



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.

SUNDAY 25 JULY 2021
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those
who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might
and strength to his
people.

First Reading from the
second book of the Kings
4: 42-44

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 144:10-11, 15-18.

R. v.16

(R.) The hand of the Lord
feeds us; he answers all
our needs.

Second Reading from
the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians 4: 1-6

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has
appeared among us;
God has visited his
people. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
John 6: 1-15

Communion Antiphon

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his
benefits.



I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS
World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

This World Day that we are celebrating today can help us to understand that all of us, young and old, grandparents and grandchildren, whether or not we belong to the same family, are “one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call”.

The scene presented in the Gospel helps us to understand how, even in everyday family life, whatever each of us possesses can be a great resource for all of us. In the passage we have heard, a boy brings to Jesus “five barley loaves and two fish”; today it is more common for grandparents to possess material goods. But what counts is not having a little or a lot, but presenting it to the Lord who multiplies our bread and ensures that it satisfies the desire of every living person (Ps 144). Grandparents, then, have the specific task of transmitting the faith to the younger generations and accompanying their grandchildren with their wisdom. They need to help them to avoid losing touch with their roots and to build their lives on solid foundations.

July 25th has been set aside by Pope Francis for this annual celebration, as it is near the liturgical memory of Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus. This year, we will wait till the church is open. In the meantime prayer resources are available at <https://www.dow.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/World-Day-for-grandparents-and-the-Elderly-Pope-Francis-Message.pdf>

Urgent Euthanasia Petition

**Take Urgent Action today to help save vulnerable lives –
Raise your voice to protect life: Sign the Open Letter to the Premier today**

The architect of NSW’s terrible abortion laws (Independent MP Alex Greenwich) has released a bill that would introduce euthanasia and assisted suicide in this state. There is never a good time to introduce laws that sanction the killing of our most vulnerable human beings. However, it seems that a pandemic, which is affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people is the worst time to introducing state-sanctioned killing in New South Wales. The community is currently accepting significant restrictions on our personal autonomy in order to protect those most at risk. The people of NSW have already spent a month in lockdown, with many unable to visit elderly parents at home, in hospital or in aged care facilities. Our sick and elderly are already experiencing increased isolation with no definite end in sight, small business owners are struggling, as are those with reduced working hours: a pro-suicide message is not what they need to hear. The timing of the release of the bill further serves to stifle debate and public comment.

To help stop precious parliamentary time and health resources being diverted to those with a pro-death agenda, please consider taking two important steps today:

1. Please sign a petition to Premier Gladys Berejiklian, asking her to reject euthanasia and assisted suicide, and instead focus parliamentary time and precious health resources on repairing the social and economic cost of this latest outbreak.
sign the petition here https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition_2107_nsw_cas
2. Please email your NSW State Member of Parliament and ask them to oppose the introduction of these dangerous laws.

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: Please contact by phone or email
Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm
Email: varroville@dow.org.au
Website: varroville.dow.org.au

Mass times

Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online

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

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>

THE CHOSEN – A TV Series about Jesus – watch during lockdown!

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*

CATHFAMILY

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/>

YEAR AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY, 19 March 2021 – 26 June 2022

Pope Francis is encouraging the Church to enrich your understanding of the vocation marriage and the core role of family in the mission of the Church at <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html>

THE JOURNEY, 25 July 2021 – Your Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast

On the Journey this week Fr Chima Ofor says the Gospel is about the ordinary having effects way out of proportion to its ordinariness. Mother Hilda wants us to give God a foot massage and Michelle Vass tells how to discover God's will for each of us. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Carol Gonzales, Christabelle Adina, Gloria Gonzales Prudente, Allan & Kelvin Marquinez, Amelia Jimenez, 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: Angela Peters, Juliana Glenna, Veronica Robins, Danny Brown, Leslie Stewart,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Anne La Spina, Damien Champion, Frazer Toweel, Isabelo Sitjar,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.





Bulletin Notices

Lectio: Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God with Dr Tim Gray. With the clear teaching and artistry of the Augustine Institute's Lectio series, Dr. Tim Gray masterfully uses the discipline of Lectio Divina to show you how to make prayer an effective effort of love and intimacy. During this time of lockdown why not join with other parishioners and deepen your prayer life, by attending a course on lectio divina (divine reading). This is a six-week video series, where each week we will meet via Zoom, to catch up with each other, watch a film from the Lectio series and reflect and discuss each week's topic. **Beginning Thursday July 22 at 7:30 - 9:00pm, via Zoom.** If you would like to attend, please email Donna to receive the link to the Zoom call. donna.ransom@dow.org.au

Support Your Priest Sunday is Back!

This year, Parousia, along with [Divine Renovation Australasia](#), would like to announce that 'Support Your Priest Sunday' will be held on Sunday 1 August 2021. **Support Your Priest Sunday** is a day of significance for all Catholics, as we acknowledge the tireless work of all priests around the world. It will take place each year around the feast of St John Vianney, patron of priests. Here is an explainer video by the Co-Director of Parousia and National Coordinator of Divine Renovation Australasia, Kevin Bailey AM. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0d4yllhWlc&t=1s>
Register for free to receive the daily novena prayers in your inbox. <https://www.parousiamedia.com/support-your-priest-sunday-2021/>

2020-21 Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass NEW DATE: Sunday 19 September 2021

two Masses (12:30pm and 2:30pm) Due to covid restrictions, this event has been postponed from 8 August to Sunday **19 September 2021**.
To enable as many couples as possible the opportunity to attend, we will hold two (2) Masses (12:30pm and 2:30pm) on the same day for those who in 2020 or 2021 celebrated 25, 40, 50, 60, or 60+ years of marriage.
We have also extended the closing date for registration to receive an invitation to Monday 2 August to permit additional couples the opportunity to also register their interest.
If you would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow on Sunday, 19 September 2021, please register online at www.dow.org.au/events/, or contact Helen Bennett at the Office of the Bishop at 4222 2403, or via email helen.bennett@dow.org.au. To those who have already registered, an invitation will be emailed to you.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2021

With just 74 days to Assembly One of the Plenary Council, you can keep up to date by accessing the Plenary Post on the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>
Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the first Assembly will be a mix of in-person and online delivery. See the up-to-date **PLENARY COUNCIL JOURNEY 2020-2022**

ALPHA Launch night set for August 3 will be postponed until the Church has opened again. At the moment, we are hoping October will be suitable.

CONFIRMATION Classes have been postponed until the church has opened again. The date for Confirmation will be set when the Bishop is available. The families who have registered will be notified by email.

ACBC Men's Gathering in our Diocese

In 2020, over 1500 men gathered around the country in hub spots for the ACBC National Catholic Men's Gathering. Be inspired, encouraged and renewed in faith with other blokes from around the Diocese. It's free. For more info and to register go to www.catholicmensgathering.com.au. We will be running four (4) regional hubs around the Diocese on dates to be determined in August / September post COVID19 restrictions.
4. Rosemeadow Parish Hall: Key Contact: Eddie Ferry 0417 049 418 eferry@westnet.com.au - with Ryan Soares, Andy Adina and Ian Boorman

Call to Connect - Catholic Women's Ministry

Are you looking for an avenue of prayer and sharing the faith journey with a group of female friends, online or face to face? "Call to Connect" Catholic women's ministry is a ministry that offers prayer, hospitality and sharing the faith journey for women through its prayer/sharing group structure. Their aim is to strengthen the relationship between women and facilitate a deepening walk with God. There are Starter Kits available with all you need to form prayer/sharing groups. For more information contact Bronnie Schlager on calltoconnect.ministry@gmail.com or <https://womenstaskforceacg.wordpress.com/womens-prayer-groups/>

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving

Given that our church is currently closed, 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.
Importantly, we are mindful that some of our parishioners will sadly be experiencing a change in their financial circumstances. Please contact the Parish Office if you need to decrease/discontinue your planned giving contribution, but mainly to let us know how we can support you. If you wish to contact the parish please call 0434 705 176.



Holy Gospel according to John 6: 1-15

He distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?'

Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves.

The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Scripture Commentary by Fr Michael Tate

Have you one of those friends who asks you a question with a deadpan expression? You take it seriously, and then realise you have been led up the garden path: the question turns out to be a mischievous challenge to the way we normally think. This is what happened to the disciples in today's gospel. Confronted with a crowd of hungry people, Jesus asks his disciples: 'How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?' Philip falls into the trap and starts answering in market economy terms: 'Two hundred denarii wouldn't be enough.' Jesus actually wasn't interested in a buying and selling answer. Jesus hoped that his followers, who had been with him for a while now, would have got beyond thinking that the way to satisfy people's hunger for food (or anything else) is always going to be in market terms.

It was a young lad, maybe a boy of nine or ten, who put the disciples to shame and fulfilled Jesus' expectations. What does the gospel tell us? 'There is a lad here with five barley loaves and two fish.' So what? As Andrew put it: 'What is that amongst so many?' If the boy had adopted the disciples' attitude he would have sold them and made a small fortune from some ravenous few of the hungry crowd. But something about Jesus' compassion set this boy's heart beating to the same rhythm as that of Jesus. The boy simply handed over the five loaves and two fish.

It was the generosity of this young boy which triggered something which allowed Jesus to feed the crowd. It was because this young lad was open-handed that a divine generosity and open-handedness rippled through the crowd. We don't know quite what happened. Suffice it to say that Jesus' divine compassion was made effective in the world through that boy's initial response. You may say, that is all very well for the young boy but it would be madness if we all handed over what we owned to the poor. There is a record of such madness in the very earliest days of the Christian community in Jerusalem. St Luke writes in the Acts of the Apostles:

'The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power. . . . None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned houses or land would sell them and bring the money from them and present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.' (Acts 4:32-35)

I discussed this passage with students at the University Chaplaincy recently. One young woman said: 'But that is Marxism!' And it is true that one of Karl Marx's maxims was: 'From each according to his ability, to each according to his need.' Unfortunately that maxim was implemented by Lenin by brute and vicious force leading to the creation of totalitarian Communist regimes which after a hundred years have largely collapsed except in North Korea and to a lesser extent in China and Cuba. But the *voluntary* radical renunciation of property and the *voluntary* sharing of wealth is still part of the Christian story after two thousand years. St Francis of Assisi is only the most extraordinary exemplar. There are thousands of monasteries, convents and abbeys where the original way of life recorded in the Acts of the Apostles is maintained. These little oases can stimulate our imagination and action so that we become more like the little boy in the gospel. We need to respond by personal donation or by supporting those political processes which provide funding for internal and overseas aid for those in need.

These responses may not be as radical as that of Francis of Assisi. But the passage in the Acts of the Apostles haunts me personally and should haunt the Catholic Church. Why? Because it makes it clear that *only* when we personally, and institutionally as a church, engage in the redistribution of wealth to enable the hungers of humanity to be satisfied, will we be able to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ *with great power*. Do not let the young lad in the gospel put us to shame!