



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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR B
21 February 2021



Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

First Reading from the book of Genesis 9:8-15

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10
(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading

from the first letter of St Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Holy Gospel according to Mark 1: 12-15

Communion Antiphon

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

NEXT WEEK
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR B

First Reading :

Gen 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

Second Reading:

Rom 8:31-34

Gospel:

Mk 9:2-10

St Joseph, Attentive to the Word

A reflection is being offered every month in celebration of the Year of St Joseph. The articles can be accessed at:
https://catholic.org.au/images/Year_of_St_Joseph_Reflection_Feb_2021.pdf

The article for february is written by *Michele A. Connolly RSJ*, a Scripture scholar who teaches New Testament Studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney. It is too long to fit on the bulletin and you can access the entire reflection online.



"When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." Luke 2:22

Luke 2:22 shows that Joseph and Mary saw to it that, in every possible way, Jesus' birth and early life were conducted according to the will of God. The Gospel of Luke focuses more strongly on Mary, the mother of Jesus, than on her betrothed husband, Joseph. Nevertheless, by the time we hear this verse, early in the Gospel, we have learned some important facts about Joseph.

First, Joseph, who was betrothed to Mary, a virgin, was of the house and family of David (see Lk 1:27; 2:4). This means that Joseph traced his family tree back to the divinely chosen, anointed king of Israel: David. As an anointed king, David was, in the Hebrew language, a "messiah". As a result, any son of Joseph would be counted not only as a descendant of David, but potentially a messiah.

However, six centuries before the time of Jesus, David's messianic line had been exterminated. Since that time, the people of Israel had been waiting for God to provide them with another messiah who would bring a new time of great peace (see Isa 11:1-18). For this reason, Luke and the three other Gospels work very hard to show that Jesus is a legitimate son of David and thus the long-awaited messiah.

Second, Luke does not explain as the Gospel of Matthew does (see Matt 1:18-25) why Joseph decides to stay with Mary, who is pregnant before they are formally married. He simply states that Joseph went to Bethlehem to be registered in a census, going "with Mary to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child" (Lk 2:5). A few verses later (Lk 2:16), we are told that the shepherds found Joseph with Mary following the birth of Jesus. Culturally, a child was honourable when it was recognised and named by the father. Joseph, who Luke says was thought to be the baby's father (see Luke 3:23), allows the child to be named "Jesus" (Lk 2:21) as the angel who appeared to Mary had instructed (Lk 1:31).

All these actions by Joseph show that he is a man of his word who has remained with the woman to whom he is engaged, despite a pregnancy for which he is not responsible. More than that, he has seen that woman through childbirth in hard circumstances and has given her and her son a respectable identity in the world.

All these small pieces of information, when put into the larger, divine scheme of events that Luke offers us, also suggest that Joseph is a man with a distinct role in God's desire to restore the world to right relationship with Godself. Joseph's descent from King David, the anointed one, makes it possible for Jesus, despite his humble birth, to be truly the long-awaited Messiah of the Jewish people. While he does not know the full picture, by choosing generously and courageously to accept Mary as his betrothed in difficult circumstances, Joseph enables God's will to be fulfilled.

More than this, Luke 2:22 indicates that Joseph is, in fact, a devout Jewish man who intentionally lives by God's word. The verse states that Joseph and Mary deliberately made an arduous journey to Jerusalem to complete the requirements of the law of Moses for a new-born son.

Contact us

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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
Monitor	Glen & Arlene Correya	Irene Ravino	Betty & Boby Thalody
	John Ransom	Vai Ah Ching & Violetti Hunt	Volunteer
Altar Server	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Reader	Tracey Kaldasaun	Reg Bucknell	Ian Johnson
Counting	Christine Bath, Nellie Byrne	Flowers	Bridget Smith, Vai Ah Ching
Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family	Foyer	Wicks Family

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: John Morgos, 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, Jeanna 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: Denise Fields, Nina De La Cruz, Philomena Lopez, Ruth Matining, Ring Doar, Daisy Lebroux, Jean Claude Furlong.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: M A Pereira, 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

The new parish website is being launched this week. Go to our website www.olmcvarroville.org.au to check it out. It is still being updated, so keep an eye on it for the next few weeks and send us some feedback. We are excited to have a more modern and contemporary website to reflect our parish.

Lenten Groups: Groups are being formed this week to reflect on the Comfort Lenten Reflections, 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.

Groups are being held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with an evening option being considered. To register your interest call 0434705176.

LIVE Local: Attention High School students! LIVE Local is coming back and we are going to be better than ever! LIVE Local is a youth group ran by CYMW in the Macarthur Region.

Where? St John the Evangelist Catholic Church Hall, Ctown
When? Every Friday night! 7pm-9pm *What to expect?* Food, live music, games, prayer, and community! We look forward to seeing you there :) For more information, visit @cymdow on Facebook or Instagram.

The Journey' – 21 February Weekly Podcast – get it at jcr.org.au The Journey This Week – We get ready to kick off the Lenten Season and hear some amazing short reflections and great music all with a focus on making the Lenten season a grace filled time of transformation. The Journey available as a podcast at jcr.org.au

Spiritual & Pastoral Care Training : Interested in growing your capacity to be fully present to others? An Introductory Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course is being offered in Campbelltown and would be suitable for kind-hearted people wanting to learn more about providing holistic spiritual and pastoral care to patients in hospital, residents in aged care facilities or people in the parish. This 40-hour course will commence on Monday 22 February 2021 and comprise of 5 face to face (or 6 online?) consecutive sessions each Monday. Applications are now invited. For more information and an application form, please contact Carmen Karauda at ckarauda@gmail.com or phone: 0419 430 676

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, Book online: www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au.

Mount Carmel Catholic College Year 7 2022 information evening will be held on Monday March 1. To attend the evening please contact the College for specific instructions.

St Patricks College for Girls will be holding an open day on Saturday 27 February commencing at 10am.



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

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! "

Engaging the Seekers - Reaching the Unchurched Webinar: Wednesday 3rd March, 7pm-8pm

In the current pandemic, people are spiritually curious. Many are asking who is in control of their lives, and what the purpose of life is. People are seeking to find the truth and many churches are in prime positions to offer them a place to search and provide answers to their deepest longings. Join Kevin Bailey and Donna Brennan (Alpha in a Catholic context co-ordinator for Alpha Australia) as we explore and discuss innovative ways to reach people and bring them to a beautiful experience with Jesus.

To register visit: www.divinerenovation.org/australasia

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

Weekend Retreat: 12-14 March: Embracing three dimensional thinking: The length and the breadth, the height and the depth: through creating symbolically, abstractly and scripturally in art, participants will explore contemplative thinking that invites us to grow in awareness of the depths, and the breaths of God's presence in our lives. **For bookings, complete the enquiry form online at 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.

Gospel

Mark 1:12-15

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection



Twenty-two-year-old Jamila is a single mother, living in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. A Rohingya woman, she fled the armed conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State to save herself, her elderly mother and eight-month-old baby daughter. Having been abandoned by her husband, she faced life in the camp on her own.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people have crossed into Bangladesh since August 2017. Over 1.3 million people remain in the densely populated camps in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

Thanks to the generosity of Caritas Australia's supporters and through our partnership with Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila had access to emergency food and shelter. Then, as her stay in the camp stretched on, Jamila joined the Women Friendly Spaces project where she received counselling and emotional support. She learnt about health and hygiene, participated in a parenting program and learnt sewing skills to help her to earn an income.

Jamila now has a sense of community around her, and feels less alone and more supported – and she is able to “Be More” to her family.

“I want to offer my thankful greetings to those who are kindly thinking of us from overseas,” Jamila says. “Thank you, and thanks Caritas Australia.”

All three readings today remind us of the desire of God leading us to “aspire not to have more, but to be more.” The rainbow in the sky, the covenant, the baptism of Jesus and his temptation in the wilderness all remind us of the salvation that God wants for us and for our world. In the gospel, Jesus proclaims: “This is the time of fulfilment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

As John baptises Jesus, his true identity as the Son of God is revealed. “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” Immediately following this we are told that Jesus was driven into the wilderness for forty days. We have all experienced being in a wilderness in our lives. Sometimes there is more than one experience of wilderness in our lives where we are lost, confused and searching.

The first Project Compassion story is of Jamila, a Rohingya woman, living in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. A single mother, she fled armed conflict in Myanmar to save herself, her elderly mother and eight month old baby. Thanks to the generosity of Caritas Australia's supporters and through our partnership with Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila had access to emergency food and shelter. Then, as her stay in the camp stretched on, Jamila joined the Women Friendly Spaces project where she received counselling and emotional support. She learnt about health and hygiene, and participated in a parenting program. She also learnt to sew, which enables her to fulfil her dream of supporting her now four-year old daughter and having what they need for a bright future.

Through the Women's Friendly Spaces program, Jamila has found a family to support her through times of wilderness. Project Compassion invites us to “Be More” as we continue to show our love and compassion for our global family.

PRAYER

God of all peoples and nations, As you accompany us on our Lenten journey,
May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity,
Our almsgiving be an act of justice, and Our prayers anchor us in love and compassion.
Through living simply and loving generously, May we care for our global family and
our common home, as we “*Aspire not to have more, but to be more.*” *
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Saint Oscar Romero*

