



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.*

31 October 2021  
Thirty first Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
Year B



#### Entrance Antiphon

Forsake me not, O Lord,  
my God; be not far from  
me! Make haste and come  
to my help, O Lord, my  
strong salvation!

#### First Reading

from the book of  
Deuteronomy 6: 2-6

#### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R.v.2  
(R.) I love you Lord, my  
strength.

#### Second Reading

from the letter to the  
Hebrews 7: 23-28

#### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
All who love me will keep  
my words, and my Father  
will love them and we  
will come to them.  
Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Mark 12: 28-34

#### Communion Antiphon

Just as the living Father  
sent me and I have life  
because of the Father,  
so whoever feeds on me  
shall have life because of  
me, says the Lord.



## Year of St Joseph Reflection

### St Joseph – A Hidden Life

*Bishop Gregory Homeming was named the Bishop of Lismore in 2016. At the time of his appointment, he had been serving as Regional Vicar of the Discalced Carmelites in Australia.*

St Teresa of Avila dedicated 10 of the 15 monasteries which she founded to the care of St Joseph. Her devotion to him helped establish the place which the Church accords him today. In spite of the honour given him, very little is known about this man.

Like Prince Philip, the late husband of Queen Elizabeth, St Joseph took a lesser role compared to Jesus and Mary. He stood behind them, giving his support and love.

Even though he was not Jesus' father, Joseph does give Jesus a name and ancestry. Jesus, the carpenter's son, thought to be the son of Joseph, is of the house of Joseph and through this a descendant of David. While we may conjecture the role that Joseph played in the Holy Family, we cannot build an historical picture of the man. However, we may surmise the inner man by asking appropriate questions.

When we meet Joseph in Matthew's Gospel, he is about to informally divorce Mary because she is with child. He has a dream and as a consequence his life changes.

Why did he believe the dream? Few of us believe our dreams. Psychologists tell us that dreams are about the one who dreams, not the people who populate the dream. What does Joseph's dream and his response tell us about the saint?

"Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Joseph could not have understood this. There are no other instances of women conceiving of the Holy Spirit, and it is doubtful that he would have known who or what the Holy Spirit was. Why did he follow the dream?

As is often the case, a dream taps into the depths of the inner person. In Joseph's case, I think that he believed the dream because he wanted to. He loved Mary and did not want to divorce her. He believed because he loved. Here love and faith work together.

The darkest moment of Joseph's life is the instant that he realises that Mary is pregnant and he is not the father. The dream speaks into this darkness and uncovers the depth of his love for Mary. Perhaps he didn't know how much he loved her; nevertheless, the life which he will now live is proof of that love.

The dream, faith and love do not guarantee freedom from doubt. St Augustine tells us that to doubt is human. I wonder what Joseph expected. Perhaps he thought the child would be miraculous, a leader.

Tradition tells us that Joseph died before Jesus began his ministry and therefore Joseph was not privy to the miraculous signs worked by Jesus. For almost 30 years Joseph lived with and cared for a regular person. I'm not sure that Joseph ever saw anything spectacular. Did he ever doubt his dream? Did he ever wonder whether Jesus really was conceived miraculously?

*Continued on back page.....*

## Contact us

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**Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD**

**Parish Associate:**  
**Sr Ninfa Timbal, CM**

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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

7 November	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Monitors</b>	Tracey & Richard Kaldasaun	Allan & Anita Roma	Terry & Maree Reilly
		Jackie Plasto	
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
<b>Readers</b>	Richard Kaldasaun	Gabriel Mafi	Kathy Randal
<b>Counting</b>	Louise Muscat & Lina Agius	<b>Vacuuming</b>	G Binny Family
<b>Flowers</b>	Patricia Wicks & Jessica Menezes	<b>Foyer</b>	Wicks Family

## 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:** Rozalia Astalosh, Sr Eileen Brown SGS, Kevin Fletcher, George Torres, Christopher Fernandes, Tony Farrugia,

**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**

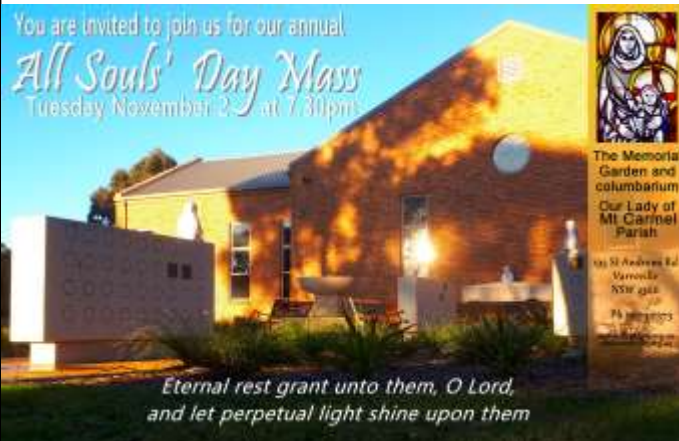
*"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"*

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021



# Bulletin Notices

**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.**



**An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving**  
Given that some parishioners are unable 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 has imposed 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.**

Importantly, we are mindful that some of our parishioners will sadly be experiencing a change in their financial circumstances. Please contact the Parish Office if you need to decrease/discontinue your planned giving contribution, but mainly to let us know how we can support you. If you wish to collect your envelopes for the current year, please ask the monitors after Mass. To reduce congestion in the foyer, the envelopes are in the meeting room.

**Rosters** have been prepared and are available on the website. If you wish to join a rostered ministry please send your details to the parish office.

**Technology skills workshops** Early next year, Catholic-Care and the Being Connected network are teaming up to facilitate small group sessions aimed at assisting older Australians with improving their digital skills and knowledge. Sessions will be held in three parish centres in Wollongong, Shoalhaven, and Macarthur early next year and spaces are very limited. This is a great opportunity to learn new skills and connect with others. There will be more information early next year on venues and times. We are also seeking mentors who have digital or technology skills to assist with this program. For more information Jane Hollier, Parish and Community Liaison Officer 0417 018 152 [janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au)

### The Journey, Weekly Podcast

On the Journey this week: Fr Patrick Vaughan's gospel reflection, Mother Hilda on the three things God wants us to know and Michelle Vass on using nature and creation to pray. The Journey available now as a podcast – [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)

### Vote on euthanasia bill delayed until 2022

Pleasingly, debate and voting on the Euthanasia / Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) bill that has been introduced into the NSW Parliament has been delayed until early 2022. This enables more time to join in Opposition to Euthanasia in NSW and to stand for the culture of life from conception to natural 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](http://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. Please go to <https://web.thankqportal.com/cdowa/promoting-the-common-good/#/stepper?pageId=5056> to receive information from the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong on issues impacting the common good, and how as faithful of the Diocese of Wollongong you can be part of coordinated efforts in this regard.

### 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, 2 November, Fr Aloysius Rego** will lead us in Prayer with St Teresa of Avila. Learn from St Teresa, Doctor of the Church, who remains one of the most influential saints of all time. *Fr Aloysius, who is a Discalced Carmelite Friar, regularly assists and leads preached and private retreats at the Discalced Carmelite Retreat Centre.*

### 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>

**The Chosen – A TV Series about Jesus** – The Chosen is a new 'free to view', television program that creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. Go to <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen> to watch or get the free

## Holy Gospel according to Mark 12: 28-34

*This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.*

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.



The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

### *The Dual Command*

Jesus does not command us to love 'God' in the abstract. Teaching Jew to Jew he says: 'You shall love the Lord your God' – the Lord who had rescued the Jewish people from slavery. So, commanding a love which responds to an initiative of Divine Love.

Why wouldn't one respond 'heart, mind, strength, soul' in gratitude for the gift of life itself, for some particular person or incident, for the beauty and grandeur of nature, for rescue from some situation which seemed to engulf us? And if the Lord God loved you in such a way, why wouldn't you love yourself?

Then you can properly 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. There is nothing sentimental in his teaching from Leviticus 19:18 and the preceding verses. Jesus was pointing to the system of social justice which looked after the poor and which did not exploit workers. It is up to us as global citizens of the 21st century to recognise as 'neighbours' those beyond our borders and to love them in the practical 'Levitical' way.

Fulfilling the Dual Command, we guard against the extremes of religious piety or social activism and become Christian humanists loving God and neighbour.

We might pause a moment to pray in responsive gratitude to the Lord God, and to commit ourselves to loving our neighbour, hoping to hear the words of Jesus Christ: 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God.'

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### *.....Continued from front page:*

This would have happened in the secrecy of Joseph's heart. Since we all have questions and moments of doubt and uncertainty, we have access to the hidden recesses of St Joseph. We have wondered whether we are loved, we have laboured under uncertainty and we have made mistakes because of our doubt. How did Joseph cope and go on to live an integrated holy life?

He was a man of dreams. In the Carmelite tradition, this means St Joseph is a man with a profound interior life; he is a man of prayer. In the spiritual life, doubt, uncertainty and darkness furnish the inner sanctum of the soul. We search for God in this context.

Joseph is a master of this. In his struggles, he cries out "where are you hidden?" He does not wallow in his difficulties. He looks for God; this is a fruit of profound inner love. We all understand this because in similar circumstances, even though it does not feel like love, we find an inner strength which enables us to go on living and loving. We discover a love deep within ourselves which impels us; we share this with St Joseph.

Prayer is friendship with God. St Teresa of Avila took Jesus as her closest friend. As she grew in relationship with him, she grew in self-knowledge, and through self-knowledge she grew in knowledge of Jesus.

Part of St Joseph's prayer was his relationship with Jesus and Mary. His love for them supported him in his trials. He experienced their love and he loved them. It was an intimate and real love. We can say that he was a master of prayer.

We might not have the biography of St Joseph, yet as we ponder him, we see that he had a profound hidden inner life which is relevant to us because we experience similar difficulties. His hidden life is also my life. He shows me how to navigate the ups and downs of life in such a way that I might draw closer to Jesus. In darkness we may find light, and in faith learn to love.