



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.

6 JUNE 2021
THE MOST HOLY BODY
AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

First Reading

from the book of Exodus
Ex 24:3-8

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115:12-13. 15-18. R. v.13
(R.) I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

Second Reading

From the letter to the Hebrews. Heb 9:11-15

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Communion Antiphon

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

Next Week

13 June 2021

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

First Reading Ez 17:22-24

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. see v.2

Second 2 Cor 5:6-10

Holy Gospel Mk 4:26-34

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Dear children, For you, this is a day to be celebrated in a spirit of friendship, joy and fraternity. First Communion is, above all, a celebration. We celebrate Jesus, who wants to remain always by our side. He will always be with us. This celebration was made possible also thanks to our parents and grandparents, our families and our communities, who have helped us to grow in the faith.

Our priests and catechists, who have accompanied you in your preparation for this day, have also accompanied you on the road that today leads you to meet Jesus and to receive him in your hearts

A day of communion among yourselves and with the whole Church, which, especially in the Eucharist, expresses the communion that makes all of us brothers and sisters.

This is our identity card: *God is our Father, Jesus is our brother,
the Church is our family.*

All of us are brothers and sisters, and our law is love.

Today you have made it possible for us to relive that joy and to celebrate Jesus, present in the Bread of Life. Some miracles can only take place if we have a heart like yours: a heart capable of sharing, dreaming, feeling gratitude, trusting and respecting other people. Making your First Communion shows that you want to be closer to Jesus every day, to grow in friendship with him and to lead other people to share in the joy he wants us to feel. The Lord needs you, because he wants to work the miracle of bringing his joy to many of your friends and family members.

I ask you always to pray with the same enthusiasm and joy that you feel today.

Remember that this is the sacrament of your first Communion, not your last!

Remember too, that Jesus is always there, waiting for you. I hope that today will be the beginning of many Communion, so that your hearts may always, like today, be festive, full of joy and, above all else, gratitude. *excerpt of a homily from Pope Francis*



Today,
you will be forever
connected to Jesus' love,
peace and blessing.

I pray you feel the joy
of this closeness as you
celebrate your
First Holy Communion
today.

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
Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online	Reconciliation: by appointment
For all of the online Mass options- please visit the DoW website https://dow.sh/dailymass	For all Sacramental enquiries call the parish office. Confirmation preparation commences on Saturday July 24.

Rosters

13 June 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
Monitor	Glen & Arlene Correya	Steve & Sarah Locke	Patricia Wicks
	John Ransom	Vai Ah Ching & Violetti Hunt	Rhonda Thompson
Altar Server	Ryan Potter	Boby Thalody	Robert Selvaraj
Reader	Margaret McDermott	Gabriel Mafi	Ian Johnson
Counting	Paula Benny, Nora Burgess	Flowers	Bridget Smith, Vai Ah Ching
Vacuuming	Vergara Family	Foyer	Mafi Family

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Nelia Balingit, John Morgos, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Gabriel Gonzales, Francisco Carmona, Doreen Gribbons, Clayton Diack, Emily Rose Pavicin, Pat & Denise Furner, Claude Fricot, Tracey Bokor, Lily Pereira, 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: Loretta Yates, Emilia Moralde, Jycex Appadoo, Jenny Bishop, Chris McDowell,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Isabelo Sitjar, Maurice Spillane, Ivan Srebrenovic,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.





Parish Events

Bulletin Notices



Come along to watch the game at the parish
Game 1 on Wednesday 9 June, from 7.30pm,
Kickoff is at 8.10.
BYO refreshments

Liturgy Committee meeting on 11 June at 4pm.

ALPHA Celebration night on Tuesday 15 June at 7.30pm. Alpha has just concluded its weekly sessions and you are all most warmly invited to come along for the celebration night to hear stories from the participants and to thank the people who have helped during the sessions, prayer partners and hospitality. Light supper will be provided. Please RSVP to the parish office.

Working Bee: 17–20 June: Choose the day that best suits and contact the parish office for more details. There are many small and large projects that require maintenance.

Refreshments in the hall on Sunday 20 June after 9.30am Mass

Behind the Scenes Church Tour on 20 June 11am;
All are invited to a talk given by Andrew Fricot after Mass and refreshments in the hall. Starts in the church foyer.

Garage Sale on Saturday 25 June from 8am.
Fundraising Meeting will be held on 23 June at 7.30pm via Zoom. Contact the parish office for the link.

Friendship Group Tuesday 6 July for Christmas in July celebration.

PARISH FEAST DAY PICNIC on Sunday 18 July from 9.30am Mass: The committee met on Tuesday and agreed that we will have a picnic this year, instead of our usual multicultural feast. All other aspects of the day will remain. We desperately require a coordinator for the concert. This person will need to book in performances and manage the program on the day. We will be calling for volunteers during the next few weeks, so please register your availability with the parish office. More details will be shared in the next few weeks. For more info please contact Patricia on 0434705176.

Vinnies Winter Sleepout will be held on Saturday 24 July in our carpark after the 6pm Mass till daybreak.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will commence on Sunday 25 July at the 9.30am Mass.

Now that some aspects of church life are returning to normal, we are excited that Children's Liturgy of the Word will be recommencing on Sunday, 25th July at 9.30am Mass (We are appealing for members of OLMC to become Children's Liturgy of the Word leaders. You can start as a helper and progress to running the liturgy. A typical session includes reading the scriptures, discussing the Gospel message, singing the Creed and saying a kid friendly version of the Prayers of the Faithful. If time allows, we finish with a colouring or activity sheet. The whole session takes 20 mins at most and there is a PowerPoint we display on the screen that guides you. Please consider joining our team. Contact Lee Scales on 0407000281 for more information or contact the Parish Office.

Planned Giving envelopes will be available in the foyer during June. If you wish to order a set of envelopes please contact the parish office.

If you wish to **join electronic parish planned giving**, please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving> or contact the parish office.

The Chosen – A TV Series about Jesus. The Chosen is a new 'free to view', television program that creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and is receiving acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen> to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via *The Chosen app* download more information, visit @live.local.cymw on Instagram

MenALIVE 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' Podcast Great to have Fr Mike Delaney from Tasmania breaking open the scriptures for the Feast of Corpus Christi, with amazing inputs from Mother Hilda and Francine Pirola this week, and of course great contemporary worship music too. Listen at jcr.org.au or your local Christian Radio station.

The Year of St Joseph Pope Francis on 8 December 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_patriscorde.htm

Year Amoris Laetitia Family, 19 March 2021 – 26 June 2022 On March 19, Pope Francis launched the Year "Amoris Laetitia Family", which will conclude on 26 June 2022, on the occasion of the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father. Families are encouraged to break open the resources and stories at <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html>

CatholicCare - Have you thought about becoming a foster carer? We need foster carers who provide love, care and support to help these children thrive and reach their full potential. Carers receive comprehensive support from the Fostering Futures team to ensure they have a full range of resources and networks to nurture their forever home.

This is my body. This is my blood.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.' The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it,' he said 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.'

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection **The sacrament of communion with God** by Mary Coloe PBVM

Last Sunday I wrote about the sign of the cross as a bodily gesture to affirm that we are people in communion with God. Today's liturgy continues this theme of living in communion with God as it presents a second great symbol – the eating and drinking of food. Because our liturgy has developed over 2,000 years and has become quite formalised we can lose sight that its basic element is a gathering of people round a table to share nourishment.

Jesus had many meals with his disciples and friends but only a few meals are written about in the Gospels. The meal this Gospel highlights is his final one. For that reason, the gathering had a special, poignant significance. It also coincided with the great Jewish celebration of liberation called the Passover. During this meal Jesus gave the ritual bread and wine a new meaning, that of his own life. When he was no longer physically present with the disciples they were to continue to gather around a table, to share bread and wine, and by his words, 'This is my body; this is my blood,' he promised that in these gatherings he will be present.

And so Christians had continued this practice of the Lord's Supper, in homes, in caves, in catacombs, in halls, in prison cells and cathedrals. The Eucharist gathers God's fragile, often failing people, to nourish, forgive, and bless. Hear the invitation: 'Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.' (Prov 9:5)

Key questions for the first disciples were, 'Why did Jesus die?', 'Why did God not intervene to save him from death?'. Paul grappled with these questions and came up with various ways of making sense of this, so did the Gospel authors. As Jews living in a Greco-Roman world, they were familiar with the killing of animals, and offering them to a deity. This was one way of making sense of the brutal death of Jesus – it was a type of sacrifice. Other questions then followed – what type of sacrifice? What was the purpose of the sacrifice?

The reading from the letter to the Hebrews offers a particularly Jewish interpretation of Jesus' death. We do not know the author of this document nor its exact date, although it appears to have been written while the Jewish Temple still existed, thus before the year 70 C.E. The author's expertise in Jewish rituals and methods of argument suggest that he was a Jew and the community he writes to is also predominantly Jewish. This author compares Jesus' death to the death of animals in Jewish sacrifices – in particular, the sacrifices on the Day of Atonement. He presents Jesus as both the sacrifice, and also as the high Priest. On the Day of Atonement, two identical goats were selected, and one was chosen to be a sacrifice to God, while the other was to be driven into the desert and killed. This second goat, called the scapegoat, carried away the sins of the people. The blood of the lamb that was sacrificed was carried by the High Priest into the innermost part of the Temple, the Holy of Holies. This blood, a symbol of life, was sprinkled there. The symbolism of the ritual was that while one goat removed the sins of the community, the life-blood of the second goat restored the relationship between God and Israel. In this way, the covenant, first celebrated by Moses at Sinai with the blood of bulls, was renewed.

The author takes the elements of this ritual and applies them to Jesus. It is important to note that this is just one of the many ways the New Testament authors tried to make sense of Jesus' life, and particularly his violent death. Today, such imagery is unfamiliar to most Christians. Behind the strange imagery though, the author is expressing a faith that, through Jesus, believers now have access to a new and living relationship with God. You might consider, what are signs we use today to express a relationship: sharing a meal, spending time together, writing a letter . . .