



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.

12 September 2021
Twenty fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Year B



Entrance Antiphon

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true.

Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 50: 5-9

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9
(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading

from the letter of St James 2: 14-18

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Mark 8: 27-35

Communion Antiphon

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.



Safeguarding Sunday, comes at the end of Child Protection Week, whose theme this year is: Every child, in every community deserves a fair go. This day we recall the terrible suffering of people who were abused as children in our Church and resolve, 'Never again'. This year, however, we focus more broadly on ensuring that in our Church all people are safeguarded.

This resolution is central to our Catholic Church. It is our mission, which comes from God. We are called to be a community that follows Jesus and attracts people to recognise God's love. The Church is called to be place of love, generosity, respect, forgiveness, prayer and hospitality - all the qualities found in Jesus' life.

That is our Catholic ideal. The reality, of course, is much more mixed. In our relationships we often fail in love and respect. We need to work at all the relationships that make up our church so that they reflect the values enshrined in our mission. The love and respect that Jesus shows in the Gospel stories must be shown in all Church decisions, meetings and relationships. It must translate into welcome at the Church door, geniality in answering phones, promptness in responding to requests, and care to listen to complaints. The way in which we do things must reflect our mission.

Ensuring that all Catholics are safe

Safeguarding Sunday invites us to ask whether the relationships within our Church express respect for people, and especially vulnerable people, who are precious in God's sight. It leads us to ask how respect can be translated into policies, protocols and guidelines that spell out in detail how as Catholics we do things. Our procedures must protect people from disrespect.

When we think of safeguarding it is right to think first of children. We may never forget the terrible crimes of sexual abuse and its cover up that priests and other Catholics in positions of trust have committed against children. Abuse and official tolerance of it could happen only because there were no safeguards against it.

In recent years those safeguards have been put in place for children. In most of our Catholic parishes and schools we can say fairly confidently that children get a fair go. We need to keep working especially at it. But we need also to ensure that in all the daily relationships where there is a difference in power people can feel safe. These relationships include those of priests with parishioners, spiritual guides with clients, managers with employees, and volunteers with those whom they help. In all of these relationships those with less power must be safeguarded. That is what safeguarding Sunday is about. It gives Christ's mission flesh and bone in day to day life.

The readings for Safeguarding Sunday do not have anything specific to say about the policies, guidelines and practices involved in safeguarding. They focus rather on the depth and the cost of following Jesus in his way of love and respect. They suggest also that we always need to look at safeguarding from the perspective of persons who are vulnerable, not of the Church as an organisation.
Prepared by Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ

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 previously advertised for October 5, 2021, has been postponed until early next year due to the ongoing situation with Covid 19.

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, 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.

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.

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>

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Carol Gonzales, Christabelle Adina, Gloria Gonzales Prudente, Allan & Kelvin Marquez, 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 Kajdryns, 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, Leonard Mansfield, Fr Peter Caruana, Claude Fricot,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Francis Villahermosa, Tracey Bautovich, Anne Migus, Joe, Noreen & Margaret Farrell *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

Arete Centre for Missionary Leadership: Virtual Open Night, Thurs 23rd Sept, 7:30-8:30pm

Join our panel as we discuss: 'Reasons for Hope in a Disrupted Church' and learn a little more about the mission of the Arete Centre and our Foundations of Missionary Leadership Course. There will also be a live Q&A! Special guests include Archbishop Peter Comensoli, Daniel Ang from Sydney Centre for Evangelisation and Fr Chris Ryan MGL, Director of the Arete Centre for Missionary Leadership. To Register: www.aretecentre.org

Springtime: OLMC Parish Retreat Sat 2nd Oct 2-4pm

Join us on Zoom for an afternoon of reflection, prayer and inspiration to see God's presence in our lives in this season of change, growth, challenges and new life. The afternoon will include input from the MGL Sisters, individual prayer time and a chance to 'come away' together on retreat as a parish. Zoom link: <https://dowcatholic.zoom.us/j/66476756873> Meeting ID: 664 7675 6873

Men's Kickstart Program: Monday Nights 13, 20, 27 September and 4 October : Starts next week – register now with blokes from right around the Diocese and Australia.

Kickstart is being facilitated by menALIVE for the Diocese of Wollongong, hosted online by Peter Gabauer and Colin Bennett and the menALIVE leaders from the Diocese of Wollongong. To register go to <https://www.dow.org.au/events/anmcgkickstart>

Kickstart will run on Monday evenings 13, 20, 27 Sept and 4 Oct from 7.30-8.30pm. Sessions are short and sharp and a great way for men in lockdown to come together to engage with the theme 'Brothers What must we Do' developed by the ACBC with some excellent keynotes including:

- Man of God: Tomasz Juszcak
- Man of Service: Tim Davis
- Man of Character: Shayne Bennett
- Missioning and Sending: Archbishop Julian Porteous

Plenary Council 2021: In less than a month, the Church in Australia will commence its fifth Plenary Council – the first in 84 years. 279 members will begin a process of dialogue focusing on 6 themes that were developed from the responses of over 220,000 people.

Checkout:

- the latest media release [which is also online here](#),
- the agenda [and is online here](#)
- Plenary Council by the numbers; and
- **Archbishop Coleridge – Why a Plenary Council**

In coming weeks, we will share short clips from our DoW delegates, that have been shared with the Plenary 2020 organising committee.

Youth Ministry Online: Have you seen Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong's (CYMW) online version of LIVE yet? Click on the link below for some great worship and challenges as you explore faith with some very awesome leaders! **Enjoy!** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTphLF5OdSt8V_yo7ZLrVgg

Season of Creation The *Season of Creation* begins **Sept 1**, on the designated **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**. It concludes on **October 4, the Feast of St. Francis**. The Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace have created five prayer cards which focus on the themes of the statement. This week's prayer focuses on [A prayer for conversion](#)

The Journey, Weekly Podcast: Great show this week as we celebrate the season of creation and feature some brand new God Spots from our presenters, with all of the great music you've come to expect from the Journey available at www.jcr.org.au.

Caritas Australia – Your Support is Needed: Your support can provide aid and relief to humanitarian crises, like the one currently unfolding in Afghanistan, Lebanon and Haiti, where hundreds of thousands of people are now facing displacement, drought, COVID-19 and poverty. 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.

Formed (Free for DoW parishioners) Join hundreds of other families around the Diocese of Wollongong in nurturing your faith at home, in your own time and at your own pace? FORMED.org is a large Faith Formation Resource library website containing thousands of faith formation documentaries, courses, movies, audio and books covering all aspects of our Catholic faith. Materials for both adults and children. Sign-up for Free using our Diocesan Subscription by contacting darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au or helen.bennett@dow.org.au

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving. Many who support our parish planned giving envelope program have asked how they can continue to financially support the parish during the current lockdown. So, we respectfully encourage all parishioners to join our electronic parish planned giving program **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 (2nd 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.



Holy Gospel according to Mark 8: 27-35

You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

But you, who do you say I am?' This would have to be one of the most powerful questions of the gospels. It echoes down the centuries and is just as relevant today as it ever was. 'Who do you say I am?' Our answer to that question is perhaps the most revealing statement of our faith. Our answer no doubt changes over time as we grow in understanding and as we experience the ups and downs of life, but nonetheless, just like Peter in the gospel passage, our answer remains a clear statement of our faith. 'Who do you say I am?' Just a good guy who lived 2,000 years ago? A role model? A friend? God made flesh? The Word come down from heaven? Nobody? Everybody? Our saviour? An inspired man of God? The Messiah?

Perhaps you've never tried to actually answer the question yourself. It is a confronting question, 'Who do you say I am?' It's confronting because, as Christian people, we believe that our actions are a reflection of our beliefs and values. It's confronting because whatever we say in answer to that question has implications for the way we live. 'Who do you say I am?' You see, the question is in the present tense, not the past. It doesn't ask 'Who do you say I was?'; it asks, 'Who do you say I AM?' The very question asks us to recognise that Jesus was not just some guy who lived 2,000 years ago but rather someone who continues to be a presence in our lives today. And he stands before each and every one of us today and asks that same, demanding, confronting, purposeful question: 'Who do YOU say I am?'

This passage forms a crucial turning point in the Gospel of Mark. It occurs at the very mid-point of the gospel – the end of chapter 8 in a 16 chapter gospel. From this point on the gospel takes a greater focus on what it means to be a disciple and Jesus' movement towards Jerusalem. This passage in which Peter professes his faith in Jesus as the Messiah is immediately followed by the account of the Transfiguration. From this point onwards, the gospel writer reveals the growing understanding of Jesus' identity that until now has been wrapped in secrecy.

When Peter answers Jesus' question he demonstrates the disciples' dawning awareness of Jesus' true identity. It is the first occasion that the disciples are called to own what they think about Jesus. However, when Jesus begins to spell out what being the Messiah reality means – persecution and death – Peter tries to convince Jesus that he doesn't need to go down that path. Jesus turns on Peter and snaps, 'Get behind me, Satan!' It is a reminder of the desert temptation Jesus had to face at the start of his ministry when he wrestled with what sort of messiah he was called to be.



The Gospel of Mark is famous for a technique of 'sandwiching' stories or sections between two related events to bring what is sandwiched into greater focus. This gospel passage falls within a significant sandwich that runs from 8:22 (the healing of a blind man at Bethsaida) to 10:52 (the healing of blind Bartimaeus). The healings of blindness that surround the sandwich reflect the lack of 'sight' that the disciples have. The 'meat' of the sandwich is all about the disciples not really understanding Jesus' mission and what it means to truly be a disciple. Read the whole section from 8:22 – 10:52 and see how it works.