



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.

**EASTER SUNDAY OF
THE RESURRECTION
OF THE LORD**

Entrance Antiphon

Easter



I have risen, and I am with
you still, alleluia.
You have laid your hand
upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this
knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

First Reading from the Acts
of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23.
R. v.24

(R.) **This is the day the
Lord has made; let us
rejoice and be glad.**

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Colossians 3: 1-4

Sequence

Victimae paschali laudes

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ has become our
paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the
Lord. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel According to
Mark 16: 1-7

Communion Antiphon

Christ our Passover has
been sacrificed, alleluia;
therefore let us keep the
feast with the unleavened
bread of purity and truth,
alleluia, alleluia.

THIS IS WHY WE CELEBRATE

Having passed through a long spiritual and physical journey of penance and self denial, we have come to celebrate the fruit of sacrifice, Easter Sunday. We have no doubt with the resurrection of Jesus Christ the grave is not a destination but a process; the cross is not an end but a means to glory. Alleluia!

Today we celebrate Light: The Paschal candle represents Jesus, the primordial light of creation: "God from God" "Light from Light". By the resurrection, the light of God is cast over our souls. Jesus is the light that pierces the grave and penetrates the shadow of death. He is the light that pierces the thickest side of our bitterness and pain. St. Paul writes, "God who said 'let light shine out of darkness', has shone in our hearts" (2Cor 4:6).

We celebrate Hope: For forty days we have followed Christ through the days of penance. We have fasted, prayed and given alms to the poor. We have carried our tears, fears and anxieties through the way of the cross and followed Christ up to Calvary. Today, we are sure our hope did not disappoint us by the grace which flows from Easter. The gospels present us with the story of how hopelessness was destroyed by hope, and pain subdued by gain. St. John presents the account of the resurrection in two revealing stages: The experience of Mary Magdalene and the experience of the disciples. Both experiences were filled with the unexpected that look like expecting the worse. The woman went to console herself by her routine anointing the body of Jesus. The disciples too never believed that Jesus would rise until they saw the evidences: the empty tomb and littered clothes.

The resurrection of Jesus offers hope to a world in the grave of misery, especially when there seems to be no hope of a new beginning. With hope we know that light will outshine darkness, truth will conquer falsehood, good-will will triumph over evil, and life will exceed death. We now see the morning: Are we not more often like this woman and the two disciples? We least expect that the dead shall have a new life; that the fallen shall stand on their feet again. It is important for us to understand that the darkness which covered the whole world as Jesus breathed his last did not endure forever, because on the first day of the week the sun broke to usher in a great light of a fresh beginning. This calls to mind the words of the psalmist which says: "At night there were tears but joy comes with the dawn". (Psalm 33:5).

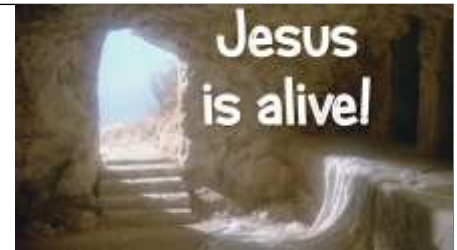
The stone is rolled: The giant stone which blocked the entrance of the tomb of Jesus is a metaphor for everything and everybody on our way of receiving God's blessings here on earth and our resurrection in heaven. It symbolizes all forces that hold us in the bondage of the grave. Think about the people who do not want us to move forward in life spiritually or physically. They are the stones on our way. We are gripped with fear of people, objects, economy, even governments that hinder us from future progress. The apostles worried about the stone before arriving at the grave side because it was a block to seeing an empty tomb—the empty tomb is a symbol that Christ is no longer held bound in the confines of the grave. However, the stone became irrelevant as they reached there, no earth moving machine was needed. By the power of his resurrection Christ has rolled out every stone on way. All forces against us are now irrelevant!

Let us carry the message to the poor, the sick and the broken hearted that beyond the gloomy darkness of Good Friday lies the glorious dawn of Easter morning.

"We are Easter people and alleluia is our song."

HAPPY EASTER!!!

BY: Fr. Johnbosco Obika



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

11 April 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
Monitor	Berna Potter	Bianca Heuvel, Nelia Balingit	Beatrix Reuter
	Ron Tuyor	Laura Marquinez, Tess Vergara	Lynette Fernandes
Altar Server	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Reader	Candice D'Coutho	Allan Roma	Ofa Mafi
Counting	Christine Bath & Nellie Byrne	Flowers	Mago Shaheen, Lorraine Bryant
Vacuuming	Autard Family	Foyer	Orly Simbul

READINGS FOR DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Second Reading: 1 Jn 5:1-6

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

24. R. v.1



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: The Nguyen, Marian Owens, Louisa Moniz Dearaujo, Denise Field, Nina De La Cruz,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Veni Menezes, Bien Cortez, Emile Autard, Barbara Frantz, 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.

Friendship Group is meeting this Tuesday 6 April at 9.30am for morning tea in the meeting room. All are most warmly welcome to attend.

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.

The Samoan Mass will be next Sunday 11 April at 12pm, and on the first Sunday of every month in our Church.

Divine Mercy Sunday 11 April. Commencing at 2pm with the Chaplet, followed by Holy Mass at 3pm.

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 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

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

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.

FREE ART WORKSHOPS Do you live in or near Picton/Tahmoor, We are running free art workshops during the school holidays (Fri 2nd – Fri 16th April). Materials provided; no artistic skills required. Places are limited, to register call 4227 1122. Enquiries: catholiccare.dow.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

Bible Study : CYMW are holding Bible Study every Tuesday night, 6:30pm to 8pm at Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church, Balgownie (47 Balmoral St, Balgownie NSW 2519) Young Adults 17-35, BYO bible and we will supply the snacks!! We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, visit @cymdow on Facebook or Instagram.

The Journey' Weekly Podcast

This week's show is all about the Joy of the resurrection, featuring a Gospel reflection from Bishop Brian Mascord, and an Easter Story for 5-yr-olds from Sr Therese Mills MGL. The Journey available as a podcast at jcr.org.au

LIVE Local: Attention High School students!

LIVE Local is coming back and we are going to be better than ever! LIVE Local is a youth group ran by CYMW in the Macarthur Region at St John the Evangelist Catholic Church Hall, Campbelltown every Friday night! 7pm-9pm *What to expect?* Food, live music, games, prayer, and community! We look forward to seeing you there :) For more information, visit @cymdow on Facebook or Instagram.

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving

Given that some parishioners are unable to attend Mass in our church, many who support our parish planned giving envelope program have asked how they can continue to financially support the parish. So, we respectfully encourage all parishioners to join our electronic parish planned giving program to help us ensure that we limit the financial pressure this current situation will impose on our parish. **Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving/> to learn of the two simple ways you can give to our parish electronically.**

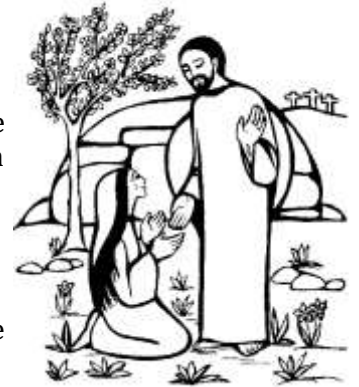
Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to increase or decrease/discontinue your planned giving contribution, but mainly to let us know how we can support you.

Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has risen.

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, "There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."

The gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection

Fr Michael Tate

Dawn has Broken – The Son is Risen

Anyone who has been up at the crack of dawn will know of the beauty of the first hint of the sun rising. It is a moment of anticipation. As it was for the women hurrying to the tomb 'as the day was dawning', 'just as the sun was rising', as the gospels tell us.

What a setting of the scene! Dawn is breaking. The power of darkness is being dispelled.

The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced,
the Power of Darkness which had Jesus cruelly tortured,
the Power of Darkness which had Jesus buried in the pitch-blackness of the tomb.
That Power of Darkness is being conquered by the life-giving energies of the now Risen Son.

The menacing and gloomy power of the Prince of Darkness, whose principal warrior is Death, was vanquished by the Son-Rise of all sunrises flooding our world and the whole of human history with divine light and energy.

Those women who had gone to the burial site with oils and spices to do loving service to the body of Jesus were inspired to understand that the empty *tomb* was, in reality, an empty *womb*. The earth could not contain the death-annihilating new life of Jesus the Nazarene, Jesus the Christ, Jesus the Son of God.

Our world, our history was earth-quake opened and filled with the creative presence of the Risen Lord. This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the entry to the Church. From that earthly element we lit the Easter Candle, we processed in: the Exsultet was sung.

'Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.'

Our faith is that an earth-shattering event occurred – that the tomb carved out of the earth was unsealed by Divine Power! *That* is what the women first saw, simply an empty tomb. They did not see the resurrection itself, which is nowhere described in the gospels. But they were inspired to believe that he was risen as he said. And the women went running to tell the news to the disciples. It was *women* who were the first bearers of the message of Our Lord's victory over death, a message which they proclaimed to *men*: men who did not believe that the *grave* injustice done to the most innocent man to walk the earth could be set right; men who did not believe that the *deadly* violence done to the greatest exponent of non-violence could be healed; men who did not believe that Death could be done to death.

Eventually, the men *did* believe, and we gather here today because *we* believe: that grave injustice has been set right – and can be set right again and again that deadly violence has been healed – and can be healed again and again that Death *has* been done to death – and *can* be done to death again and again because the Son has risen.

'O Death, where is thy sting? O Death, where is thy victory?'

His body was transformed by the energy of Divine love. The power of love had risen superior to the merely biological. The power of Divine love had risen superior to death and its warriors; entropy, exhaustion and decay. This power is not confined to the body of the Nazarene. We can, by grace, participate in the resurrection life of Our Lord Jesus Christ. A glorious destiny awaits us, heralded on the first day of the week as dawn was breaking.

The Son was Risen, flooding our world, our history, with divine light and energy.

The Son is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!