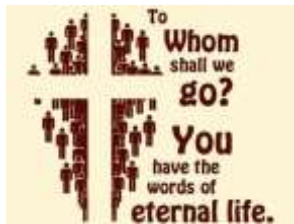




To know, love and serve Jesus
by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission

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 22 AUG 2021
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading from the book of Joshua 24: 1-2,15-18

Responsorial Psalm
[Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9](#)
(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5: 21-32

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to John 6: 60-69

Communion Antiphon
The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.



Australia's Churches

are Joining in Prayer for the Covid-19 Crisis and You Are Invited

Register Here: <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/lordhavemercy/>

Church Leaders are calling the Nation to Prayer for the Covid Crisis under the banner of AUSTRALIA PRAYS Sunday 22nd August 2021. The team at the Australian National Day of Prayer & Fasting, in consultation with many church leaders and prayer networks, is calling Australia to united prayer in light of the current Covid-19 crisis.

We are drawn to pray together across the land, given the current level of need and distress. Our theme is found in this beautiful liturgical prayer: "Lord have mercy — Jesus have mercy".

Inspiration for this prayer is found in the story of the blind beggar in Luke 18:35 and his cry to Jesus for healing. This simple prayer for mercy is found throughout the Scriptures, in both the Old and New Testaments.

"Our eyes look to the Lord our God till he shows us his mercy." — Psalm 123:2

Participants are of course encouraged to add to this prayer, and also to fast as they feel led. Those who are inspired and are organising the event acknowledge the division that Covid-19 and Australia's response to it has caused, even within the church. Nevertheless, they are calling for Christians to set these conversations aside in order to seek God's mercy at this crucial time.

We encourage you to pray in your own church and in your own way at this time. To facilitate a national prayer focus, the team at the National Day of Prayer and Fasting are providing the following prayer resources and opportunities.

1. Every day from Monday 16th – Sunday 22nd August 2021, a daily devotion will be sent out to those who register. Each daily devotion will include a prayer from a different church leader. Register here: <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/lordhavemercy/>
2. Every night at 8pm-9pm (AEST) from Monday 16th – Sunday 22nd August 2021, a nightly prayer call will take place with input from a different church leader each night. Register here: <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/lordhavemercy/>
3. On Sunday 22nd August 2021, from 9am – 9pm (AEST), the National Day of Prayer and Fasting team will host a Zoom prayer call featuring church leaders and Indigenous Christian leaders. Come for a short while or come for as long as you like. Let us join in prayer for our nation. Register here: <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/lordhavemercy/>

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>



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.

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>

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, 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: Fr Peter Caruana, Claude Fricot, Uncle Leo McInerney, Angela Peters, Veronica Robins,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Jeff Randal, Anne La Spina, Damien Champion, Frazer Toweel, Isabelo Sitjar,
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

LET'S GET TOGETHER ON ZOOM: Having talked to some of you lately it is obvious that we are all missing seeing each other and chatting to each other. That's why I want to invite you to a social zoom meeting where we can see each other at least on the screen and chat about things that are on our minds. The meeting will just be for 1 hour. It is scheduled for Tuesday 24/08/2021 @ 10am.

Please let me know on 0434705176 if you can join us so I can send you the zoom link. Participation is as easy as clicking on the link. Don't hesitate to others who may wish to join in.

ADORATION PRAYER with the Carmelite Missionaries

GOD BLESS US ALL IN OLMC PARISH! During the lockdown, this is our community's response to the request of the PPC to participate and deepen their prayer life through Adoration. You are invited to join **ADORATION PRAYER with the Carmelite Missionaries every Sunday at 6:30-7:30 PM.** Contact the parish office for the zoom link.

Social Justice Statement We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 29 August. The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. To read more go here <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>

The Journey, Weekly Podcast On The Journey This Week: The gospel reflection by Fr John Foley SJ. Plus, Mother Hilda on the impact of adults praying in front of their children has, and Michelle Vass says the psalms are ideal prayers during the pandemic. Plus, more great music! The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Plenary Council 2021 With just 46 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 delivered online. Keep the up-to-date **PLENARY COUNCIL JOURNEY 2020-2022.**

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 post COVID19 restrictions. Rosemeadow Parish Hall: Key Contact: Eddie Ferry 0417 049 418 eferry@westnet.com.au – with Ryan Soares, Andy Adina and Ian Boorman

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving.

Given that none of us are able to attend Mass in our church, 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. This link has the bank account details for the Parish (second collection) and also the Carmelite Friars (first collection).

Importantly, we are mindful that some of our parishioners will sadly be experiencing a change in their financial circumstances. Please contact the **Parish Office on 0434705176** if you need to decrease/discontinue your planned giving contribution, but mainly to let us know how we can support you.

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. Our team have over 30 years' experience helping carers give vulnerable children a loving home and a brighter future. You can find out more by calling **0418 783 956**, email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or go to <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au> more information.

We're always here, if you ever need...

These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes. To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au

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 September 10 - 12, 2021** for a Virtual Marriage Encounter Weekend via Zoom. Open to married couples, priests & religious. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

Meet Me in the Middle Online Retreat

This retreat is based on Charles Peguy's Little Girl Hope from the book: "The Portal of the Mystery of Hope." Hope is both a virtue and a mystery. It is desirable yet elusive. Many dismiss it, misunderstand it, shrug it off and turn their backs on it, extolling faith and charity instead. Whilst faith and charity are absolutely critical in these times of uncertainty and fear in society, there is now a need for hope as never before since World War II. The retreat begins on Saturday 5 Sept. All videos and texts will be available on our website for as long as you need them. There are 6 conferences with 2 uploaded each week. There are also questions for reflection. The cost of the retreat is \$250. Register online at: jamerooabbey.org.au/retreats/onlineretreats

Holy Gospel according to John 6: 60-69

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection by Brendan Byrne SJ

Today's Gospel features the last of the readings from the sixth chapter of John's Gospel. At this stage the 'Bread of Life' discourse has ended and what we have is the reaction to it from Jesus' audience. In a divided response, many of the hearers, including even a number of disciples, describe it as 'intolerable' and choose at this point to leave him and go elsewhere.

As a background for this crisis in discipleship, the Lectionary offers as **First Reading** an extract from the Book of Joshua, 24:1-2, 15-18. Sensing that he is soon to die, Joshua summons a plenary assembly of Israel for a solemn act of recommitment to the covenant. From now on the people will be dwelling alongside other peoples with other gods and will be tempted to give their allegiance to them. Hence the necessity to recommit themselves solemnly to serve alone the God who has brought them through so many dangers to the present good situation in which they now stand. Confronted with the choice of going over to the gods of other nations or serving the Lord, the people renew their allegiance, 'We too will serve the Lord'.

Believers today are hardly confronted with temptations to idolatry in the literal sense. However, there are so many forces at work in society – wealth, social status, ambition, addictions of various kinds – that can become, sometimes very subtly, real idols in the sense of creating in people a dehumanising dependency that amounts to enslavement. Joshua's challenge and the Israelites' unqualified commitment, 'We also will serve the Lord,' makes its claim upon God's people today, just as it did of old.

In regard to the **Gospel** itself (6:60-69) it is not immediately clear just what is the 'hard teaching, impossible to accept' (v. 60) that is being referred to. If the final part of the preceding discourse is interpreted in a eucharistic sense, then it is natural to relate the 'hard teaching' to Jesus' claim that his flesh is real food and his blood real drink. However, Jesus' comment in response, 'What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?' (v. 62), suggests that the negative response relates to the central claim of the entire discourse rather than just to the eucharistic allusions in the final section. Jesus has consistently claimed to be the Bread of Life that has come down from heaven, a new 'Manna' sent down by God, superior in life-giving power to the Law of Moses. What gives 'eternal life' is acceptance in faith of the revelation of God communicated through the human 'flesh' of Jesus. Some of the disciples, it seems, would feel more comfortable if they had been given a set of precepts to live by, such as the Law brought down from Sinai by Moses. God would remain in heaven and they would keep the laws and all would be well; they could be comfortable with this notion of God. Instead, Jesus reveals a God who doesn't just remain in heaven or summon an intermediary for a meeting upon a mountain, but who, in the person of the Son, *descends* to 'pitch a tent among us' (1:14). In response (v. 62) and alluding apparently to the cross, Jesus seems to be saying, 'If you have difficulty with this idea of One descended from heaven to reveal God, how will you cope with the still more radical revelation when the same Son of Man returns to where he has come from *via a cross!*' Here we meet the Johannine idea that Jesus' being lifted up upon the cross is the first stage of his return (ascension) to the Father and reveals his absolute union with the Father as the God, who is love.

The division of the disciples reflects, then, an incapacity to accept the image of God that Jesus is revealing – something for which, as Jesus says, the gift of the Spirit is necessary (vv. 63). When Jesus turns to the inner circle of the Twelve (vv. 67-69), Peter's response reflects full belief: there is nowhere else to turn to gain life; Jesus is 'the holy one of God,' that is, the One who was 'with God in the beginning' (1:1-2) and who has come down from God.