

# Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Varroville, Raby, St Andrews and Bow Bowling



To know, love and serve Jesus  
by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission.

We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.

**10 JANUARY 2021**  
**THE BAPTISM OF**  
**THE LORD**  
**YEAR B**

### Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptized, the Heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

### First Reading

from the prophet  
Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 28:1-4. 9-10.  
R. v.11

**The Lord will  
bless his people  
with peace.**

### Second Reading

from the Acts of the  
Apostles 10:34-38

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The heavens were  
opened and the  
Father's voice was  
heard: this is my  
beloved Son, hear  
him. Alleluia!

### Holy Gospel

according to  
Mark 1: 7-11

## Gospel

**Mark 1:7-11**

*You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***



### **New COVID-19 directives from 3rd January.**

- **Face masks will be mandatory** in places of worship. Compliance will start from Monday, 4 January 2021 with \$200 on the spot fines for individuals for non-compliance.
- Children under 12 are exempt but are encouraged to wear masks where practicable.
- Places of worship and religious services limited to 1 person per 4sqm up to a **maximum of 100 people** per separate area.
- Weddings and funerals are limited to 1 person per 4sqm up to a **maximum of 100 people.**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD**

**Parish Associate: Sr Ninfa Timbal, CM**

**193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville**

**Parish Office Ph: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176**

# Reflections



## **GOSPEL REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA**

With this feast, the Christmas cycle comes to a close. It expands the universality of God's presence proclaimed on the Epiphany and locates it in the messianic mission of Jesus established at his baptism. It might be seen as the summary of the entire liturgical cycle: the one born among us is the servant of God who brings to all the nations a universal promise of justice and the fulfilment of hope.

Jesus is mysterious servant through whom God's saving action is accomplished. He is the light that guides those in darkness. He has been given to the nations as the promise of liberation and the hope of the age to come. His mission is directed to all peoples. Since God's voice spoke over creation and over the head of Jesus as he emerged from the waters of the Jordan, God's regeneration of nature is accomplished in and through him.

Anointed by the Spirit, Jesus is commissioned to begin his prophetic work and ministry, a work of inclusivity and the relinquishment of bondage and fear. As the heavens opened, Jesus was identified as the beloved one of God. Now the community of believers is identified with Jesus the servant of God. Through Baptism, Christians share in his prophetic and divine ministry. They too receive at baptism a commission to commit themselves to the service of the poor and to the cause of compassion. The feast of the Baptism of Jesus is a reminder of the call to Christian service.

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate**

### *A Whisper echoing Heaven*

Jesus was immersed in the Waters of the River Jordan as though he were a repentant sinner. Why? Jesus wanted to be identified with the mass of sinful humanity. During this great act of solidarity, Jesus clearly had a mystical experience as He emerged from the waters: the Heavens opening, the Spirit descending *like* a dove, and hearing a *bat qol*, a whisper echoing Heaven.

Each of us has been incorporated into Our Lord's Baptism. At whatever age we received Baptism, the Heavens were opened and Divine love and power streamed from Heaven to earth. The Holy Spirit, Divine Lover of humanity, hovered gently. Deep down, at the intimate wellspring of life, the Divine Voice was heard: 'You are my beloved daughter' or 'You are my beloved son, my favour rests on you.' We could pause for a moment to pray that we might wake up each morning with that Divine Voice ringing in our ears, and then re-echoing it in our lives.

# ROSTERS

17 Jan 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
<b>Monitor</b>	B. Potter	C. & E. Gabin	B. & B. Thalody
	R. Tuyor	J. Plasto	Volunteer
<b>Altar Server</b>	R Potter	O Simbul	R Selvaraj
<b>Reader</b>	C. D'Coutho	T. Kennedy	R. Thompson
<b>Counting</b>	P. Benny, N. Burgess	<b>Flowers</b>	B. Smith, V. Ah-Ching
<b>Vacuuming</b>	L. Bryant, J. Plasto	<b>Foyer</b>	R. Thompson

Sunday Mass times	Weekday Mass times
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday Mass at 9am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm
Reconciliation: by appointment	All Sacramental enquiries: call the parish office

**Parish Office Ph: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176**  
**Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm**  
**Email: varroville@dow.org.au**  
**Website: olmcvarroville.org.au**



**For the sick & homebound:** Fr David Catterill, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Eduvigis Reyes, Rose Levoune, Gabriel Gonzales, Francisco Carmona, Doreen Gribbons, Jenny Bishop, Clayton Diack, Emily Rose Pavicin, Pat & Denise Furner, Claude Fricot, Tracey Bokor, Lily Pereira, Mary & Reg Gardner, Doris Wahhab, John Kajdrys, Gabor Weiner, Erlinda Hermes, Aurelia Vertucio, Ofilia Mawson, Mary & Frances Raithi, Marie

Atkins, Jeana San Diego, Hugo Garzotto, Eileen Butcher, Josephina Duefries, Austin Taylor, Marisa Aguirre, Joan Wilson.

*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.*

**For our recently dearly departed:** David Hazlett, Peter Mowlam, Daisy Lebreux, Jean Claude Furlong, The Cuong Nguyen, Geraldine Hurren, Edmond Pew, Elizabeth McCleary.

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Joseph Remedios, Anthony Campbell, Teresa Thompson, Resse Mangulabnan, Anthony Pinto, Pauline Marquinez,  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*

# Bulletin Notices



## ALPHA: YOU'RE INVITED

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and God in a friendly open and informal environment. Beginning Tuesday 2 March, 2021 at 7pm.

For further information contact the parish office 9603 7373 and [olmcvarroville.org.au](http://olmcvarroville.org.au). Find out more at [alpha.org.au](http://alpha.org.au)

## Summer Nights for 18–35's at Varroville January 2021

Register now for *Summer Nights* at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre with the Missionaries of God's Love (MGL's). An outdoor experience featuring quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies, and prayer. Mass, adoration and reconciliation will be available each day with COVID safe dinner provided.

There are two options to register, with the retreat running twice during the week:

- Monday 11 January – Wednesday 13 January (3pm to 9pm)
- Thursday 14 January – Saturday 16 January (3pm to 9pm)

To register go to [www.summerschool.org.au](http://www.summerschool.org.au)

**Sacramental Preparation in 2021:** A Christian family lives within a wider parish community, which also has a responsibility to share its faith to nurture you and your child. Our parish will offer an opportunity of providing faith education for both adults and children. Specific dates and information about Sacramental preparation will be available on our website by the end of January 2021 or by calling the parish office during office hours.

**Parish Planned Giving** There are many ways that you can help enable the liturgical, sacramental, pastoral and charitable works of your parish. One way is to contribute to parish planned giving via the two collections at Sunday Mass. As we move more and more into a cashless society, many parishioners prefer to contribute to parish planned electronically. If you are not already part of our parish planned giving program, contact the parish office to arrange. There are sets of envelopes available and there is also a tap donation point in the foyer. Electronic giving is available via direct debit or credit card.

**Request for Prayer for Catechist Ministry in the Diocese:** Each week, hundreds of volunteers around the diocese answer the call to share our Catholic faith with Catholic children. Please keep in your prayers the work of Scripture Teachers, the children they teach in state schools and their families. If you would like to know more about the ministry, please go to [www.ccdwollongong.com](http://www.ccdwollongong.com).

**Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online:** For all of the online Mass options- please visit the DoW website <https://dow.sh/dailymass>