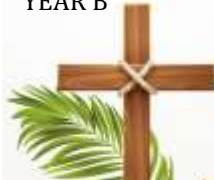




To know, love and serve Jesus  
by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission

*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.*

PALM SUNDAY OF THE  
PASSION OF THE LORD  
YEAR B



**Entrance Antiphon**

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

\* Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!  
O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.

Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

\* Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

**First Reading** from the prophet Isaiah 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** from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2: 6-11

**Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Holy Gospel** according to Mark 14:1-15:47

**Communion Antiphon**

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

## Our connection to the Holy Land

During Holy Week, the Gospel readings come to life in a special way as we gather to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The readings remind us of our special connection to the land where this great story unfolded.

Since the time of St Paul, who urged his missionary Churches not to forget the needs of the Church in Jerusalem, Christians worldwide have understood the responsibility to support the land where Jesus walked.

In these challenging times in the Middle East, Christians are experiencing unique hardships. We have an opportunity to help them through the Holy Land Collection.

Christians in the Holy Land face special challenges, many of which we hear about in the daily news. The political, religious and military challenges in the Holy Land are more complex than ever. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. Supporting the Holy Land Collection offers hope to the Holy Land Christians.

Christians living in the Holy Land today are descendants of those who first believed and lived the Christian faith. It is important that Christians continue to live, work and pray in the Holy Land.

The Holy Land Collection offers all Catholics an opportunity to express their solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land. A donation to the Holy Father's annual appeal is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region.

Last year's Holy Land Collection:

- Supported 29 parishes, four homes for orphans, three academic institutions
- Helped keep schools open for over 10,000 pre-K through grade 12 students
- Supported 120 men preparing to be priests or brothers
- Helped rehabilitate 80 homes for Christian families
- Provided senior care facilities in Bethlehem and Nazareth
- Created 1,500 jobs in the Holy Land for Christians
- Preserved 54 shrines connected with the life of Jesus and the prophets.

### HOLY LAND COLLECTION

For 800 years, the Holy Land Franciscans have served in the land made holy by the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Pope Francis has asked our parishes to support the collection which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Holy Land Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Holy Land Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees.

When you contribute to the Holy Land Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

The annual Holy Land Collection will be held on Good Friday, 2 April 2021.

To find out more, or to make an on-line donation please visit [dow.sh/HolyLand2021](http://dow.sh/HolyLand2021)



## 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

## Easter Celebrations

**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

**Divine Mercy Sunday on 11 April**  
The celebration will commence at 2pm with Eucharistic Adoration, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and at 3pm, Holy Mass with Fr. Ferdie Dela Cruz in our parish church.



**Rosary Procession - Holy Saturday (10.30am-2.30pm)**

Join the MGL Sisters and friends for a prayerful rosary procession at Carmel House (345 St Andrews Road). We will begin at 10.30am with reflection in the chapel and process to the cross on the hill on the grounds of the retreat centre to pray the rosary. Feel free to stay around for a picnic lunch following the rosary - BYO rug/ chair, picnic lunch and drinks. More information call Therese MGL on 0432 228 250.

## Rosters for Easter are on the website

## 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:** Emile Autard, Barbara Frantz, Corazon Grecia, Ed Benney, Luke Spinnato, *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

**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.

**NEW ROSTERS** are available. 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.

**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](mailto: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](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 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](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:therese.mgl)** This five-day live-in training course calls young people from across Australia to be equipped in youth ministry and evangelisation. You then have the opportunity to put into practice what you have learnt and dive into an optional three-week mission experience. Be renewed in your own journey, fully equipped for mission/youth ministry, and formed in the Catholic faith. You won't regret it, it's an adventure!

## **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 Wednesday 7 April 2021. For more information and a detailed role description, please go to <http://dow.sh/CYMWJob> or for enquiries contact [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au).

**FREE ART WORKSHOPS** Do you live in or near Picton/Tahmoor, Moss Vale/Bowral, Lake Conjola or Milton? We are running free art workshops during the school holidays (Fri 2nd – Fri 16th April). Please see attached flyer. Materials provided; no artistic skills required. Places are limited, to register call 4227 1122. For enquiries: [catholiccare.dow.org.au](http://catholiccare.dow.org.au)

## **The Journey' Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast**

On the Journey this week: Monsignor Graham Schmitzer says the pierced heart symbolises the stream of the new temple. Mother Hilda asks how often have we called out: my God, why have you abandoned me? And Fr Chris Sarkis says don't run from this week, sit with it, embrace it, know the price at which your life was purchased. The Journey available as a podcast at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)

## **Tribunal of the Catholic Church**

The Wollongong Office of the Interdiocesan Tribunal is still "open" – staff are available to take calls and enquiries Tuesdays to Thursdays each week during business hours. If you have any questions about marriage, divorce and remarriage in the Catholic Church, or about any other matters of Church law, please contact the friendly staff on 4222 2409 or [tribunal@dow.org.au](mailto:tribunal@dow.org.au)

## Women and War

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David as many had hoped for, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but they proved fickle in their support. On the other hand, Jesus remained steadfast in his commitment to *non-violent* revolutionary change of the religious and political systems so as to establish the reign of God. Why did he renounce marshalling human and angelic warriors to further his cause?

First, Jesus embodied God-for-us, and God does not want the destruction of those he has created out of love. Second, Jesus had a premonition that an armed revolt would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (as occurred in 70AD).

Third, another Gospel (Luke) recounts that as Jesus laboured up Mount Calvary he turned to some wailing women and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children.' He knew that they suffer grievously in armed uprising. This is seen in barbaric reality in our own time with women being tortured and raped in campaigns of terror, trafficked into sexual slavery, suffering the loss of sons, husband and lovers.

We could take a moment to pray that the Church of the 21st century, successor of the pacifist Church of the first three centuries, may enter on a new period of reflection on these issues, grappling with the desire to protect the innocent, yet always challenged by the man on a donkey, Divine Prince of Peace.



Isaiah references both speaking and listening. The servant of God is both a person who can speak boldly with a well-trained tongue and a person whose ears and heart are open for listening. If we are to heal the brokenness of our world, we all need the grace both to speak and to listen.

The Passion reminds us that Jesus is the suffering servant. Christ "emptied himself and became the servant of all." We need this spirit if we are to bring an end to the war, violence, selfishness and injustice which divides us. We are called to "Be More". We need to be able to respond to the needs of the world and its people. Jesus is such a servant – one who is connected with our life, our struggle and our world.

Within the Passion we see examples of kindness such as the woman with the alabaster jar, who saw beyond the superficial and performed one of the "good works" just as we have during Project Compassion. "Leave her alone. Why are you upsetting her? What she has done for me is one of the good works." Veronica performed the simple service of wiping the face of Jesus and Simon assisted Jesus in carrying the cross. These are small acts in themselves but have had significant meaning over time.

Through the liturgies of Holy Week, we participate in the remembrance of Jesus' final days. We are mindful too of the many women, men and children around the world who are most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. We have seen examples of this poverty and injustice in the Project Compassion stories which highlight the support for those in Bangladesh, Solomon Islands, Tanzania and Indonesia where we have been able to help uphold their dignity. It is for these and thousands of others that we are called to "Be More" for they are the face of the suffering Christ in our time.

Let us ask ourselves: How can I recognise the face of Christ in all? How can I truly listen and speak boldly for justice?

Over half a century, generations of Australians have participated in Project Compassion. It has raised more than \$500 million since it began in 1965 – making it one of the nation's longest running charity campaigns. For many, Project Compassion's iconic collection boxes have become a nostalgic part of their lives – a reminder around home, school, church and the community that it's time to support Caritas Australia's annual appeal.

Margaret Moriarty can't remember a time without a Project Compassion box in her house during Lent. "Donating to poorer counties was very important to my mother and father. My children have grown up with the same iconic boxes in our home and my grandchildren are continuing the tradition," Margaret says.

Throughout five decades of natural disasters, conflicts and crises, Caritas Australia has worked alongside vulnerable communities, with the generous support of Australians. Project Compassion has also helped with access to education, health services and agricultural training, and through programs that reduce maternal and infant mortality.

During COVID-19, local partnerships have helped Caritas Australia to respond quickly to minimise the spread of the coronavirus. This year, Caritas Australia has presented five stories from people striving to "Be More" - just a few stories amongst the millions of supporters who have been helped through Project Compassion.

