonellabah* on
Wednesday, 1st October, at 10:00 am.

There will be a blessing of roses after Mass. There will also be commemorative cards available, to mark the *centenary of the canonisation of St Thérèse.*

All welcome.

Please note that there will be **no 7:00 am Mass** on that day.

Please remember in your prayers:

Those who are sick and frail: especially Edward Morley, Matthew Bertalli, James Irwin, Allan Albert, Billy Eckersley, Marlene Cain (Hervey Bay), Margaret Gallagher (Cessnock), Lleyton Roughly, Veronica Graham, Gayle Owens, Paul Murphy, Derek Lentfer, Shane Lewis, Peter Cochrane, Paul Gallagher, Ian Huxley, Mary O'Brien, Rod Hughes, Dr Anselm Okechukwu, Alfred Morris, Lee Denton, Fr Anthony Lemon, Jeannette Davies, Margaret Knight, Bev Merrick (NZ), Eamon McLaughlin, Joan Knox, Chris Small, Cheryl Kinnane, Dot Dougherty, Sandy Beadman, Gwen Haynes, Sonya Moore, Moya Ellem (Melb), Fay Ellem, John McAnally, Darcy Patricks, Eli Hagar, Shona Owens, Jacinta Frawley-Werger, Amanda Crawford, Aileen Whalan, Bree Brossman, & all those in hospital.

The Recently Deceased: including Fr Frank Mulcahy, Ray O'Shea, Peter Moran, Ray Hynes, Ronald McLennan, Olga Morrissey, Patricia Eastick, Joan Kean.

Those whose Anniversaries are at this time: including Nance Rathborne, Artie Commerford, David Windridge, Maureen Endean, Paul Walsh, Joan Cootes, Jim Boswell, John Fahey, Nanette Bradley, Kathleen Wheeler, Chris Boswell, Margaret Norton.

Other Mass Intentions: including Aileen Reynolds, Marina L Jumao-as, Don Bellamy, Mark Bellamy, and all the Holy Souls.

Mass Attendance

* Anyone who is unwell **should not** attend Mass.

* Hand sanitiser will continue to be available.

Thank you for your continued co-operation.

Parish Notices

Friday 26th September - Charismatic Prayer

Group Meeting at McCarthy Centre.

12.45pm to 3pm.



September 24 Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

On 24th September each year, the feast of Our Lady of Mercy is celebrated throughout the world by Sisters of Mercy, a religious

order of women founded by Catherine McAuley in Dublin, Ireland, in 1831. Mary, Mother of Jesus, is the one who through the sacrifice of her own heart had the deepest knowledge of the mystery of God's mercy. In this sense she is the Mother of Mercy, Our Lady of Mercy.

Thank you to all the Sisters who have been instrumental in our local Parish life throughout the years.

Nominations Open for Diocesan Pastoral Council

Bishop Greg Homeming OCD, in consultation with the Council of Priests, is re-establishing the Diocesan Pastoral Council to support the synodal renewal process.

The Council will bring together clergy, religious, and laity to advise the Bishop and reflect on the needs of the Diocese. We invite nominations from individuals who are prayerful, discerning, collaborative, and active in the Church's liturgical life. Closing date 10th October. The first meeting is planned for early 2026.

Nominations can be submitted by scanning the QR code or completing a form available at the Parish Office.

Nomination and Expression of Interest Form - Diocesan Pastoral Council



Jubilee 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

Twenty Fifth Sunday ion Ordinary Time

Money, money, money must be funny in the rich man's world, sang Abba in 1976; *All the things I could do if I had a little money: it's a rich man's world!*

This week and next, the Sunday gospel invites us to reflect on money and how we use it. Luke in his gospel often stresses the danger of wealth and the need to be generous in its use. Renunciation of worldly possessions is a regular theme: right from the beginning, Luke says the first apostles 'left everything to follow Jesus'. Ultimately it is a question of examining our priorities and focussing on making our contribution to a more just and equitable society.

A PUBLIC ROSARY - JOIN US FOR A NATIONWIDE

Rosary Chain — A public Rosary will be recited in honour of "Our Lady of Fatima" to be held in the grounds (car park side) at **St Patrick's Church South Grafton** on **Saturday 11th October, 2025**

following the morning Mass at approx. 9.45am.

ALL WELCOME!



Enquiries to: Margaret Lee 0431 788 812,
Janelle Ellem 0448 383 134,
Jeanet Bodimeade 0407 006 841.

Please bring a chair if possible.

Schoolzine eNewsletter!

McAuley Catholic College

<https://mcaulcgrafton.schoolzineplus.com/archive>

St Mary's Primary School

<https://grafplism.catholic.edu.au/schoolnews?nid=117>

St Joseph's Primary School

<https://sgrafplism.catholic.edu.au/enews?nid=127>

Or View/Download a PDF copy from the websites.

Adult Online Faith Formation

Registrations for the last cycle for 2025, Cycle 7 (five week) Courses with the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) are now open and close on 23 October. More information can be found on St Agnes' Parish (Port Macquarie) website

<https://stagnesparish.org.au/faith/>

For those interested in pursuing any of the listed courses, please don't hesitate to contact Tony Worner on 0436 941 280 or

VLCFF.LismoreDiocese@stagnesparish.org.au

Learn more about the VLCFF at

<https://vlcff.udayton.edu/about/>

Weekend September 27/28	St Mary's Church Saturday 5.00pm	St Mary's Church Sunday 8.00am	St Patrick's Church Sunday 9.30am	Mary Immaculate Sunday 8.00am
Commentator	Jacki Moore	Is someone available?	Lynne Higham	Marie Moran
Reader	Peter Cusbert	Kate Thomson	Ann McCabe	Lesley McFarlane
Extraordinary Minister	Joseph Golden	Mark Dougherty	Paul McCabe	
Morning Tea				All Parishioners

A reading from the prophet Amos 8: 4-7

The Lord God spoke against those who buy the poor for money.

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy
and try to suppress the poor people of the country,
you who say, 'When will New Moon be over
so that we can sell our corn,
and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat?
Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel,
by swindling and tampering with the scales,
we can buy up the poor for money,
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.'
The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob,
'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 112

R: Praise the Lord, who lifts up the poor.

Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the
Lord! May the name of the Lord be blessed both now and
for evermore! **R.**

High above all nations is the Lord, above the heavens his
glory. Who is like the Lord, our God, who has risen on high
to his throne yet stoops from the heights to look down, to
look down upon heaven and earth? **R.**

From the dust he lifts up the lowly, from the dunghill he
raises the poor to set him in the company of princes, yes,
with the princes of his people. **R.**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy
2: 1-8**

*Let prayers be offered to God for everyone; he wants all
people to be saved.*

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers
offered for everyone - petitions, intercessions and
thanksgiving - and especially for kings and others in
authority, so that we may be able to live religious and
reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and
will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be
saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is
only one God, and there is only one mediator between
God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who
sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the
evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have
been named a herald and apostle of it and - I am telling
the truth and no lie - a teacher of the faith and the truth
to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up
reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,
to make you rich out of his poverty.

Alleluia!

**Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke 16: 1-13**

You cannot be slaves both of God and of money.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'There was a rich man and he
had a steward who was denounced to him for being
wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said,
"What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of
your stewardship because you are not to be my steward
any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that
my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to
do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be
too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that
when I am dismissed from office there will be some to
welcome me into their homes."

'Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the
first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One
hundred measures of oil" was the reply. The steward said,
"Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write
fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you
owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat" was the reply.
The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty."

'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astute-
ness. For the children of this world are more astute in
dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.
'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win
you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they
will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who
can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the
man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in
great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that
tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And
if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will
give you what is your very own? 'No servant can be the
slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love
the second, or treat the first with respect and the second
with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of
money.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon: You have laid down your precepts
to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your
statutes.

Next Week's Readings: (26th Sunday of Year C)

Amos 6:1, 4-7; Psalm 145; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31

Planned Giving - Details for electronic funds transfer (EFT).

Banking details are:

Second Collection - for support of our Parish, including
maintenance of our churches and parish buildings, parish
office wages and administration expenses.

BSB: 062546 Account Number: 00800690

Name: Grafton Catholic Church.

First Collection - for the support of our clergy locally and in
the Diocese.

BSB: 062546 Account Number: 00800535

Name: RC Lismore Presbyterium Grafton

In the details section of your online deposits please record
your surname or Planned Giving number **eg Smith or PG500.**



Diocesan
Investment
Fund

Interest Rate—3.65%

**For further information and
our current interest rate, please visit our website.**

The DIF contributes to the printing of the weekly newsletter.