



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.

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
 IN ORDINARY TIME
 YEAR B**



Entrance Antiphon

Your merciful love, O God,
 we have received in the
 midst of your temple.
 Your praise, O God, like your
 name, reaches the ends of
 the earth; your right hand is
 filled with saving justice.

First Reading from the
 prophet Ezekiel 2: 2-5

Responsorial Psalm
 Ps 122. R. v.2

(R.) Our eyes are fixed on
 the Lord, pleading for his
 mercy.

Second Reading from the
 second letter of St Paul to
 the Corinthians 12: 7-10

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit
 of the Lord is upon me; he
 sent me to bring Good News
 to the poor. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
 Mark 6: 1-6

Communion Antiphon

Taste and see that the Lord
 is good; blessed the man
 who seeks refuge in him.

**NEXT WEEK
 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN
 ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

First Reading: Am 7:12-15

Responsorial Psalm:
 Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

Second Reading: Eph 1:3-14

Gospel: Mk 6:7-13



Heal Country

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday 4 July 2021

Visit www.natsicc.org.au to access a variety of resources

This year the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council have adopted the NAIDOC theme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday – Heal Country. In Laudato Si', Pope Francis has called us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

Today's Gospel is very fitting because Mark tells us of Jesus returning to his 'native place' – Nazareth – to a non-accepting, hostile reaction. Jesus had been welcomed and revered in other places, why is it that he is mocked and disregarded in his own home? "Is he not the carpenter?" the crowd called because they saw him as "without honour" and were unable to believe in him. He did not fit into their ideological view and thus did not deserve respect in their eyes.

In Australia, our own First Nations people have suffered a similar reception to Jesus in Nazareth. Their knowledge and complex cultural systems, created and honed over millennia, are often dismissed as primitive and irrelevant to our fast-paced world of today. This could not be further from the truth, particularly as we become more aware of their continued care, love, and respect for 'country', grounded in a relationship with the creator that formed independently of Western influence.

2021 marks the 250th Anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in Australia. Yet the Spirit of God was poured out onto the original inhabitants of this great Southern Land many, many thousands of years prior. God's Spirit could be heard through the singing of the birds, the cascade of the waterfall, the rustle of the wind and, most importantly, in silence.

To access some wonderful messages, prayers and encouraging stories associated with this celebration and 'Heal Country' theme, please go to https://www.natsicc.org.au/2021-atsi-sunday.html?mc_cid=641902d003&mc_eid=bf32dddf6

Alive in the Spirit Virtual Pastoral Ministry Conference 8-10 July

We are encouraged to engage in a special opportunity inviting us to experience new vision, new energy, new life as we become the community Christ calls us to be. "Alive in the Spirit", an innovative online pastoral ministry conference, from 8 to 10 July 2021, which will enliven and inspire our Catholic Church through a variety of keynotes, workshops and enriching prayer and worship experiences. Our Parish has registered for this online, interactive event and all those involved in ministry are encouraged to join for part or all of this important event in the life of our Catholic Church. To find out more details, please go to www.aliveinthepirit.com.au and register at the parish office on 0434 705 176

Updated COVID-19 Guideline changes for Churches

Please note and continue to implement the most recent directives effective **28 June 2021 (listed on our website)**. During this time of rapid change, we must remain vigilant to any rapid developments that relate to our parish and make changes accordingly to ensure the safety of the community.

We will also do our best to advise you of further changes as they arise. Check on our website for updates and information about when the church will reopen.

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: varroville.dow.org.au

Mass times when the church is open.....

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

11 July 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
Monitor	Tracey & Richard Kaldasau	Cheryl & Eugen Gabin	Patricia Wicks
	Margaret McDermott	Jackie Plasto. Irene Ravino	Rhonda Thompson
Altar Server	Ryan Potter	Volunteer	Robert Selvaraj
Reader	Loretta Binny	Reg Bucknell	Kathy Randal
Counting	Paul & Merylyn Robins, Margaret McDermott	Vacuuming	Binny Family
Flowers	Patricia Wicks	Foyer	Allan & Anita Roma

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: 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: Veronica Robins, Danny Brown, Leslie Stewart, Heyden Hurst, Pedro Sapalo, Loretta Yates,

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





Parish Events

Bulletin Notices

Planned Giving envelopes are available in the foyer when the church reopens. If your envelopes are not there please call the parish office during the week. If you wish to order a new set of envelopes please contact the parish office. Giving receipts will be available at the parish office after 6 July.

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

Friendship Group will next meet on tuesday 3 August for Christmas in July celebration.

PARISH FEAST DAY has been cancelled for this year.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! **Come and join us on August 21 - 22, 2021 at a Live-Out Marriage Encounter Weekend at St John Bosco Parish, Engadine.** Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

The Journey, 4 July 2021 – Weekly Podcast

Fr Brian Steele MGL – challenges us about lacking faith and Pete Gilmore encourages us to live with passion and purpose. Greta music on this week's show too. Be encouraged in difficult time by the Journey - Listen at jcr.org.au or your local Christian Radio station.

2021 Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass

If you are celebrating 25, 40, 50 or 60 years of marriage this year, and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow on Sunday, 8 August 2021 at 2pm, 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 by no later than Monday 12 July. Once you have done so, an invitation and official online registration procedures can be sent out.

For those who missed out in 2020

In this year of St Joseph and the Family, we are exploring the possibility of hosting two (2) sessions to enable as many couples as possible, and some limited members of their family, to attend the Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass. Furthermore, this also enables us to invite couples who reached one of these significant milestones in 2020 to contact Helen Bennett and register their interest. As you would appreciate, due to the possibility of heightened COVID-19 restrictions, our plans are subject to change and even cancellation. We kindly urge you to register as soon as possible in order to receive an invitation and enable appropriate planning for this important celebration.

Executive Assistant – Welcoming and Information |

Catholic Diocese of Wollongong Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Executive Assistant – Welcoming and Information in the Diocese of Wollongong. For more information and a detailed role description, please go to www.dow.org.au/jobs Any enquiries please contact Helen Bennett 0407 438 434 or email recruitment@dow.org.au

Go Deeper in Faith! FREE 6-week course in the Catholic Faith This course is designed for any Catholic who is looking to discover more about their Catholic Faith. Over six consecutive Mondays or Fridays, we will explore the following topics with great guest speakers:

Morality: Life in the Spirit (Mr Seth Harsh), Church: Mission of the Holy Spirit (Sr Susanna Edmunds OP), Christ: Heart of Catechesis (Fr Bernard Gordon VG), Creation: Work of the Trinity (Sr Bernadette Toohey MGL), Reconciliation: Forgiveness of Sins, Healing (Sr Therese Mills MGL), Communion: Eucharist - Source & Summit (Fr Mark De Battista) In the past, this course was only available to Catechists, but we have now opened it up to all interested people. We hope that you can join us. **Mondays:** Commencing Monday 19 July 9:30am-1:30pm CCD Regional Centre, Micah House, 35A Cordeaux St, Campbelltown (Dates: July 19, 26, August 2, 9, 16, 23) If you would like to attend please register by clicking [here](#), RSVP by Fri 16 July.

Spiritual & Pastoral Care Training Interested in growing your capacity to be fully present to others? An Introductory Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course is being offered online via zoom and would be suitable for kind-hearted people wanting to learn more about providing holistic spiritual and pastoral care to patients in hospital, residents in aged care facilities or people in the parish. This 40-hour course will commence on Thursday 22 July 2021 and comprise of 6 consecutive weekly sessions ending on the 26th August 2021. Applications are now invited. For more information, please contact Carmen Karauda at ckarauda@gmail.com or phone: 0419 430 676.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday this weekend This weekend in the Australian Church we celebrate *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday*. It coincides with NAIDOC WEEK, a time when the whole church comes together to celebrate and acknowledge the gifts of Australia's First Peoples. This Sunday we acknowledge that we are united in our efforts to be steward of God's creation. We combine the knowledge of First Australians with the technology of Western culture to ensure that future generations shall have the opportunity to experience the gifts of God's creation as intended. Let us love, respect and pray with thanks for our Indigenous brothers and sisters, especially this weekend. You are encouraged to visit catholicreligious.org.au for a brief report on the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the Indigenous Co-Design Process.

Could you provide a forever home?

Fostering Futures, CatholicCare are looking for a forever home for a 10-year-old girl, Jessie*. Jessie is a lovely, sociable girl who enjoys listening to music, riding her bike and loves animals. She is smart, energetic and loves to chat! She needs patient and loving carers who can give her time, consistency, and support so she can thrive and achieve a positive future. (*Child's name has been changed for privacy) To find out more about becoming a carer with Fostering Futures: call **0418 783 956** email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or go to <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au>

Holy Gospel according to Mark 6: 1-6

A prophet is despised only in his own country.

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.



The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reflection by Mary Coloe PBVM

We tend to think that Jesus was able to do everything he set out to do, that his ministry was super successful but today's Gospel shows us that Jesus too had his 'bad days'. After much success around Galilee Jesus goes home, but his own village does not give him a 'ticker-tape' welcome. No sign up saying 'Local boy makes good'. Instead, the very fact that he is a local is an obstacle. Can't you hear them say, 'He can't be that special, I was better than him in Hebrew classes!' So this village missed out. No miracles there. The text doesn't say 'Jesus *would* not work any miracle there', but that 'he *could* not'. The lack of openness and scepticism of these villagers blocked God's power in Jesus' life. They didn't want God in the form of Jesus, the son of Mary and Joseph; they wanted something more special. Jesus was just too ordinary, too familiar to them to be taken seriously.

This is not just a problem in Nazareth. Here in Australia, we are not good at offering appreciation for the skills or gifts of another. Some say we have 'a tall poppy' syndrome, where we cut everyone down to size. What would it be like if instead 'cutting down' we encouraged and built up one another, and also allowed our own particular strengths to flourish? What change might happen in our families or work places if we noticed and more readily complimented others? Just a few words could make a big difference to another person, and cost us nothing.

So, where do you look for God? Is it possible that you are missing God's presence because it is too simple, too ordinary, and not dramatic enough? God is there perhaps in the words, 'sorry mum', or 'this is great work' or 'how was your day'. Don't look for angels, or burning bushes, or strange visions; look for God in the ordinary gift of life imbued with God's presence. And watch out for the prophet in your midst, among your family, within your household. Open up to the miracles in the ordinary, and try to help some 'poppies' flourish.

Paul continues his struggle with a group who have opposed him and tried to discredit his apostolic authority. Paul counters these attacks by teaching that the sign of being an authentic minister is the extent that one imitates Jesus. He likens the sufferings and opposition he has experienced to the suffering Jesus experienced. When he writes about 'a thorn in the flesh' some think this may have been some sort of physical ailment, which at that time was thought to be a punishment for sin, but some scholars think the term may be more metaphorical and be speaking of the ongoing irritation of being constantly harassed by his opponents. Either is possible. Given the context, I think the phrase 'a thorn in the flesh' more likely refers to his opponents, just as some might say – he's a real pain in the 'proverbial'. Paul has prayed for relief from this struggle, but has come to see that he must rely on Christ. I see in Paul a pastor, facing opposition, and through prayer coming to a deeper appreciation of Jesus' struggles, and so coming to a place where he trusts his own integrity, and ultimately trusts the Risen Christ.

The words, 'When I am weak, then I am strong,' offer a rich source of prayerful reflection. These words link in with Paul's earlier image in this letter of being only an earthenware pot.

'For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge ... of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.' (2 Cor 4 5-7)

Linking back to the 'tall poppy' syndrome, I think Paul's attitude comes from a deep spirituality that sees all he has as a gift, and a gift to be shared for the sake of the community. Gifts are not our own private possession, but manifest something of God, and such gifts are to be treasured.

