



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.

2 MAY 2021
 FIFTH SUNDAY
 OF EASTER
 YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 9: 26-31

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

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Second Reading from the first letter of St John 3:18-24

Gospel Acclamation
 Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to John 15: 1-8

Communion Antiphon

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK
 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
 YEAR B

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

Responsorial Psalm:
 Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2

Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10

Gospel: Jn 15:9-17

May 1: St Joseph the Worker Feast Day

Saint Joseph, the Worker is the universal Saint for whom people in all times have held a great fondness.

- In Matthew's Gospel we hear of Joseph as the Just Man, living in Nazareth.
- Saint Teresa of Avila, "I took for my patron St. Joseph and recommended myself earnestly to him."
- Pope Francis, while attending Family Celebrations in the Philippines in 2015, had this to say of Joseph "I have a great love for St. Joseph because he is a man of STRENGTH and SILENCE. I have a statue of St Joseph asleep on my desk, and I put my written intentions under the statue each evening."
- James K Baxter (NZ) poet said: "Dear tolerant Saint.....You remind me of what I was born for: to accept the daily grind as God's will."
- To Mary MacKillop, Saint Joseph was her Saint. In 1873, she wrote to the Sisters "in Joseph's care I leave you."



"May Day" has long been dedicated for labour and working people. This was sponsored by Communist thought. In 1955, Pope Pius XII established the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. This was to give all workers a model and protector, thereby affirming the dignity of work. Today we sometimes witness this principle negated; the value upheld in the workplace is often "profit before people."

Traditionally, the artist's image of Joseph at the carpenter's bench was where we met Joseph. In her book "In the Spirit of Joseph", Mary Cresp RSJ shares insights which lead us to know that Joseph was a skilled builder working with hard substanceswood and stone. He would have been well known and respected in his village.

The devoted family man's work would also have included tending a garden to supply daily family needs. As was the custom, he would have kept small animals ...sheep and goats. Joseph demonstrated the value of hard honest work and the importance of sharing his skills in his village. Jesus was one of his apprentices.

Our 26th Chapter called us "to live on the edge of our existence with Joseph." The time is now, as we pause to hear "the cry" of tens of thousands of people who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 virus. So that wherever we are, we will remember them.

As we celebrate the Feast on 1 May, we ask Joseph to pray with us and for us:

Maureen Cahill rsj



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.

We have a raffle for Mothers Day. Tickets cost \$2 or 3 for \$5.

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

| 9 May 2021 | 6pm | 9.30am | 5pm |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monitor | Glen & Arlene Correya | Steve & Sarah Locke | Beatrix Reuter |
| | John Ransom | Vai Ah Ching & Violetti Hunt | Patricia Wicks |
| Altar Server | Ryan Potter | Orly Simbul | Robert Selvaraj |
| Reader | Tracey Kaldasaun | Irene Ravino | Ian Johnson |
| Counting | George Shiner, Reg Bucknell | Flowers | Audrey Tanuvasa |
| Vacuuming | Vergara Family | Foyer | Ronda Thompson |

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 on the Sacramental Team and the church and foyer cleaning teams.

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 Hartzer 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.

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

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. *What to expect?* Food, live music, games, prayer, and community! We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, visit @live.local.cymw on Instagram.

Senior Executive Assistant to the Bishop– Catholic Diocese of Wollongong: Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Senior Executive Assistant to the Bishop in the Diocese of Wollongong. For more information and a detailed role description, please go to <http://dow.sh/execbishop> or for enquiries contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au

Mary Help of Christians Pilgrimage Walk for Australia 2021 Friday 21 May - Saturday 22 May

We walk to raise PRAYERS for Australia. We walk in a spirit of joy, knowing that prayer united with sacrifice, makes prayer more effective. You are warmly welcome to join us on either day or both days. Support vehicle provided all the way. Shuttle cars return to start on both days. Prayer books provided. Donations gratefully accepted. For information contact Sue Hill: 0435 336 195 or Gabriella De Battista, (02) 4261 2500

Vocations Weekend with the MGL Sisters 14–16 May

The **Missionaries of God's Love Sisters** invite young women (18-35) to a vocations weekend of prayer, input, sisterhood and sharing. This weekend is designed to help you discern your life direction. RSVP to Therese on 0432 228 250 or for more info.

St Joseph Pilgrimage Motor Bike Ride Join with Catholic motor bike riders who will be undertaking a pilgrimage ride visiting 7 churches and riding 800km over three days in honour of St Joseph, including 2 Churches in our Diocese of Wollongong. The ride will commence from Oatley Parish on Friday the 11 June at 10am and conclude at Camperdown on the 13 June at 6pm, with overnight stays in Moss Vale and Orange. You may simply wish to join the riders for prayer at our St Joseph's Churches on 11 June, with prayer at Bulli for an hour starting at 1.30pm and Kangaroo Valley at 3.45pm. If you would like to join the ride, contact Jim on 0432 487 927 or Branko 0411 281 299. For map of ride go to <https://tinyurl.com/ride4stjoseph>

MenALIVE Men's Weekend Rediscover God's Presence and Purpose for your Life **12-13 June 2021, St Patrick's Church Catholic Church (Hall) 42 O'Donnell Street, Port Kembla** The menALIVE Men's Weekend is an opportunity for all men from 18 years of age to explore what makes them feel fully alive. The experience of the weekend is powerful and dynamic, and many men are inspired and encouraged with a new sense of purpose and mission. Experienced leaders from menALIVE Team will be running the weekend. Register via brochure or online www.dow.org.au/events Enquiries: Helen Bennett (Diocesan Contact) 4222 2403; Anthony Rewak (Parish Contact) 0488 233 078 or Ian Boorman (menALIVE Contact) 0427 006 021

The Journey' – 2 May 2021 – Weekly Podcast

On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says personal pruning is needed to bear fruit for God's Kingdom. Mother Hilda tells what makes us more beautiful & welcoming to God's heart, and Michelle Vass answers how do WE know that Jesus is risen? The Journey available as a podcast at jcr.org.au

Faith Circles—free small group resource:

During this period of Pandemic isolation, you are encouraged to spend time in prayer and spiritual reading and faith Circles is one way that you can do this. The weekly Faith Circles resource is available for free to download. It is easy to use and could easily be done in your household or even by skype / phone with others at this time, with its questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

Formed

Would you like to nurture your faith at home, in your own time and at your own pace? FORMED.org is a large Faith Formation Resource library website containing thousands of faith formation documentaries, courses, movies, audio and books covering all aspects of our Catholic faith. Materials for both adults and children. Sign-up for free using our Diocesan Subscription by contacting darren. mcdowell@dow.org.au or helen.bennett@dow.org.au

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'



The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Reflection Spiritual Drink

by Fr Michael Tate



One of the prayers of the Mass I most like to recite aloud is the one over the chalice of wine: 'Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.'

I like it for several reasons. For starters, we don't offer grapes – simply fruit of the earth. We offer wine – work of human hands. The Creator wants us to bring the result of our human ingenuity, resourcefulness, hard work to the central action of the Mass.

Nature humanised by our labour is the prelude to the gracious action of God whereby the wine becomes 'our spiritual drink'. What is this spiritual drink?

This drink was first offered at the Last Supper which is usually depicted as a Passover meal. There is a Jewish belief that the Passover cup of wine 'absorbs' the life story of the freeing of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. It is that life story of liberation by God which is drunk at the Passover.

We might say that at the Last Supper the cup of wine absorbed the life story of the Divine Liberator, Jesus of Nazareth. To drink from this chalice would be to drink the life story of Jesus of Nazareth. But more than the life story – the very life itself.

Over the chalice of wine, Jesus said 'This is my blood.' What can this mean? There are many dimensions, but here is a good starting point. For Jewish people, as for many others, the method of slaughtering an animal is to slit its throat. As the blood drains out, so does the life. So blood and life are inseparable.

So when Jesus says 'This is my blood', He is saying 'This is my life-force. This is my very life. This is my total self given unreservedly to you.' To drink of this blood would be to imbibe spiritual drink indeed. When we do that in Holy Communion, the life of Jesus, the life of the Risen Lord, courses through our bodies just as the sap of the vine courses through its branches.

We are so familiar with today's Gospel in that respect. Christ is the vine and we are the branches, sometimes in need of a good pruning. But if we stop with that image we fall far short of understanding God's ultimate purpose in the grafting, watering, pruning, tending. It is not to produce a perfect vineyard. It is to produce a marvellous wine.

Our Heavenly Father wants to produce a truly full-bodied wine at the consummation of all history: a wine which has absorbed our life stories mingled most intensely with the life story of Jesus a wine which is full-bodied because every-body who shares in the resurrection body of Jesus contributes their distinctive character to the vintage of the end of time.

Then we will have become with and in the Risen Lord the Spiritual Drink of the Kingdom of Heaven.