

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Serving Since 11 May, 1980
Varroville, Raby, St Andrews and Bow Bowing



To know, love and serve Jesus
by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission

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Dear Friends in Christ,

First of all, thank you for your ongoing support of our parish through planned giving and contributions to the Mass collections. With your support, we have been able to keep the parish running this past year. Online giving has been so important when the church was closed and cash collections could not take place. Thank you for those who switched their cash giving to electronic, so the parish had some money coming in. I continue to encourage parishioners to change from the envelopes to direct debit or credit card contributions to ensure the regular and ongoing income of the parish continues.

Once more the Church is shut, and many of us are going online to watch Mass or tune in to podcasts for prayer, but these wonderful opportunities are no real substitute for being able to gather together as a community, to worship our God and support each other on our journey of faith. Our new website, varroville.dow.org.au, presents our parish vision in a beautiful and informative way. Logon when you can and stay up to date with what is happening in our parish. Hopefully, you will find inspiration and an affirmation of what keeps us together as a parish despite all the adversities.

We have achieved a number of successes in the parish during the past 12 months. At the top of the list; building works are progressing behind the scenes. The myriad of reports and plans have been gathered and hopefully we will see some construction activity before the end of this year. The property committee meets every month and apart from the building project they are also responsible for the ongoing maintenance in the parish.

Alpha has been run twice since last July; via zoom in 2020 and in the parish hall in 2021. The participants and the team have been very encouraging and the feedback from them is very inspiring. I encourage you to seriously consider attending the next Alpha course that commences on 3 August at 6.45 pm in the parish hall (COVID directives permitting).

Despite COVID, we managed to have a Sacramental programme in 2020 and are continuing this year. In 2020/2021, I baptised 54 babies and children and welcomed 3 adults into the church through RCIA. 64 children received 1 or more sacraments. It is wonderful to see the parents bringing their children to the parish for the sacraments. You must have seen how lively our 6pm Masses were during May with all the First Holy Communion families in attendance. Confirmation classes will commence soon, and I encourage you all to show a warm welcome to any new families you may meet.

I'm sure you are aware that our Parish Feast Day celebrations have been cancelled for this year. To help us stay connected to our Parish in a small way, I have attached a novena to commence today. The daily intentions focus on our parish vision and we can use these lovely prayers to pray for each other at this lonely time. The link below will take you to the parish website and you can save the link to your phone or print the leaflet if you wish and pray the novena for 9 consecutive days concluding with the Feast Day on 16 July 2021. <https://www.varroville.dow.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/07/novena-booklet-olmc.pdf>

God bless you all

Fr Shane
Parish Priest