



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.*

SIXTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
YEAR B



**Entrance Antiphon**

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to  
save me. For you are my  
rock, my stronghold! Lead  
me, guide me, for the sake  
of your name.

**First Reading** from the  
book of Leviticus  
13: 1-2, 44-46

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7

**Response:** I turn to you,  
Lord, in time of trouble,  
and you fill me with the  
joy of salvation.

**Second Reading** from the  
first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians 10:31-11:1

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
A great prophet has  
appeared among us;  
God has visited his  
people. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Mark 1:40-45

**Communion Antiphon**

They ate and had their fill,  
and what they craved the  
Lord gave them;  
they were not disappointed  
in what they craved.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
YEAR B

**First Reading** Gen 9:8-15

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

**Second Reading**

1 Pt 3:18-22

**Gospel** Mk 1:12-15

# PROJECT COMPASSION BE MORE

The leper is cast aside, pushed away and left alone. The physical attributes of this disease cause many to turn up their noses. Today's readings remind us it has more than a physical consequence. Lepers are rejected and cast out from their communities. Yet Jesus, through his compassionate cry "Of course I want to!" heals the leper physically and allows him to re-enter the community and to re-establish broken relationships. Human solidarity is restored. Relationship with the community is healed.

This healing of community relationships is what Catholic Social Teaching is about. So many issues in our contemporary world prevent solidarity. Today's readings both invite and challenge us to reflect on the issues that divide our world and its people: racism, economic inequalities, unemployment, international debt, lack of access to medical treatment, terrorism, discrimination of all kinds, but especially towards women, food scarcity and political divisions etc. We are called to be like Paul in the second reading who strives "for the benefit of the many" – who seeks the common good – who wants to heal the divisions.

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten appeal, Project Compassion, offers us a way in which we can begin to restore relationships and invite one another into community. A way in which we can draw closer and heal divisions. This year's Project Compassion theme is "Be More". It comes from St Oscar Romero, Caritas' patron saint, who said "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." It invites us to look beyond ourselves, and to restore relationships with each other in our global family and our earth by living simply and loving generously.

Let us use today's readings to reflect on these contemporary issues that our world is struggling with, that are highlighted in the Project Compassion stories and ask ourselves how we can restore solidarity. How can we seek the common good?

The donation boxes and envelopes are available in the foyer this weekend for you to take home and return before Easter.



[lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au)

1800 024 413

#projectcompassion

## Contact us

**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

**Office Hours:**  
Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm  
Email: varroville@dow.org.au  
Website: olmcvarroville.org.au

## Mass times

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

## Rosters

21 Feb 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
<b>Monitor</b>	Glen & Arlene Correya	Irene Ravino	Betty & Boby Thalody
	John Ransom	Violettei Hunt & Vai Ah Ching	Volunteer
<b>Altar Server</b>	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
<b>Reader</b>	Tracey Kaldasaun	Reg Bucknell	Ian Johnson
<b>Counting</b>	Christine Bath, Nellie Byrne	<b>Flowers</b>	Bridget Smith, Vai Ah Ching
<b>Vacuuming</b>	Feiloakitohi Family	<b>Foyer</b>	Wicks Family

## Prayer intentions

**For the sick & homebound:** Greg Watson, 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:** Philomena Lopez, Ruth Matining, Ring Doar,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Lio Feiloakitohi, Anne Migus, Josephine Thompson, Antoine Selvaraj, Rita Briscoe-Hough, *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



## YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

*"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"*

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021

# Bulletin Notices

**Ash Wednesday** is on 17 February 2021

Good Friday is 2nd April 2021

Easter Sunday is 4th April 2021

**Mass on Ash Wednesday will be at 9am and 7.30pm.**

**Comfort is a 76-page full colour book** containing short daily reflections (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday) perfect for individual devotional reading in addition to the longer-form Sunday Scripture readings and reflections, prayers and questions that traditionally form part of Lenten group gatherings.

For those part of a Lenten group, we are honoured to have **Mons Graham Schmitzer** reflecting on the Sunday Gospels through the beautiful art of the Masters, as well as the wisdom and talents of **Sr Susanna Edmunds OP** to assist groups in further breaking open the Sunday Scriptures. The short daily reflections have been written by 16 fantastic clergy, religious and lay contributors from the diocese and beyond.

**The booklet and CD is available to purchase from the parish office for \$5 each.**

**Interested in becoming a Catechist?**

**Catechist Training 2021** Have you ever wanted to know more about being a Catechist? Are you starting in the ministry? Level 1 Catechist Training will be commencing in February.

Campbelltown Catholic Club - Week 1 - Monday 8 February, 9:30am - 1pm

Bookings are essential - Contact Cindy Oliver at [cindy.oliver@dow.org.au](mailto:cindy.oliver@dow.org.au)

**OLMC Book Club** will start meeting in the parish meeting on the 17 February at 10am and meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

The Provisional Book Club List for 2021

- February/March Fratelli Tutti – Pope Francis
- April/May Rethinking Mary – Edward Sri
- June/July Source and Summit – Joel Giallanza (6 great spiritual guides talk about the Eucharist)
- August/September The Catholic Way to Pray – Kathleen Glavich
- October/November The Extraordinary Parents of St Therese of Lisieux – Helene Mongin Blackwell's

For more information call the Parish office.

**Marriage Enrichment Weekend**

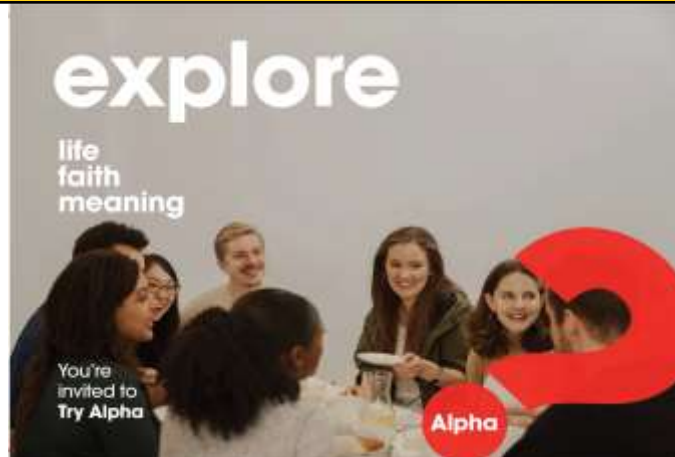
*We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on April 16-18, 2021 at a*

**Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.**

**Book online:** [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au).

**Palms Australia:** The need is acute! Low-income communities are not asking us for money or gifts. They reject degrading dependence. They want you to share your skills to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. The call is to all trades and professions to assist build the ability of their people and the capacity of their organisations. To properly prepare for a 2022 placement you do need to [enquire now](#).

Visit [palms.org.au](http://palms.org.au), call Palms on 02 9560 5333 or email [palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)



## **Alpha Launch Night: Come and See**

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish is holding an evening to launch our first Alpha for 2021.

Come along and enjoy a light meal, a short DVD, and a small group discussion.

Due to COVID, we do have limited seats available, please register yourself and your guest's attendance via the website or by calling the parish.

**Date: March 2, 2021 Time: 6:45 for a 7pm start**

**Location: OLMC Parish Hall**

**[www.olmcvarroville.org.au](http://www.olmcvarroville.org.au)**

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

For anyone not able to attend on Tuesday evening, Alpha will also be hosted on Tuesday morning in the home of a parishioner, beginning Tuesday 2nd March 9:30- 11:30 am and is asked to contact the parish office. Pre schoolers welcome! "

**RCIA:** Last week we publicly welcomed new catechumens, Colin and Mitchell, at the 9:30 am Mass. Please pray for them and all who are on their faith journey towards their baptism, confirmation and First Eucharist this Easter.

If you know of anyone who is interested in knowing more about how to become Catholic, please have them contact the parish office who will pass on their details to Diane Redmayne, RCIA Coordinator."

**'The Journey' Your Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast – get it at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)** This Week – We get ready to kick off the Lenten Season and hear about the importance of daily appreciation for a happy life. The Journey available as a podcast at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)

**Retreat Program 2021 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Rd, Varroville**

**Weekend Retreat: 19-21 Feb: The Gift of Joy!** A Taize Retreat: exploring pathways to joy in life with the help of prayer and the worship of Taize.

**For bookings, complete the enquiry form online at [mtcarmel.com.au](http://mtcarmel.com.au) or call 87953400**

**Day Retreat: 6 March: Lazarus Come out:** A day of recollection on the raising of Lazarus in John 11  
**Day retreats will be held on the first Saturday of each month in the parish hall commencing at 10am. For bookings and more information call 8795 3464. The cost is \$30 pp (please BYO lunch)**

*The leprosy left him and he was cured.*

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## Reflection

by Richard Leonard

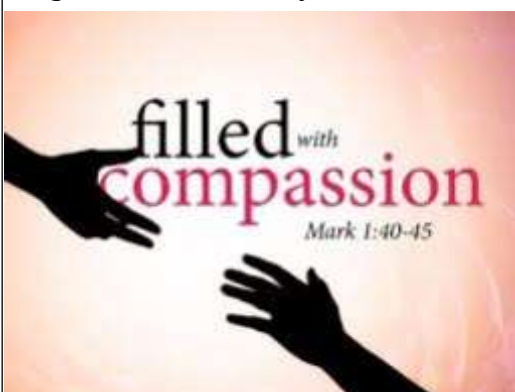
Sometimes translators of the Bible get it wrong for all the best reasons. We are used to hearing in today's Gospel that Jesus was 'filled with pity' when he encountered the leper, but the Greek word Mark uses is more accurately translated 'anger', not 'pity'. With the exception of the cleansing of the temple in John's Gospel, generations of translators found it hard to imagine Jesus angry. Jesus' anger, however, provides a wonderful insight into him, and a strong challenge to us.

Anger tells us that something is wrong. It is an important and valuable emotion. Anger is value-neutral. It's what we do with it that defines its effect in our lives. Some of us sit on it and stew. Others gain energy from their anger to right the wrong.

People who had any type of skin disease in first century Palestine were called lepers. They were treated shamefully. They had to live outside the villages and towns, call out 'unclean, unclean' when they came near others, could never attend the temple and were considered cursed by God and so excluded from the Chosen People. No wonder Jesus was angry when he encountered a man with leprosy. Here he also confronts a social class system that robbed this man of his human dignity and religious laws that robbed him of hope.

There are two details in this story that are especially important. The man with leprosy feels comfortable enough to go straight up to Jesus, to put his case, and ask for healing. We are told that Jesus touched him. Social and religious laws were being broken in this encounter. But Jesus' healing of the man isn't just about challenging social laws and taboos. Jesus tells the man to fulfil his religious obligations so that he can attend the temple again and rejoin the community. Jesus was interested in converting all those he met to the higher laws of love and compassion.

We are challenged this Sunday to trust our anger. This is not only about fighting for our rights when we have been wronged, but more so, it's fighting for the dignity and rights of others. It can take many forms: taking the life of those yet to be born, or who are near natural death, fighting for future generations by calling for a just care of the earth. And it can be about standing up for those people in our home, parish, workplace, neighbourhood, country and world who are treated shamefully, excluded, derided, or declared unclean.



Why should we bother? Because this Sunday Christ comes to us, again, and declares that despite what we might think about ourselves, or what we have been told, there is nothing in us which cannot be healed or is beyond hope.

May this Eucharist give us the love and compassion of Christ to fight for others' dignity because of the dignity we have received from Him. May we trust our anger and pray that it be like that of Jesus, and so turn us into agents of change for a more just church and for a more just world.