



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.

25 APRIL 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER
YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

The merciful love of the
Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the
heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading from the Acts
of the Apostles 4: 8-12

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-
29. R. v.22

(R.) The stone rejected by
the builders has become the
cornerstone.

Second Reading from the
first letter of St John 3: 1-2

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says
the Lord; I know my sheep,
and mine know me. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
John 10: 11-18

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has
risen, who laid down his life
for his sheep and willingly
died for his flock, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR B**

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R.
v.26

Second Reading:

1 Jn 3:18-24

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Anzac Day and the gift of sacrifice

We hear the word sacrifice mentioned many times around Anzac Day. In the light of Easter and Good Shepherd Sunday, it is something worth further consideration, writes Fr Brian McCoy SJ.

Much continues to be said about Anzac Day, our own particular Australian public holiday, looking back to that ill-fated beach landing at Gallipoli in 1915.

It is a day that comes with many meanings, holding tensions around honouring those who died, their courage and sacrifice, along with reflections on the folly of war and the great suffering it causes.

We try to honour and pay respect to those who have served and continue to serve in our armed services. We also pledge ourselves to the journey of peace.

While far too many died in that First World War, the defeat we experienced seemed to forge something in our Australian identity.

Each year, and in the days leading up to 25 April, many small, local ceremonies are carefully prepared and well attended. Both young and old are involved, as if this one moment in our year unites generations in ways that other events and rituals do not.

At Gallipoli we lost more than the lives and unfulfilled futures of thousands of young men; we entered into that mystery of sacrifice. And, in so doing, we seemed to have learned and gained something as well.

We hear the word sacrifice mentioned many times around Anzac Day, sometimes in the context of the 'ultimate sacrifice' that many paid. Perhaps, in the light of Easter and Good Shepherd Sunday, which we have recently celebrated, it is something worth further consideration.

We know sacrifice as loss, but how can it also be gift, not just for others but also for ourselves? Pope Francis, in his recent Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate* (Rejoice and be Glad), uses the word sacrifice several times. He encourages us to seek the fullness of life in ordinary things, living in love and bearing witness to that love.

'This entails a readiness to make sacrifices, even to sacrificing everything', he writes. 'For happiness is a paradox. We experience it most when we accept the mysterious logic that is not of this world.'

The logic he is referring to is the cross. We see in Jesus the shepherd who lays down his life for us, his friends. And, in his cross, we see a mysterious logic that causes us to pause as we make important decisions in our lives.



The choices we are each called to discern and make are about our entering into that depth of life and the sacrifices that love asks of us.

Perhaps, in this time of Anzac Day, we should allow the gift of those who have died, their sacrifice, to encourage us to be less fearful and more courageous in how we are prepared to live, decide and share our lives.

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

2 May 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
Monitor	Tracey & Richard Kaldasoun Margaret McDermott	Cheryl & Eugene Gabin Jackie Plasto, Irene Ravino	Terry & Maree Reilly
Altar Server	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Reader	Bevina Potter	Sheenalyn Rogan	Kathy Randal
Counting	Louise Muscat, Lina Agius	Flowers	Bridget Smith, Vai Ah Ching
Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family	Foyer	Feiloakitohi Family

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Elizabeth Moore, Nelia Balingit, John Morgos, Greg Watson, 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: Iris Wallis, Gaudencia Mendoza, The Nguyen,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Hilda Young, Dolores Sitjar, Anthony Binny,
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:

First Holy Communion preparation sessions commence on Saturday 8 May at 4pm. More information and registration forms are available on our parish website.

Friendship Group is meeting on Tuesday 4 May 9.30am for morning tea in the meeting room. This month they are holding "A Biggest Morning Tea". All money raised will be donated to the Cancer Council. All are most warmly welcome to attend.

Ministry Appreciation continues with our focus this week for Readers, Musicians & Vocalists. These ministries enliven our experience of worship each day.

Monitors meeting for all monitors. 2 meetings are scheduled and it is important to attend one meeting, either today Sunday 25 April at 10.30am or Thursday 29 April at 8pm. RSVP to the parish office.

Garage Sale will be held on the weekend of 1st and 2nd May to clear out some space before our renovations commence. Come along and offer some support. There will also be some plants for sale.

Cursillo 3 day weekend July 1-4 Ladies, are you ready to step back out into life with your Faith community, following the forced Covid hibernation. Join us for a Cursillo 3 day weekend July 1-4 at Hartzler Park, Bowral. Private rooms, nourishing meals. Share your stories; increase the depth of your faith; listen to talks from our Spiritual Advisor and lay women; daily Mass. For further information please contact Denise D'Amore 0438254139.

Vocation view

The Fourth Sunday of Easter (25 April 2021) is called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because the Gospel at Mass always draws on the image of Jesus as our Good Shepherd. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Fr Duane Fernandez, the Diocesan Vocations Director, together Bishop Brian Mascord and the Vocations Team, have been accompanying a number of young people as they discern their vocations. If anyone would like help in discerning their vocation, including connecting with others who are also discerning, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au. In the words of Pope Francis, may St Joseph "help everyone, especially young people who are discerning, to make God's dreams for them come true. May he inspire in them the courage to say "yes" to the Lord who always surprises and never disappoints.

Young Adults Evening

Come join with Young Adults in a night about prayer and knowing our creator with a talk from Fr Chris Sarkis and a focus on Scriptural Prayer.

Tuesday 27 April at 7:30pm in the Joachim Hall (the old church), Demetrius Road, Rosemeadow.

Please note entry is limited to the young adults, 18 - 35 years, only. Coffee/tea and biscuits will be provided. All are warmly invited to attend 6:30 pm Mass before the talk. QR code registration will be required for Mass and the Hall. Any questions please contact Ryan Suares on 0412939705.

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

The Journey' Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast
On the Journey this week: The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his flock; our ANZAC memorial tribute. Fr Duane Fernandez says we are all called to be shepherds, Mother Hilda on a father's search at Gallipoli, and Bishop Brian shares two personal experiences to honour the ANZACs in two wars. The Journey available as a podcast at jcr.org.au

Plenary Council 2021 With just over 180 days before the historic Plenary Council 2021, you can keep up to date by accessing the Plenary Post on the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

LIVE Local Attention High School students!

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 during school terms. You can Expect Food, live music, games, prayer, and community! We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, visit [@live.local.cymw](https://www.instagram.com/live.local.cymw) on Instagram.

Legion of Mary Pilgrimage 19—21 April: The Statue of Our Lady arrived in our parish on Monday morning and remained until Wednesday morning after the 9am Mass, and has moved onto Campbelltown. The Mass attendees were able to remain after Mass and say the rosary each day. The pilgrimage of the statue will continue through NSW and conclude with a special Mass at St Mary's Cathedral.



This picture was taken with members of the Campbelltown Curia and Kevin Cloran (Our Legion of Mary President).



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The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd.

The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection

Message from Fr Duane Fernandez, Vocations Director

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

The Fourth Sunday of Easter (25th April 2021) is called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because the Gospel at Mass always draws on the image of Jesus as our Good Shepherd. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. What do we mean by "vocation"? The word itself gives us a clue: it comes from the Latin word "vocare", meaning "to call", and for Christians on this day we reflect on the personal call of Jesus, our Good Shepherd, in our lives.

We speak in the church of four specific vocations by which we follow Jesus in our adult lives: Marriage, Consecrated Life, Priesthood, and Single Life. For those already living one of these vocations, it is an opportunity to renew their commitment to God's call in their daily lives. For others, especially young people yet to discern their vocation, we especially pray for you today.

Pope Francis in his message for this day writes that "God does not like to reveal himself in a spectacular way, pressuring our freedom. He conveys his plans to us with gentleness." This in turn means that it can be difficult to discern God's call in our lives. How do we hear his gentle call? The Pope goes on to write: "There can be no faith without risk. Only by abandoning ourselves confidently to grace, setting aside our own programmes and comforts, can we truly say "yes" to God. And every "yes" bears fruit because it becomes part of a larger design, of which we glimpse only details, but which the divine Artist knows and carries out, making of every life a masterpiece." We see here that the first step to discerning God's call in our lives is to be willing to trust God's plans for our lives, more than we trust our own plans - trusting that God, our divine Artist, wants to make our lives a masterpiece beyond our own imagining.

As we mark this day during this Year of St Joseph, Pope Francis reminds us of St Joseph's inspiring "yes" to God's call in his life: "Saint Joseph is an outstanding example of acceptance of God's plans. Yet his was an active acceptance: never reluctant or resigned." When I myself first heard God gently calling me towards priesthood, I had always been looking forward to getting married. I must confess that my first response to God's call was not like St Joseph's - it was rather reluctant and resigned! As I look back, I thank God for leading me, one step at a time, into a deeper trust in his plan for my life, which is far greater and more fulfilling than anything I could have imagined for myself.

Now, as Vocations Director for the Diocese of Wollongong, together with Bishop Brian and the Vocations Team, I have had the privilege of guiding people of various ages and stages of faith in discerning their vocations. I would especially love to see every young Catholic in our Diocese freely, sincerely, and actively discerning the call of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in their lives. If you would like to take the risk of asking this question of God, please don't hesitate to contact me. I would love to talk with you, and to connect you with others discerning these same questions. In the words of Pope Francis, may St Joseph "help everyone, especially young people who are discerning, to make God's dreams for them come true. May he inspire in them the courage to say "yes" to the Lord who always surprises and never disappoints."