



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.*

**FIFTH SUNDAY  
ORDINARY TIME  
YEAR B**



**Entrance Antiphon**

O come, let us worship  
God and bow low  
before the God who  
made us, for he is the  
Lord our God.

**First Reading**

from the book of  
Job 7: 1-4, 6-7

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3  
(R.) Praise the Lord who  
heals the broken-hearted.

**Second Reading** from  
the first letter of St Paul  
to the Corinthians  
9: 16-19, 22-23

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
He bore our sickness,  
and endured our  
suffering. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel**

according to  
Mark 1: 29-39

**Communion Antiphon**

Let them thank the Lord  
for his mercy, his  
wonders for the children  
of men, for he satisfies  
the thirsty soul,  
and the hungry he fills  
with good things.

**Sixth Sunday  
ordinary time Year B**

**First:** Lv 13:1-2. 44-46

**Responsorial Psalm**

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

**Second:** 1 Cor 10:31 - 11:1

**Gospel:** Mk 1:40-45

## What is Alpha?

Alpha is our parish tool for evangelisation based on hospitality, sharing and open conversation. The same Alpha content is run all over the world, by Christians of all traditions, and provides a common expression of proclamation, service and witness. Millions of people have tried Alpha all around the world in 112 languages.

## Evangelisation

Alpha is a tool to introduce people to an initial proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ – the kerygma. As Pope Francis says, 'Nothing is more solid, profound, secure, meaningful and wisdom-filled than that initial proclamation.' (EG, 165).

## Encounter

Alpha takes people on a journey often leading to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. It enables people to ask their questions, share ideas, build friendships and experience the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Everyone

Alpha is for everyone; all backgrounds, all contexts, all ages. Alpha is particularly attracting many young people who are asking the some of the big questions of life. Questions like, 'Is there more to life than this?'

for further information please go to [www.alpha.org.au/catholic-context](http://www.alpha.org.au/catholic-context)

## 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 you and your guest's attendance via the website or by calling the parish office.

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**



## Parish Contact

**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

14 Feb 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
<b>Monitor</b>	Margaret Mc Dermott	Beatrix Reuter	Patricia Wicks
	Candice D'Coutho	Gerry & Margaret Connolly	Rhonda Thompson
<b>Altar Server</b>	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
<b>Reader</b>	Gloria Divinagracia	Irene Ravino	Kathy Randal
<b>Counting</b>	McDermott & Robins Families	<b>Flowers</b>	Tracey Kaldasaun
<b>Vacuuming</b>	Kaur Family	<b>Foyer</b>	Orly Simbul

## Prayer intentions

***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 Kajdryns, 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, David Hazlett, Peter Mowlam, Daisy Lebreux, Jean Claude Furlong, The Cuong Nguyen, Geraldine Hurren,

***Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:*** Lio Feiloakitohi, Anne Migus, Josephine Thompson, Antoine Selvaraj, Rita Briscoe-Hough, Joseph Remedios, Anthony Campbell, Teresa Thompson,  
*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** (St Cecilia Dominican sister born and raised in Sydney NSW) 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 book and Cd will be available next weekend to purchase and from the parish office during the week.

**Property meeting will be on Tuesday 9 February at 7.30pm via zoom.** This will be an exciting year.

At present we are waiting for council approval of our renovation plans and hopefully we will be able to commence the project soon. We also have our usual maintenance and working bees to coordinate. Our Property team is very small and if you can spare some time during the week or on weekends to volunteer to keep our grounds and buildings in good repair, please come forward and put your hand up to join the team. To join the meeting please call the parish office for the zoom link.

**Catechist Meeting:** There will be a meeting of all SRE Catechists of our Parish on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 10:00 AM in preparation for our SRE Classes in Term 1. Frances Fairs, the new CCD Faith Education Officer, who replaces the position of Trish McCarthy, will join us in the first part of the meeting. We encourage the Catechists to join the 9:00 AM Mass, to be followed by a morning tea before the 10:00 AM meeting. It will be held at the parish meeting room if we are only 10 people present, and at the Church Portico if we will be more than 10 people. Please RSVP. Thank you!

**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.

Cafe Essay, Wollongong - Week 1 - Friday 5 February, 9:30am - 1pm

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)

**Wrap with Love Knitting group** will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month in the parish meeting room at 11am. The group of ladies knit and crochet blankets and other items to donate for needy families in Australia and overseas. They will accept donations of wool and are very happy to welcome anyone wishing to join the group. For more information call the parish office.

**OLMC Book Club** will start meeting in the parish meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 10am. 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, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at [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).**

**The Journey' – 7 February 2021 – Your Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast – get it at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)**

The Journey This Week – Finding God in Suffering – Monsignor Graham Schmitzer says Jesus isn't concerned about why suffering but rather how to respond to illness & need, and Mother Hilda says God always speaks to us when we're suffering. The Journey available as a podcast at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)

**We're always here, if you ever need...**

These are challenging times for everyone and Catholic-Care are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes. To find out more about Catholic-Care's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email [intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.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)**

*He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY Taboos and Freedom

by Mary Coloe PBVM

*'He went to her, took her by the hand and raised her up.'*

A significant theme across the Gospel of Mark is discipleship. In this scene the disciples are named and following the healing the woman rises to minister to 'them'. In these subtle ways Mark maintains a focus on the disciples. Notice also that the disciples, even at this early stage, are already involved in Jesus' ministry. They are the ones who bring Jesus' attention to Simon's mother-in-law and the following day they bring the sick to Jesus.

Like most Jewish men Simon (Peter) was married, although his wife is never named or mentioned. According to Jewish custom, his mother-in-law lives in his home. The fact that she lives in the house of Simon (Peter) and Andrew suggests that she is now a widow. Since Jewish women married young, in their early teens, this woman need not be terribly old, perhaps in her thirties or forties.

The Gospel makes a contrast between the religious institutions of the synagogue and later the Temple, and the more domestic scene of the *house*. Jesus' ministry frequently happens within a house. Jesus breaks through a number of religious taboos in touching a woman and in touching a person who was sick. These actions would immediately make him ritually unclean. But Jesus shows such taboos have no place in the new household that he is forming around him. The early Christian communities continue to function in the first centuries as a network of house-churches, without formal religious buildings. [For more on this I recommend a book by Michael Trainor, *The Quest for Home: The household in Mark's community*.]

Following a very busy evening of healings and exorcisms Jesus leaves Simon's house to pray. Simon goes in search of him. Perhaps he liked the idea of the healer residing in his home. Who knows what enterprise this could lead to! But Jesus is not to be confined to one house, to one village; he has a mission that is bigger than Simon's current perception. Poor Simon! I imagine he wanted a domesticated Jesus within his grasp, but Jesus refuses to be so limited. He does not allow the religious 'taboos' of Judaism or the limited perception of others to determine his mission.

Religious institutions can try to domesticate Jesus; sometimes I can even try to do this, to have a Jesus I can understand and be comfortable with. What about you? Do you still cling to 'good old plastic Jesus' or has Jesus pushed your boundaries?

In these two readings both Jesus and Paul demonstrate the freedom that comes from genuine love. Each is able to act from a place of deep integrity and can lay aside religious and cultural taboos, and even personal freedom for the sake of compassion.