



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.

24 October 2021

Thirtieth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year B

Your faith
has made
you well.

Mark 10:52

Entrance Antiphon

Let the hearts that seek
the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his
strength;
constantly seek his face.

First Reading from the
prophet Jeremiah 31: 7-9

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done
great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

Second Reading

from the letter to the
Hebrews 5: 1-6

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Our Saviour Jesus Christ
has done away with
death, and brought us
life through his gospel.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Mark 10: 46-52

Communion Antiphon

We will ring out our joy
at your saving help
and exult in the name of
our God.



Reach out. Give life.

We invite you to support the essential work of the Mother and Babies Home run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok, Thailand. One of the women impacted by the work of the Good Shepherd Sisters, and currently residing at the Home, is Churai*. As a child she was abused, and is now pregnant with her third child; however, was cast away by her partner as he did not want the baby.

Many vulnerable women, like Churai, have no place to turn; the home provides them with love and support, a community of women from similar backgrounds, parental skills training and pre- and post-natal medical care. Sr Chalaad, who manages the Home in Bangkok says, "When they come to us we welcome them. When they have a chance, they will be able to look forward and they will be able to stand for themselves in the society for their future. Even if they have no one, we can stand by them".

Churai says of her time at the Home so far, "This place has helped and given women in need an opportunity to grow. Women who feel discouraged, who don't know what to do, and who have nowhere to go. This place gave us an opportunity, comfort and happiness". This work is so important for the many women who have been supported over the years; however, the Home needs your help urgently so they can continue reaching out to vulnerable women like Churai and giving them and their babies an opportunity for a brighter future.

Please partner with Catholic Mission today to help continue this critical work, and many other life-giving mission programs in Thailand and around the world. By becoming a Mission Partner, your monthly gifts will make an ongoing impact, and a one-off gift is also very helpful in supporting those in most need. Thank you for your generosity and please keep Churai, the Good Shepherd Sisters and all vulnerable mothers and their children in your prayers.

Pope Francis invites each of us to respond to what we have seen and heard to carry those stories, like Churai's, in our hearts – calling us to each be missionary disciples by sharing and supporting vital work like this.

Catholic Mission operates in over 160 countries to support initiatives in 1,100 dioceses, including remote Australia. Grassroots needs are identified by local Catholics, to give people the opportunity for a full, enriched life—physically and spiritually—regardless of race, stigma, religion or gender. Support of Catholic Mission ensures the Church can grow in even the most remote areas.

Your support of this Catholic Mission Church Appeal will help continue vital Church run mission programs around the world. Thank you for partnering with us today.

You can donate to this appeal online at www.catholicmission.org.au or wait till 7 November when we will have a parish collection for Catholic Mission at all the weekend Masses.

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

Sunday Mass times

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm

Reconciliation: by appointment

Weekday Mass times

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday Mass at 9am

Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm

All Sacramental enquiries: call the parish office

Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online:

for all of the online Mass options- please visit the DoW website <https://dow.sh/dailymass>

ADORATION PRAYER with the Carmelite Missionaries: GOD BLESS US ALL IN OLMC PARISH! During the lockdown, you are invited to join **every Sunday at 6:30-7:30pm. Contact the parish office for the zoom link.**

Rosters

31 October	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Russell & Suzanne Binny	Chris & Margaret Pew	Betty & Boby Thalody
	Myra Cortez		
Altar Servers	Volunteer	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Readers	Ryan Potter	Allan Roma	Gloria Divinagracia
Counting	Polly Banny & Nora Burgess	Vacuuming	Hermi & Charity Tamisin
Flowers	Lorraine Bryant & Vai Ah Ching	Foyer	Allan & Anita Roma
CLOTW	Volunteer		

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Marie & Barry Atkins, 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 Kajdrys, Erlinda Hermes, Aurelia Vertucio, Ofilia Mawson, Mary & Frances Raithi, 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: George Torres, Christopher Fernandes, Tony Farrugia, Edgar De Souza, Carter Por

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Anita Pinto, Francis Villahermosa,
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

Our Church is opening for Mass tomorrow, on Monday 25 October for 9am Mass. After 4 months of closure, we have been dusting off the cobwebs. Masses will follow the same schedule. New weekend rosters have been prepared and will be sent by email to you next week. They are also being uploaded into our website this weekend. According to the directives sent by the Diocese of Wollongong, all the faithful are welcome to attend Mass and parish events, whether vaccinated or not. However people involved in ministry must be double vaccinated. You will be asked to offer proof to your ministry leader.

On All Souls Day (Tuesday 2 November) Fr Shane will celebrate Mass at 7.30pm in the Columbarium. All are welcome and please bring a jacket.

The Journey, Weekly Podcast: A jam packed show this week as Mother Hilda Scott asks us to be the Amen, Fr Mike Delaney addresses Social Prejudice and Darren McDowell invites us to lead with vision. Plenty of uplifting music on this week's show - the Journey available at www.jcr.org.au.

Synod of Bishops: Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission". The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Those submissions will help the Bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. Find out more at: <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

Earthcare Families Launch webinar: This year the [Laudato Si Action Platform](#) launches on the 14 November. Caritas Catholic Earthcare for years has been helping parishes and schools on the path to an integral ecology. The Action Platform names seven other groups that they would like to see live out Laudato Si and become part of an integral ecology. One of those groups are families. Catholic Earthcare is therefore launching another program - [Earthcare Families](#) to support them to engage in the Action Platform and Laudato Si. To launch this program, you are invited to a webinar to learn about the program. We will discuss how you can participate if you are interested, or how you can promote the program if you represent a parish or school. The launch will be held on the 29 November 7:30pm AEDT, 6:30pm AEST. To register, please go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/BUMMY> Please also feel free to share this event with others.

Liturgy Brisbane: Online Liturgical Formation & Training: The team from Liturgy Brisbane have launched an excellent online training platform titled 'Learn + Discover'. Learn at your own pace with comprehensive, multi-modal, and engaging training, all from the comfort of your own home. A certificate will be issued on course completion. The current courses on offer are as follows: Ministers of the Word (Readers) Course, Lay Ministers of Communion Course, and Combined Course: Ministers of Word & Communion. To learn more and to purchase access

to one of these online courses, please visit: <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/online-courses/>

Divine Renovation Australasia Virtual Conference 2021 Called to Discipleship Saturday 20 November 2021 | 9:00am-12:30pm: Join us for a spirit-filled time of prayer, live keynotes, inspiring panel sessions. The virtual conference will aim to support priests, parish teams and individuals in their journey of parish renewal, while encouraging and equipping you in your Catholic faith. For more and information and registration: <https://www.divinerenovation.org/dr-aus-called-to-discipleship-conference>

Plenary Council – what happens next?

With the conclusion of the First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, the members approved a concluding statement sharing the fruits of the first assembly and looking forward to nine months of "prayer, reflection, maturation and development" leading up to the second assembly. Please find attached a media release and a copy of the [concluding statement](#). The Journey podcast compiled a series of insightful interviews at the conclusion of each day of the assembly that can be accessed at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/plenarypodcast/

Urgent - Join in Opposition to Euthanasia in NSW.

The move to make Euthanasia / Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) legal has been introduced into the NSW Parliament. We are called to stand up for the sanctity of life and oppose 'the culture of death'. Bishop Mascord urges the faithful of the Dioceses to contact their local state MPs without delay, asking them to vote NO. Advocates of Assisted Suicide, are similarly working very hard to influence local MPs and without similar efforts for those who uphold the value of life from conception to natural death, it is likely that this terrible bill will become law.

Go to www.dow.org.au/euthanasiabill to receive contact details of your State MPs, as well as speaking points for a phone call which is by far the most impactful form of communication. Emailing is a less impactful, but still valuable option. This is a most urgent call to brave action, with this bill infringing many religious freedoms and worse still the sanctity of human life.

Prayer Seminars to experience different prayer styles – All Welcome :

There has been an overwhelming response to the Prayer Seminar series that runs each Tuesday evening, 7pm - 8:30pm via Zoom. Prayer Seminars are hosted by the CCD Team but are open to anyone and everyone in the Diocese to attend. Each week a different presenter will lead us in a style of prayer that is meaningful to them. The seminars will include information, but also the opportunity to be led by an expert in the prayer experience. You are welcome to come to any or all of the seminars. Registering does not require you to attend every seminar. Please follow the link to register for Prayer Seminars: <https://www.dow.org.au/events>.

Please register before the day of the seminar, to ensure you receive your zoom link on time.

Next Tuesday, 26 October, Sr Kerry Gardiner RSJ, will lead us in Prayer Journaling. Be sure to bring a journal (paper) and something to write with.

Holy Gospel according to Mark 10: 46-52

Master, grant that I may see.

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.



The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reflection by Richard Leonard

Immediately his sight returned and he followed Jesus along the way.

This episode concludes a very significant section of Mark's Gospel, which began with Jesus healing a blind man in Bethsaida (8:22-26) in Galilee, then setting out on a journey south to Jerusalem along the Jordan valley. In this journey, Jericho is the last stop before Jerusalem, and it is here that he meets another blind man. In between these two miracles where blind people gain sight, Jesus has been trying to lead his disciples to an understanding of his mission. He has taught them three times about what awaits him in Jerusalem, and each time the disciples fail to perceive his meaning. He has taught them about letting go the desire for wealth, power and prestige and to seek the gift that only God can give, namely life in God's presence. But the disciples have argued about who will be the greatest and who will have positions of authority. Now, in today's reading, blind Bartimaeus models what discipleship entails. In his poverty he calls out to Jesus knowing that only Jesus can give him what he truly desires. When he is healed, he leaves behind all he has and becomes a follower of Jesus on the way that will lead to the cross.

The Gospel describes Bartimaeus as sitting by 'the way', and at the end of the story he follows Jesus 'on the way'. This term, 'the Way', appears to be one of the earliest names for the Church – 'followers of the Way' (see Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 24:14, 22). When Mark uses this term, on a number of occasions it is more than simply a description of a path, but has the theological sense of 'the way of discipleship'. Where the disciples are blinded by their ambitions, Bartimaeus sees clearly and he willingly leaves his things behind, throws off his cloak and takes up the position of a disciple – a follower on the way. This episode is far more than a simple healing miracle; it is really a lesson in discipleship and it makes a sharp contrast with the ignorance and ambition shown by Jesus' disciples throughout his journey.

Bartimaeus is able to name his deepest need and seek the one who can fulfil this. Can I leave aside the external trapping that can distract me from following my heart's desire?

The reading from Hebrews continues the image introduced last week – that Jesus is the great High Priest. Remember, the recipients of this letter are most likely to have been Jewish Christians and they would have been very familiar with this powerful image. As an image it refers to the Risen Christ's role as an intercessor before the throne of God. Within Judaism at that time there was speculation about such heavenly intercessors.

On the Day of Atonement, before the High Priest offers the sacrifice for the sins of Israel, he first sacrifices a bull to make reparation for his own sins. Only when he has been through this purifying ritual is he able to officiate in the rituals to make atonement for the sins of the people. The High Priest was therefore one with the people, although chosen and set aside for a special role, just as Aaron was chosen, not Moses, to officiate as priest during the time of the Exodus.

The early Christians came to understand that in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Scriptures of Israel were being fulfilled and so turned to the Scriptures to shed light on these events. In this Letter the author cites from two Psalms.

The first is a Psalm to celebrate the enthronement of a new King of Israel:

'I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.'

I will tell of the decrees of the Lord,

He said to me, 'You are my son; today I have begotten you.' (Ps 2:6-7)

The special relationship between God and the king was likened to being adopted by God. This Psalm was frequently used in the New Testament to affirm Jesus' special relationship with God.

The second citation is from Psalm 110 which is a Psalm celebrating the anointed King of Israel, and in his role, the King also functions as a priest to represent the people before God.

The Lord sends out from Zion your mighty sceptre...

The Lord has sworn and will not repent,

'You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' (Ps 110:2, 4)

Using these two citations, the author affirms Jesus' special, exalted relationship with God, while at the same time as King and Priest he carries the needs and sufferings of his people. These words aimed at encouraging this community in their struggle to keep faith in the midst of suffering and persecution.