Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish Varroville, Raby, St Andrews and Bow Bowling

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 29 AUG 2021 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

Have mercy on me,
O Lord, for I cry to you all
the day long.
O Lord, you are good and
forgiving, full of mercy to
all who call to you.

First Reading from the book of Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1 (R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Second Reading from the letter of St James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Father gave us birth
by his message of truth,
that we might be as the
first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

Communion Antiphon

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

Social Justice Statement 2021-2022

Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor

Today is Social Justice Sunday. The Australian Catholic Bishops have published their annual Social Justice Statement, which is this year titled: *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor.*



The Statement calls us to listen, hear and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor through practical action. When one part of the Body of Christ is wounded, the other parts care for the afflicted part so that all can be healed and made whole. What affects one affects all, as everything and everyone is connected. We are invited to be lifegiving agents in the transformation of our communities in ways that reflect the mercy freely offered by our loving God.

As people of prayerful contemplation, dialogue, and action, we commit to right relationships in our covenant with God. It is clear that the signs of our times call for urgent action to defend, protect, and restore the earth and the dignity of the human person, especially those places, creatures, and people who are most vulnerable. In following God's law of living a moral life from the inside out, we upend and transcend any worldly standards that would diminish the sacredness of any part of God's creation. People are more important than profits, and the beauty of our natural world is a precious gift to us and to the generations who will follow. In transitioning to sustainable and just economic systems and practices, we commit to partnering with the work of the Spirit in renewing the face of the earth.

In their Social Justice Statement for 2021–22, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, the* Australian Catholic Bishops say, "the signs of the times are clear - we know that we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour". 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.

The Bishops invite us to join them in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven -year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Goals are: response to the cry of the earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics; sustainable lifestyles; ecological spirituality; ecological education; and community engagement and participatory action.

Scripture, the theological tradition, Catholic social justice teaching, and the wisdom of the world - including insights of the First Nations - are all placed in dialogue with human experience. Four theological foundations for a genuinely Christian response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor emerge from this dialogue. They are: creation in and through the Trinity; the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life.

Catholic families, communities and organisations are encouraged to: listen to the First Nations; reflect on the theological foundations offered by the Bishops; and, plan their next steps towards the Laudato Si' Goals.

More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or Tel (02) 6201 9845.

https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/

Contact us

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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

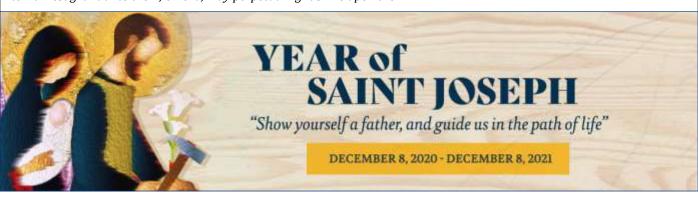
Prayer intentions

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.

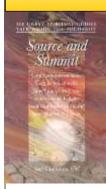
For our recently dearly departed: Carter Por, Fr Peter Caruana, Claude Fricot, Uncle Leo McInerney

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.





Bulletin Notices



Can't find anything to watch on television? Try a good book.

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Book Club recommends:

Source and Summit – Joel Giallanza \$9.95 from Pauline Books and Media or St Paul's Publications Father Giallanza writes about the Eucharist using the ideas of 6 great spiritual guides from different periods.

Lectio: Evangelisation Course with Dr Mary Healy Beginning Thursday September 2 at 7:30pm-9:00pm via Zoom. Using the Lectio Divina approach of reading, reflecting, responding, and contemplating, Dr. Mary Healy combines insightful biblical study with Church teaching and practical advice to show how modern Catholics can effectively impact their world for Jesus Christ. She explores topics such as the call of Jesus to evangelize, the power of the Sacraments, the role of charisms for building up the Body of Christ, techniques from St. Paul for reaching a secular culture, and more.

Using the Formed website, this course offers a fantastic opportunity to explore and deepen your faith through videos and small group sharing. Please contact: Donna Ransom, Alpha and Discipleship Coordinator donna.ransom@dow.org.au

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 6:307:30 PM. Contact the parish office for the zoom link.

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.

Caritas Australia: Your support is needed to help families caught up in the following crisis:

As the situations in Afghanistan and Lebanon deteriorate, In Afghanistan people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter, and protection. In Lebanon, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine, and food.

Even hespitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will

Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

Haiti has bit hit and devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches, and schools have been damaged in the quake, and reports indicate that more than 30,000 families have been left homeless. The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence. There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground.

To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal at https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

The Journey, Weekly Podcast: Greta to have Fr Mark De Battista breaking open the Gospel this week, a new segment from Fr Mike Delaney from Tasmania and a wonderful interview with Dr Sandie Cornish from the ACBC's Social Justice Council on this Year's Social Justice statement, "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor". The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Plenary Council 2021: With just 39 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.

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

Holy Gospel according to Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered,

This people honours me only with lip-service,

while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless,

the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that

'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reflection for Social Justice Sunday

There are many today who do not accept hard truths, who promote false news, and whose main concern is for their own power, comfort, gain, notoriety, celebrity, image, or profit. Truth is replaced with versions of reality that serve an agenda, or interpretations of events that make people less uncomfortable about their attitudes and choices. People, animals, and the earth can be rationalised as commodities to exploit, use, abuse, and discard. The desire to possess, dominate and consume disrupts the delicate balance and harmony needed to sustain healthy communities and ecosystems. Countries are increasingly referred to as economies, and the values of an often-grasping marketplace push to replace the intrinsic value and uniqueness of each integral part of God's sacred creation.

A sacramental vision of a dynamically connected, diverse, and inclusive universe is one that is rooted in the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Kingdom and Reign of God. As Christians, we are called to open and form our hearts in this radical and counter-cultural vision that expresses God's true law as part of a mutual and loving covenant relationship. Moses reminds the people of Israel and us today that there is wisdom and understanding in following God's law. Those who have opened and shaped their hearts to God's law of love see, hear, speak, and live the truth of this way of being and acting in the world every day. This contributes to God's Kingdom breaking through in the here and now.

The psalmist encourages people to stand firm in God's truth and to act justly in dealing with people in their daily lives, including their business dealings. God's presence is found in integrated and right relationships with people, characterised by detachment from material gain, especially when it comes at the hurt and expense of others. This psalm highlights an ongoing temptation in our world for people to seek material riches and social advantage as false markers of blessedness and success. God is not interested in status as defined by worldly standards but completely subverts and rejects any system or behaviour that seeks to exploit, disadvantage, or harm anyone or anything.

James gets to the heart of things in calling people to listen to the God who dwells within them and to take action to defend those most defenceless and vulnerable as a visible marker of their true identity in Christ. God's goodness never changes and never ends. We are called to embrace and foster this in ourselves, doing our part to come to the aid of all who most need our help. God has created each with purpose and value, just as they are.

Jesus calls out the hypocrisy and self-serving behaviour of anyone, especially leaders, who would seek to absolve themselves from the real work of conversion of heart and life. Hiding behind the details of traditions, rules, and the finer points of external rituals alone is not what is called for in faithfully following Christ. Our beautiful Christian traditions, prayers, liturgies, and rituals point us to the gift and glory of God and God's beloved creation. Our faith is built on who we are following, what we believe, and how we relate to others in Christ. Relationships of compassion, mercy, and forgiveness are direct encounters with God's amazing grace alive and active in our hearts and lives. This is where we are asked to focus, and to live.