

# Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Serving  
Varroville, Raby, St Andrews and Bow Bowing

Since 11 May, 1980



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.*

9 MAY 2021  
SIXTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER  
YEAR B

**No Greater Love**



#### Entrance Antiphon

Proclaim a joyful sound and  
let it be heard; proclaim to  
the ends of the earth: The  
Lord has freed his people,  
alleluia.

**First Reading** from the  
Acts of the Apostles  
10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

#### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2  
(R.) The Lord has revealed  
to the nations his saving  
power.

**Second Reading** from the  
first letter of St John 4: 7-10

#### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
All who love me will keep  
my words, and my Father  
will love them and we will  
come to them. Alleluia

**Holy Gospel** according to  
John 15: 9-17

#### Communion Antiphon

If you love me, keep my  
commandments, says the  
Lord, and I will ask the  
Father and he will send you  
another Paraclete, to abide  
with you for ever, alleluia.

#### NEXT WEEK

**THE ASCENSION OF THE  
LORD YEAR B**

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

Second Reading Eph 1:17-23

Gospel Mk 16:15-20

## Happy Mothers Day to all our Mothers

*As we honour today our earthly mothers and mother figures—  
including stepmothers, relatives, guardians, close family friends and those who  
would be mothers—let us honour our heavenly mother as well.*

*Those devoted to her are always led to her Son.*

*For her wise counsel tells us, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).*

This week a Sydney Mother, Leila Abdullah, was  
named Mother of the Year by Family Voice  
Australia. This woman, has been thrust into the  
news because of very tragic circumstances, has a  
very strong faith and lives the gospel message  
we are hearing today.



### Mother of the Year *Leila Abdallah*

Leila Abdallah (together with her husband Danny) suffered the almost unimaginable loss of three of her children (Antony 13, Angelina, 12 and Sienna, 8) who were killed by a reckless driver at Oatlands on 1st February 2020. Mr & Mrs Abdallah's niece Veronique Sakr, 11, also perished in the collision. The driver responsible, Samuel Davidson, was sentenced to 28 years imprisonment at Parramatta District Court in April 2021. Throughout the 14-month ordeal of investigation and trial, Leila Abdallah has demonstrated grace, charity, and peace beyond measure despite the horrific loss she and her husband have suffered and continue to suffer. There could be no better example of how to deal with such a significant and life-changing family disaster than Mrs Abdallah has demonstrated, even though her heart must still be breaking daily because of the loss of three of her precious children. Yet she continues to express forgiveness rather than seek revenge when addressing the media.

Few of us as parents will suffer the loss of one child, let alone three, during our lifetime. Leila Abdallah has suffered a loss so great that it is difficult for most of us to comprehend, made worse by the fact that her loss was the result of criminal negligence by another. Leila Abdallah is an inspiration to all mothers and, indeed, all families as an example of how to deal with the very worst events of life with a calmness, an inner peace and, above all, with love. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13, she 'does not take into account a wrong suffered' (verse 5b), but instead abides in 'faith, hope and love'.

*FamilyVoice Australia has launched its own National Mother of the Year Awards as previous National Coordinator pulls out.*

*Mothers are an amazing group of people, changing the world in a variety of ways every single day. From volunteering in classrooms to testifying in the public arena, mums are making a difference in their communities, workplace, churches, and beyond.*

*"FamilyVoice has always supported the belief of recognising the maternal service and sacrifice mothers make as an integral part of the traditional\* family unit. In this regard, we have chosen to fill the void left by Barnardo's Australia given that they will sadly no longer offer the Mother of the Year Award," said Greg Bondar, national coordinator for the awards.*



## 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

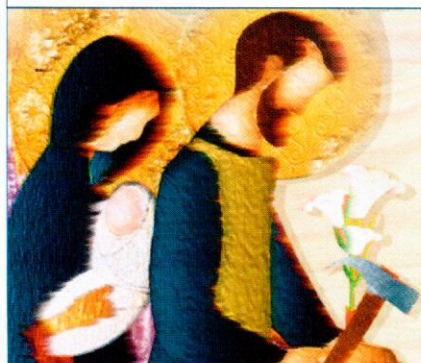
16 May 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
<b>Monitor</b>	Berna Potter	Bianca Heuvel, Tess Vergara	Ronda Thompson
	RonTuyor	Laura Marquinez, Nelia Balingit	Lynette Fernandes
<b>Altar Server</b>	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
<b>Reader</b>	Gerard Binny	Theodora Kennedy	Ronda Thompson
<b>Counting</b>	Richard Kaldasaun, Jeanette Balane	<b>Flowers</b>	Maria Dalecki
<b>Vacuuming</b>	Hermi & Charity Tamisin	<b>Foyer</b>	Russell & Suzanne Binny

## Prayer intentions

**For the sick & homebound:** Elizabeth Moore, Nelia Balingit, John Morgos, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, 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, 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:** Eduvigis Reyes, 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

**Ministry Appreciation** continues with our focus this week on the Property and Maintenance Teams.

**Holy Lands Appeal on Good Friday:** Thank you for supporting this appeal, as encouraged by Pope Francis. Our Parish collection on Good Friday was \$1903.60. Through this collection, you join with other Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy land. Your contribution to the Holy Land Collection makes you an instrument of peace in a troubled land.

**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](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](mailto: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](http://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

### **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](http://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](mailto:darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au) or [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

**The Journey' podcast** On the Journey this week: The Gospel reflection with Fr Leo Duck, Mother Hilda says we can emulate Abraham's response and trust in God's message, plus there's five marriage tips, overcoming the fear of being loved and planting a personal spiritual garden. The Journey available as a podcast at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)

**CATHFAMILY** brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes from their website to assist parents and grandparents in being the first educators in faith for their kids. Don't miss CathKids <https://cathfamily.org/activities/>



*No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord



## Gospel Reflection *As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.'* Mary Coloe PBVM

Last week gave us the image of a vine to express the intimacy between Jesus and his disciples, this week Jesus draws on the image of a family to speak of his relationship with God as a father. Because this is such familiar language, we can forget that it is in fact an image. God is not a father, or a vine-keeper or a shepherd. These are images drawn from life experience to try to speak about God in ways familiar to our human experience.

The close love between a parent and child is the love Jesus says exists between himself and his disciples. Later he speaks of them as friends. There is in this passage a progression of relationships: God loves Jesus who loves disciples who are to love one another. The measuring stick for our relationship with God is our relationship with each other. Christians cannot withdraw into a pious cosy 'me and God' duet. Being at home with God requires that we open ourselves to be at home with others. Not an easy task!

There is a saying, 'absence makes the heart grow fonder,' and this can be true for God. It's easier to love the 'absent' God in a distant heaven than to love God present in our families or workplaces or living in our streets. 'Love one another, as I have loved you.' Jesus loved to the point of giving his life. What are we asked to give to another – a listening ear, an hour of our time, a card or letter, a visit? 'What I command you is to love one another.'

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles marks a watershed in the self-identity and mission of the early church. The first believers were all Jews. Jesus' own ministry had not extended further than the homeland of the Jewish people. It naturally followed that the first disciples considered their task in terms of the restoration of Judaism. But their experience challenged them to think differently. In their preaching to the crowds and even in the Synagogues some non-Jews were present and were drawn to their message. This raised great questions – could non-Jews be part of the Jesus movement, or was the Gospel to be restricted to the children of Israel?

Just prior to this episode in the house of Cornelius, Peter had experienced a dream where he was shown all kinds of food being offered to him to eat. But, according to the laws of Judaism, he could not eat this food since it was unclean. In this dream he heard a voice saying, 'What God has cleansed, you must not call common.' (10:15) We are not told how Peter interpreted this dream but he then travelled to the house of a non-Jew, Cornelius. We are told that Cornelius was a 'God-fearing' man. This describes a person who was attracted to Judaism, even attending the synagogue but who had not been fully converted.

Peter comes to realise the laws of Judaism, about who can belong and who cannot, no longer apply: 'God does not have favourites'. Then, as if to take the matter out of Peter's hands, the Spirit comes upon Cornelius and his household. This was not expected. These people were pagans, outside the ancient covenant made between God and Israel, and yet they see the same Spirit of God now coming onto these people.

The incident appears to happen quite quickly. I suspect that behind this episode lies a length of time trying to discern what God wants. Is the Jesus story to be opened up to non-Jews or not? How can God now be inviting non-Jews into the ancient covenant with Israel? These were not easy questions at that time.

The great blessing of this episode is the gift of discernment to recognise that God is able to do something new, something that stretched the boundaries of the disciples' experience and thinking. I see this as an on-going struggle in our church. As humans, part of an organisation, we clarify who is a member of the group and set up rules or markers to distinguish who is 'in' and who is 'out'. The episode with Cornelius challenges us again and again to look at the rules we make and see if perhaps we might be trying to restrict the action of God's Spirit.