

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Varroville, Raby, St Andrews and Bow Bowing



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.

24 January 2021
Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year B

Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading from the prophet Jonah 3:1-5,10

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4](#)

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is near: believe the Good News! Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:14-20

Communion Antiphon

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

Repent, and believe the Good News.



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.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

The gospel of the Lord.



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 .

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

ROSTERS

31 Jan 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
Monitor	Suzanne & Russell	Bianca Heuvel	Kathy Randal
	Myra Cortez	Nelia & Laura	Volunteer
Altar Server	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Reader	Loretta Binny	Volunteer	Maryann Lagdameo
Counting	George & Reg	Flowers	Mago & Lorraine
Vacuuming	Kaur Family	Foyer	Vai Ah Ching

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: Ruth Matining, Ring Doar, David Hazlett, Peter Mowlam, Daisy Lebreux, Jean Claude Furlong, The Cuong Nguyen, Geraldine Hurren,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Antoine Selvaraj, Rita Briscoe-Hough, Joseph Remedios, Anthony Campbell, Teresa Thompson, Resse Mangulabnan,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

St Therese of Lisieux and Her Parents, Saints Louis and Zelig Martin - Saints for Our Time.

*A year ago this weekend, we welcomed the relics into our Parish. Geoff Ashton wrote this **article about the 10 days we were blessed to have the Relics at the four Carmel sites. It's a wonderful reflection of the best thing that happened in our parish in 2020.....***

At the beginning of the 20th century Pope Pius X once described St Therese of Lisieux as “the greatest saint of modern times”. Now, in our century St Therese has proven once again to be immensely popular and still very relevant for our times.

Over the Australia Day long weekend in January 2020, the Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Varroville was blessed to host the relics of St Therese along with the relics of her parents, Saints Louis and Zelig Martin. The parish was overwhelmed by the number of people who attended the four days of the visit. From the welcome Mass on Saturday morning, 25 January to the farewell Mass on Tuesday, 28 January about 3,000 people attended the seven Masses. Parishioners and visitors from near and far came together in worship and prayer in the presence of these famous saints.

Bishop Gregory Homering OCD, the Bishop of Lismore (a former Carmelite friar from here at Varroville) in a reflection on this visit of the relics, posed the questions: why tour the remains of saints and make them available for the veneration of the faithful? And, is this an outdated superstition? In answer, he wrote “Of themselves relics are not holy. It is more correct to say, they are the remains of a holy person, a saint, and on account of their connection to that holy person are revered”. He went on to write that these three saints “show us the integrity of virtue and holiness. The path to holiness is the path of struggle and ordinary life. It is carried and lived with love, and dependence on God. They experienced the mercy of the Father and this mercy crafted the way they lived and loved. In this way they are of great relevance for us.”

As a family they had lived like us, experienced the joys and difficulties of life and grew together in faith and holiness. There is a lot we can learn from them in our time. And many people came to sit in their presence, venerating their relics and contemplating their lives and the relationship they may have to all of us.

This most blessed weekend for our parish was the culmination of much praying and planning and the exceptional generosity of the wonderful parishioners here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish. Planning began months before Christmas with an organising committee that managed specific teams covering the areas of: liturgy; hospitality; welcome; information; memorabilia; parking and security. All of these teams were manned by enthusiastic parishioners who generously gave, not only of their time, but also provided the food that was offered to everyone over the four days. In fact, Daniel Hopper (Diocesan Director of Media & Communications) who took the official photography for the welcome Mass presided at by Bishop Brian Mascord, said “the parish truly outdid itself with an abundance of food and refreshments for lunch after Mass for all in attendance. What an amazing parish community! It was like the Wedding Feast at Cana! A big thank you to all who assisted with hospitality.” Indeed, hospitality was a key aspect of this event. Serving food, be it a sit down lunch after

Mass, a barbecue for Australia Day, morning or afternoon tea, or even supper provided such a wonderful opportunity for building community, so central to our parish. For many years now we have provided refreshments after every Mass every weekend and it is the glue that binds our faith community together, it is the way we express God's love for each other.

Our Liturgy team, likewise, had a major role in the success of the visit. Providing the themes, prayers, music, readers and offertory for each of the Masses along with many devotional liturgies used throughout the days and nights of the visit made for a truly joyous and prayerful atmosphere. Parishioners and visitors alike could worship, pray, venerate and contemplate these three saints both communally and privately. The parish was blessed again to have Bishop Brian Mascord preside at the welcome Mass at midday on Saturday in front of a full church. These liturgies were at the heart of the visit of the relics and were a very uplifting experience for all who attended. In a parish where many cultures come together each week, it was wonderful celebrating our unity in diversity in the presence of St Therese, who professed a desire to be a missionary of God's love.

Our recently arrived Parish Associate, Sr Ninfa Timbal CM, commented on the importance of the relics for her ministry "they are a clear confirmation of God's blessing to my new missionary journey in the Great South Land" and that St Therese accompanies her "in every detail of my task here, and she continues to teach me to put love into everything I do and say. Thanks be to God "



A number of stalls were also provided for visitors: (1) An information stall with free handouts about St Therese and her parents, prayer cards and copies of several letters to and from her parents; (2) A book stall selling books about St Therese and her writings; (3) A memorabilia stall with souvenirs such as: sachets of roses, St Therese medals, medals of both St Louis and St Zelig, magnets and wrist bands.

All the efforts of the parish in the planning for this event ensured the most successful and enjoyable outcome. It was made possible because our parish priest empowers our parishioners to see their gifts and talents and to take leadership roles in guiding our parish on its missionary journey. Also, our wonderfully generous parishioners, alive in their faith, embraced this event with such enthusiasm and friendliness that our parish as a whole has been revitalised, our community strengthened and our faith enriched.

Fr Shane, our parish priest, was particularly pleased with the planning and preparation, adding "it seemed that every eventuality was considered and the result was an overwhelming success, far beyond expectations." Many visitors expressed to him how touched they were by the warm welcome and great hospitality they received.

These three saints are definitely still saints for our time. And the time they were with us here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish was, indeed, a wonderful time. I felt very blessed to have been a small part of it.