



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.

14 MARCH 2021
 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
 YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading from the second book of Chronicles
 36:14-16. 19-23

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 136. R. v.6
 (R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
 God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
 Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Holy Gospel according to John 3:14-21

Communion Antiphon

The Lord anointed my eyes:
 I went, I washed,
 I saw and I believed in God.

NEXT WEEK

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
 YEAR B

First Reading: Jer 31:31-34

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12
 (R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading: Heb 5:7-9

Holy Gospel: Jn 12:20-33

REFLECTION—The astonishing life of St Joseph – Spouse of Mary and Father of Jesus

Robert Falzon reflects on how St Joseph may have responded to his astonishing call to be the foster-father of Jesus and spouse of Mary.



What does it mean for fathers and husbands in today's world?

Joseph, son of Jacob, was born in Bethlehem and was a descendant of King David (Matt 1). He lived in Nazareth in Galilee, where he worked as a craftsman/

tradesman, often referred to as a carpenter. He was married to Mary, daughter of Joachim; he had been to the father of Mary and paid the “dower” with the promise of marriage, but had not taken her into his home yet, as was the custom. Mary, a few months into her betrothal, rushed off to the high country in Judea just outside Jerusalem to visit her relative Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John. It was the first of several astonishing events. The rumours started. Why had she gone during her time of waiting for Joseph to come for her? What had happened? Was something wrong? Mary returned about three months later and the lifechanging news was brought to Joseph. His betrothed spouse was pregnant!

Can you imagine what he was going through and thinking? “How could she do this? What could have happened? Why? Who? What will I do?”

He decided to divorce her quietly because he was unwilling to expose her to public disgrace and possible stoning (Matt 1:19). Then, in the midst of this drama, an angel appeared to Joseph and told him that the child was the Son of God! Conceived by the Holy Spirit. Remarkably, he obeys God’s messenger and takes Mary as his spouse, into his home. Doing this, Joseph completes the marriage, gives Mary his name and becomes the father of the child in her womb. Before the birth of their child, Caesar Augustus called a census for the whole land. Joseph was obliged to take the very pregnant Mary with him and travel to Bethlehem in Judea to fulfil the requirements. A son was born and Joseph, his father, gave him the name Jesus, in accordance with the angel’s instructions.

So, this son was born in a manger in Bethlehem because there was no room in the town, to Joseph and Mary in the line of David, in accordance with the ancient prophecies. If the actions of Joseph and the birth of Jesus weren’t astonishing enough, after the birth there were some amazing events. The shepherds came to visit, proclaiming the vision and the words of the angels. Then three rulers (Magi) visited this newborn “King” of the Jews. Can you imagine what was going on in Joseph’s mind and heart? Having walked for 10 days, with no sleep that night and all the strange happenings, he must have been confused, awestruck, amazed and, in his quiet moments, wondering what he had got himself into.

“I don’t understand. Who is this woman? What about the mysterious son who is supposed to be the saviour of the world?! What were the shepherds going on about? Why did these rulers visit, prostrate themselves before my baby son and give us such incredible gifts?” Soon after, Joseph took the child and mother to the temple in Jerusalem and presented their first-born son, in accordance with the law. They encountered Simeon and Anna, who again disturbed Joseph and Mary. “What a strange prophecy! Who is this son and what will he be?” *continued on back page.....*

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 March 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
Monitor	Tracey & Richard Kaldasaun	Bianca Heuvel	Patricia Wicks
	Volunteer	Nelia Balingit & Laura Marquinez	Ronda Thompson
Altar Server	Volunteer	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Reader	Ryan Potter	Susan Bucknell	Ofa Mafi
Counting	George Shiner, Reg Bucknell	Flowers	Tracey Kaldasaun
Vacuuming	Vergara Family	Foyer	Ronda Thompson

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Nelia Balingit, 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: Louisa Moniz Dearaujo, Denise Field, Nina De La Cruz, Jose Manubay, Philomena Lopez, Ruth Matining, Ring Doar, Daisy Lebroux, Jean Claude Furlong.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Corazon Grecia, Ed Benney, Luke Spinnato, M A Pereira, Lio Feiloakitohi,
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

FEAST DAY OF ST JOSEPH: March 19: In this Year of St Joseph (Dec 8 2020—Dec 8 2021), we will mark the Feast Day with a special Mass, On Thursday 18 at 7.30pm we will have the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of St Joseph and we will move the Statue of St Joseph closer to the Altar for the remainder of the year. Mass will be on Friday morning at 9am as normal.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS:

Passion Sunday: 28 March

Holy Thursday: 1 April: Mass at 7.30pm

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross at 10am.
The Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday: Prayers at 9am (Liturgy of the Hours)

Easter Sunday: Vigil Mass at 7pm (Saturday)
Mass at 9.30am and 5pm

Second Rite of Reconciliation: Friday March 26 at 7.30p

Stations of the Cross are in the church every Friday evening at 7pm during Lent.

EASTER LITURGY MEETING: There is a meeting on Monday 15 March at 7.30pm for the Easter Masses. If you are intending to be involved in music, readers, monitors, altar servers during any of the Easter service is invited to attend. The meeting will be held in the meeting room and also via zoom for those unable to attend. The zoom link is <https://dowcatholic.zoom.us/j/99015799736>

Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion will be on Friday evening at 7.30pm on 9 April, then on the first Friday of each month.

ROSTERS are due for renewal at the end of March. Please contact the parish office if you need to update your details and availability. The new rosters will be put on the new website in the news dropdown.

Reader Training: There will be Reader training on Saturday 20 March from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the meeting room. It will be repeated on Saturday 27 March. You only need to come to ONE day. This will be for people wanting to join this Ministry or anyone who wishes to pray and reflect on their current reading ministry. Another training will be organised with a leader. If you are unable to attend either training please call Colleen on 0415 679 354 so that a convenient time can be arranged. Please notify the office of your intention to attend as we need to observe Covid protocols.

Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online

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

Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator

– **Catholic Diocese of Wollongong** Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Youth Ministry Coordinator in the Diocese of Wollongong. Applications close on Tuesday, 16 March. For more information and a detailed role description, please go to <http://dow.sh/CYMWJob> or for enquiries contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au.



After 6pm mass and 9.30am Mass on the weekend on 20/21 March.

We are having a garage sale to sell things that are no longer required to make some space before our renovations commence. The stall is being

organised by the fundraising committee and if you wish to help with set up and pack up, helping on the tables or donations for the sale on the weekend please call Mago at the parish office.

There is some toys, games, kitchen items and other household things for sale on the weekend. We will also have a cake stall and plant stall. The funds raised will go towards our Parish Renovations.

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.

Jamberoo Abbey Weeklong Retreat: Remembering Holy Saturday: This retreat will be made available during the Holy Week. It explores the mystery of Holy Saturday, on what it means to live in "in-between" times, liminal times. There will be video talk everyday starting from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. This retreat will be given by an oblate of Jamberoo Abbey, Rev Catherine Eaton. For more information, go to our website: <https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats/holy-week-retreat/>

Alpha: Last Tuesday we commenced Alpha with a very successful launch night. The hall was buzzing with excitement and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. If you missed out, there is a chance to join again this week. **Come and See;** Tuesday March 9, 2021 in our parish hall arrive at 6:45 for a 7pm start. 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.



God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection

In today's Gospel reading, we heard Nicodemus's humbling encounter with Jesus. Nicodemus was asking Jesus how it is possible for one to renew themselves, or to be born again from sin. As Jesus responds, he makes numerous references to "the light". Jesus invites us to "be a light in the world, a light to others". We are all made in the image and likeness of God and thus all possess God-given gifts that we are called to share.

Christ was made man to shine a light onto the darkness in this world. By his life, God revealed the ways in which to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth; demonstrating how to be a light to others so that we may attain salvation and enjoy eternal life. We all have a responsibility to shine a light on the injustices that exist within society, and are challenged to be light that drives change.

This week, we hear the Project Compassion story of Arsad, a farmer who lives in the Pandeglang District in Indonesia with his wife and three children. It was only recently that he was able to build a toilet for his family; a common household hardware that many of us take for granted. Arsad and his family, along with millions of people globally, lack basic access to safely-managed sanitation facilities, often being exposed to dangerous conditions as well as making them highly susceptible to infectious diseases. Through a Caritas Australia supported program, Arsad was able embody the quote of St Oscar Romero: "Aspire not to have more, but to be more", by becoming involved in a community-based health development project where he learnt the skills to participate in a community-led approach to building toilets.

Just as Jesus calls us to do, Arsad shared his gifts by assisting with the building of toilets for other families within his neighbourhood. How can we, as much or as little as we have, be the light that drives change? How can we "Be More", and use our gifts to make a difference in the lives of others?

.....*Reflection continued from front page:*

It is already evident that this family is not destined for a settled life and, as if this is not enough, an angel wakes Joseph up again and tells him to take his wife and baby and escape to Egypt because the most powerful man in the land wants to kill Jesus! Anyone would be forgiven for thinking: "Come on! Give me a break here. I did not sign up for this!" This good man gets up, wakes his wife Mary, explains the drama and the necessary urgency. He loads up the family and heads off on a flight into Egypt – except it was a long walk of hundreds of kilometres and would have taken weeks. As he walks, he wonders: "How will I provide and protect my precious family? How will I know which way to go? Did I really hear an angel, or was this just my lack of sleep? But it was the same angel that came earlier and told me to take Mary as my wife." So many questions.

As they walk in silence, he prays. He repeats the psalms in rhythm with the steps. Possibly he remembers Isaiah 7:14: "The Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Emmanuel (which means 'God is with us')." This was no holiday journey and no ordinary life. The terrain was difficult and the danger imminent from bandits, brigands and wild animals. Joseph listens, discerns and makes decisions with the objective of guarding, protecting, providing for this precious family. He listens to the voice for guidance.

Some years later, the angel appears again and tells him to pack up and go home to Nazareth. All is well; Herod is dead. He obeys like many times before. Another long journey is embarked on. They settle in Nazareth and then all is mostly quiet for nearly 30 years, except for one story about Jesus getting lost on a visit to Jerusalem. These are the "hidden" years. We know almost nothing of Joseph, Mary and Jesus during this time. There is so much to be learned from St Joseph – so much we need right now in this present age!

It is prophetic that Pope Francis calls us back to St Joseph with his apostolic letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's