



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.

21 March 2021
 Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Year B



Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God, and
 plead my cause against a
 nation that is faithless.
 From the deceitful and
 cunning rescue me, for you,
 O God, are my strength.

First Reading from the
 prophet Jeremiah 31:31-34

Responsorial Psalm

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

Second Reading from the
 letter to the Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God,
 Lord Jesus Christ! If you
 serve me, follow me, says
 the Lord; and where I am,
 my servant will also be.
 Glory to you, Word of God,
 Lord Jesus Christ!

Holy Gospel according to
 John 12:20-33

Communion Antiphon

Amen, Amen I say to you:
 Unless a grain of wheat

NEXT WEEK
 28 March 2021
 PALM SUNDAY

First Reading: Is 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2
 (R.) My God, my God, why
 have you abandoned me?

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Holy Gospel:
 Mk 14:1 - 15:47

**Year Amoris Laetitia Family,
 19 March 2021 – 26 June 2022**

On March 19, 2021, the Church will celebrate five years since the publication of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* on the beauty and joy of love in the family.

On the same day, Pope Francis will launch the Year “Amoris Laetitia Family”, which will conclude on 26 June 2022, on the occasion of the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father.

The Vatican will be producing an array of resources, including a video series by Pope Francis breaking open the document and the Joy of Christian Family life. you are encouraged to visit to <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html>

As part of this, Pope Francis has decided to institute throughout the Church the celebration of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will be held beginning this year on Sunday July 25th, near the liturgical memory of Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus.

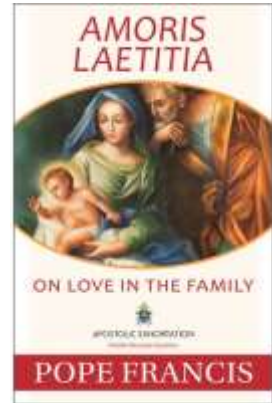
Married couples who have a passion for the beauty of Church teaching on marriage and family are urged to consider participating in marriage enrichment later in the year. You may even be keen to join with a team to help promote and deliver some of this online formation around the Diocese. If so please contact jude.hennessy@dow.org.au so you can be included in communications and training.

We are continuing our Ministry Appreciation this weekend for our Altar Servers and Flower arrangers.

The adult altar server is a lay minister authorised to serve at the altar, and to assist the priest (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 100). An adult altar server may carry the cross, the candles, the censor, the thurible, the bread, the wine, and the water. Adult altar servers prepare the altar and sacred vessels and may distribute Holy Communion to the faithful.

For young people, their time of altar service may play an important part in their personal spiritual growth. It is considered to be a laudable practice for parishes to encourage boys and girls in this form of service.

The flower arrangers are the invisible ministry that works quietly behind the scenes creating floral arrangements that are meaningful to the liturgy and decorative, enhancing our sacred space as we celebrate Mass each day



After the 6pm Mass on Saturday and the 9.30am Mass this weekend.

Stop by as you leave Mass to buy a cake or a plant. There are many treasures to be found

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

28 March 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
Monitor	M. McDermott, C. D'Coutho	G. & O. Mafi T. Vergara	B. & B. Thalody Volunteer
Altar Server	Volunteer	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Reader	M. McDermott	T. Kennedy	K. Randal
Counting	R. Kaldasaun, Volunteer	Flowers	B. Smith, V. Ah-Ching
Vacuuming	H & C Tamisin	Foyer	R. Binny

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: Marian Owens, Louisa Moniz Dearaujo, Denise Field, Nina De La Cruz, Jose Manubay, Philomena Lopez, Ruth Matining, Ring Doar,

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

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 at 3pm

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.

SACRAMENTAL DATES for 2021: The dates for the reception of Sacraments this year are:

First Holy Communion: 6 June at all Masses.

Confirmation: Sunday 22 August at 9.30am Mass

First Reconciliation: Saturday 6 November at 11am.

Registration for all sacraments is required before April 16 and it is important for all parents to attend the **Parent Formation evening on Monday 19 April** at 7.30pm.

More information and registration forms are available on our parish website.

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 will finish next weekend. During the week, the new rosters will be emailed out to everyone. If you require a printed copy please contact the parish office. The rosters will also be uploaded into our new website with ministry notes. Thank you to those who are continuing their ministry and welcome to all the new people who have made a commitment to a fresh ministry.

Reader Training: There will be Reader training on Saturday 27 March from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the meeting room. 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.

Alpha - Refreshing our Vision and Practice Monday 12 April 2021, 7:30pm-9pm at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Hall, *Alpha* is a highly successful tool for outreach and evangelisation in many parishes within our diocese. Why is this the case and how can we utilise *Alpha* to its fullest potential in drawing people into a life of faith and relationship with Jesus? This refresher training, run by Tania Rimac from Alpha Australia, will inspire you, your parish, and Alpha teams. This gathering will help us refresh our vision for *Alpha* in parish life and some of the 'best practices' in its implementation. We will also look at strategies for inviting and running an online *Alpha*. Register at <https://www.dow.org.au/news-and-events/> by Friday 9 April 2021. For more information contact darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au

Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online

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

MOUNT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE is offering a weekend retreat 16-18 April: Praying with St Teresa of Jesus, presented by Fr Ferdi. *St Teresa guides us towards a state of sublime surrender to God, where in silence we will be taught in an interior way.* For bookings please contact 87953464.

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.

The Journey' -Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast

On the Journey this week: the wheat harvest gospel; Mons Graham Schmitzer on Jesus setting the ground rules for gaining or losing life's rich harvest. Mother Hilda tells her personal dying grain moment to gain a new dimension of herself. Plus, Michelle Vass, Darren McDowell, and Sr Kate Atkins. The Journey available as a podcast at jcr.org.au

The Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis on December 8, 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde (With a Father's Heart)*, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. You are encouraged to visit the ACBC year of St Joseph page at <https://www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph> including Monthly reflections on various aspects of St Joseph's life and character and prayers.

You are encouraged to read the beautiful pastoral Letter from Pope Francis – with a Father's Heart http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

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/>

St. Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Day Retreat 23-29 April 2021 "Become Like Water" Fr John Armstrong

This retreat will notice how we are called to be participants in the life of grace by reflecting on the Mysteries of Light and where we notice the waters of baptism welling up within us, inviting us to enter the river of life: Cost for 6-day Retreat: \$870 (Prayer Weekend 23-25 April: \$290) St. Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park. Download the Form from our Website: <http://towersretreat.org.au> or RSVP Ph:46300233 OR Email contact@towersretreat.org.au

Disciples School of Mission 7 - 11 April 2021

Are you aged between 16 - 40 and searching for an adventure in 2021? If so, then join us for the Disciples School of Mission in Canberra.

For more information: therese.mgl This five-day live-in training course calls young people from across Australia to

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;

anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection

WEEK 5
BANGLADESH

PROJECT COMPASSION
BE MORE



Halima is raising two children under seven in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, while caring for her mother who has a disability. Widowed at just 21, Halima fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State in 2017, arriving at the camp with nothing. Caritas Australia, through its partner, Caritas Bangladesh, helped Halima out with a shelter & cooking equipment so that she could feed her family. She participated in hygiene & sanitation training & took on the role of community trainer herself, organising the cleaning of washrooms, wells & toilets.

Halima's training became all the more invaluable as the COVID-19 pandemic struck, when safe hygiene and preventative measures suddenly became lifesaving. Halima is proud that she is able to earn a small income, while maintaining the health of her family and the cleanliness of the camp community. Her children are adapting to life in the camp and are now at school. Halima aspired to "Be More" for her family and for the community around her.

"My hope is that our children will be able to do a job, to live with pleasure, they will find their happiness – that will bring wellbeing for them," Halima says.

This week's gospel begins with people wishing to "see Jesus". Perhaps not to simply observe Jesus, but to "see" Jesus so that they can understand.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us think of where we see Jesus today. Do we see Jesus in the millions of people displaced around our world? Do we see Jesus in the people who don't have the basic necessities to live life to the full? Do we see Jesus in those willing to help others? In the Project Compassion story for this week we learn of, or "see" Halima, a Rohingya woman living in the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Through our support of Caritas Australia, Halima and her two children now have access to clean water and sanitation facilities within the camp, along with access to food and clothes. Halima, with the basic necessities to support her family can now look forward to the future.

Through Halima's story we are able to see and hopefully understand a little more of the human experience. Later, in the gospel, Jesus speaks of service: "Whoever serves me must follow me". When we see Jesus in the struggle of human experience, do we serve and follow him?

We should never underestimate our acts of service and our call to "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." As one tiny seed can yield a rich harvest, our almsgiving and support of Caritas Australia is one way we can "Be More" by standing in solidarity with millions of people around the world. Like Jesus, we, too, are made for eternal life, and are united with him as we serve. How can we stay committed to respond to what we see and continue to serve the children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice?

