



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.*

14 NOVEMBER 2021

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
YEAR B



**Entrance Antiphon**

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.  
You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

**First Reading** from the prophet Daniel 12: 1-3

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Ps 15:5. 8-11. R.v.1

**Response**

Keep me safe, O God:  
you are my hope.

**Second Reading** from the letter to the Hebrews 10: 11-14,18

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Be watchful, and pray constantly,  
that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to Mark 13: 24-32

**Communion Antiphon**

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

I AM WITH YOU  
ALWAYS

#IAMWITHYOUALWAYS

WORLD DAY  
FOR  
GRANDPARENTS  
AND THE  
ELDERLY

*Sunday 25 July was set aside for the celebration of the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Due to being in lockdown, we will acknowledge this special event this weekend.*

The theme chosen by the Holy Father for this World Day is "I am with you always" (cf. Mt 28:20) which is a way of expressing the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every older person, especially in these challenging pandemic times.

"I am with you always" is also a promise of closeness and hope that young and old can mutually share. Not only are grandchildren and young people called upon to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelisation, proclamation and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith.

In order to encourage the celebration of this World Day in the local churches and associations, from mid-June the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life will offer some pastoral tools that will be available on the website [www.amorislaetitia.va](http://www.amorislaetitia.va).

I invite you to celebrate this *Day* in every community and to visit grandparents and the elderly, those who are most alone" said Pope Francis after Sunday's Angelus and all over the world young and old accepted his invitation and celebrated grandparents and the elderly.

From the first reports that reached the Dicastery, there have been many initiatives undertaken by bishops' conferences, dioceses and associations around the world on the occasion of the *Day*. Many of them have been mentioned on social media with the hashtag #IamWithYouAlways.

Pope Francis, who was unable to attend the liturgy in St. Peter's in person, wanted to personally greet the grandparents and elderly who had just participated in the celebration of the first *Day* dedicated to them and who were still holding in their hands the flowers and the message delivered to them by the youth at the end of the celebration. He invited them - and all the grandparents throughout the world - to give them a round of applause.

The Pope, speaking after the Angelus, urged people to continue to live the *Day* in each and every church community by visiting the elderly, those most lonely, and conveying to them the message "I am with you always."

After expressing his wish: "that this feast may help those of us who are older to respond to His call in this season of life" he underlined the value - for the good of the whole society - that grandparents and youth find more and more opportunities of encounter. This is a fundamental challenge for our culture, so much so that the Pope stated that: "Without dialogue between young people and grandparents, history does not move forward, life does not move forward."

## Contact us

**Parish Priest:**  
**Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD**

**Parish Associate:**  
**Sr Ninfa Timbal, CM**  
193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville

Parish Office Phone:

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	Weekday Mass times
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday Mass at 9am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm
Reconciliation: by appointment	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

21 November	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Monitors</b>	Berna Potter Ronald Tuyor	Bianca Heuvel NeljaBalingit	Terry & Maree Reilly
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Ryan Potter	Olry Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
<b>Readers</b>	Suzanne Binny	Ofa Mafi	Kathy Randal
<b>Flowers</b>	Audrey Tanuvasa	<b>Foyer</b>	Feiloakitohi Family
<b>Counters</b>	Richard Kaldasaun, Irene Ravino	<b>Vacuuming</b>	Feiloakitohi Family

## Prayer intentions

**For the sick & homebound:** Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol Gonzales, Christabelle Adina, Gloria Gonzales Prudente, Allan & Kelvin Marquinez, Amelia Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Nelja 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:** All the holy souls we pray for during November.  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*





# Bulletin Notices

## Very Urgent Action Required this week -

**Vote on euthanasia:** The next two (2) weeks are critical for people of faith to urgently oppose Euthanasia in NSW, with debate about to commence in Parliament. Bishop Mascord urges the faithful of the Diocese to urgently contact your state MP this week to stand for the culture of life from conception to natural death. 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. Emailing is a less impactful, but still valuable option.

**Online Survey:** *We also urge need as many voters from NSW who oppose this terrible legislation to complete this survey by 11:59pm, 22nd November 2021.* at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XRQNHFZ>.

**This is a most urgent call to brave action, with this bill infringing many religious freedoms and worse still, the sanctity of human life.**

**Fundraising News:** Our fundraising team met last week. All the activities planned for this year have been put on hold till 2022. The property committee are confident we will be doing the refurbishment of our foyer, kitchen and toilet area in 2022. All of the fundraising undertaken in the past few years will be used to fit out the building. We feel there is time for 2 small activities this year, with your support.

1. Facebook auction of donated items. Follow the links on facebook or on the website to do a bit of Christmas shopping. Each weekday a new item will be added to the facebook page and you can bid on the item. The item will be online for 7 days. At the end of the 7 days the person with the highest bid will win the auction, and can collect their items from the parish office.
2. Bunnings BBQ on Saturday 27 November at Gregory Hills. As our team is small, we don't have enough helpers for the whole day, If you are able to volunteer between 1 and 4 hours on the day 27 November. We start at 7.30am and finish about 4.30pm (including pack up time). Bunnings have told us that in order to volunteer we must be double vaccinated. We will also accept donations of supplies that we will require for the day; eg: sausages, bread rolls, onions, soft drinks, sauces. If you feel you can help out in any way please call 0434705176.

**Blessed ADVENT booklets are available after all Masses this weekend and next. Booklets cost \$2.**

For We **CANNOT KEEP FROM SPEAKING** about what we have **SEEN & HEARD** ACTS 4:20

Thank you so much for your generous support of Church-run mission programs like the Mother and Babies Home in Thailand through last week's Catholic Mission Appeal. Your gift helps to continue the work of Sister Chalaad and the Good Shepherd Sisters as they support vulnerable mothers and their babies, as well as many other mission programs around the world. To learn more about the impact of your support, visit [catholicmission.org.au/our-work](http://catholicmission.org.au/our-work) where you can also sign up for our regular newsletter




call: 1800 257 296  
[catholicmission.org.au/thailand](http://catholicmission.org.au/thailand)

**iWitness Conference 2021:** The iWitness Conference is back this December from the 10th – 12th at The Tops Conference Centre. Join us for a jam-packed weekend of fellowships, talks, liturgy, perpetual adoration and more! If you're 18+ and keen to meet other Catholics, then register now!" there is a Diocesan rebate for first 10 Participants from the Diocese of Wollongong [www.iwitnessconference.com](http://www.iwitnessconference.com)

**The Journey, Weekly Podcast:** On The Journey This Week: Fr Pat Vaughan breaks open the Gospel, while Mother Hilda talks about the importance of holding hands. Fr Dave Callaghan helps us to overcome the fear of time running out and Trish McCarthy gives tips on making life simple. Some great, uplifting worship music as usual this week. The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

**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, 16 November,** Sr Monica Barlow RSJ will help us to Engage with Jesus in the Gospels, using the time-honoured method of Ignatian spirituality. Following Jesus' invitation in John's Gospel "Come and see" (1:39), we will take a passage from the Gospels and immerse ourselves in it imaginatively, using all our senses, and keeping our attention fixed on Jesus.

## Technology skills workshops

Early next year, CatholicCare 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)

**Social Justice Statement :** The Bishops invite the whole Catholic community to join them in taking up Pope Francis' invitation to a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability, guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. These 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. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## Holy Gospel according to Mark 13: 24-32

*He shall gather his elect from the four winds.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



## Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

The whole of chapter 13 in the Gospel of Mark is devoted to a discourse about the future. In the section preceding this week's passage, Jesus has foretold the destruction of the Temple and the fall of Jerusalem. He has also predicted war on a massive scale and the persecution of his followers. Now, in this passage, Jesus predicts the return of the Son of Man and the fulfilment of the kingdom of God.

Why does the gospel include such an extended description of the collapse of the world as it was? Because that's exactly what was going on around the community of this gospel writer! This gospel is understood to have been written somewhere in the period 70-75 CE. In the year 70 CE the city of Jerusalem was besieged by Roman troops who stormed the city and destroyed it. As a sign of complete disdain for the people of Jerusalem and a mark of overwhelming victory, the Romans burnt and completely destroyed the Temple in the heart of Jerusalem. For the entire Jewish community, this was absolute devastation. The destruction of the Temple surely marked the coming of the end times – the day of judgment and completion of this world. The community gathered around this gospel writer were no less affected. On top of this, the Roman Emperors were reaching new heights (or depths) in their persecution of the followers of Jesus.

In the midst of this despair and fear, the followers of Jesus are challenged to remember the teachings of the one they follow. This passage is written for them as an encouragement to not give up in the face of what appears to be overwhelming odds. It is a call to hope. Although we can understand the context in which it was originally written, we are also challenged to apply its message of hope and perseverance to our own lives.

In 66 CE a Jewish revolt against Roman occupation began in Caesarea and soon spread to most of the country. By the year 68 the sheer weight of Roman numbers had stamped out a lot of the rebellion. The leaders of the revolt rallied again in Jerusalem and in the year 70 the Roman armies laid siege to the city for several months. Finally, Titus, the emperor Vespasian's son, led an assault on the city and the Romans ransacked and burnt the entire city. The treasures of the Temple were looted and the Temple itself – the very centre of Jewish religion – was destroyed.

Whilst the community who were the intended audience of the Gospel of Mark were expecting the return of Jesus and the end times to occur during their lifetimes, nearly two thousand years later we realise that wasn't the case. Today, as in Mark's time, many people approach the future and change with fear and apprehension. As Christian people we are called to be optimistic and hopeful as we approach the future. We know that God is good, that God loves us unconditionally and that God has a dream for us. That is the simple basis of Christian hope.

Theologians refer to beliefs about the future and the end times of the world as 'eschatology'. The word itself comes from two Greek words meaning 'last' and 'discourse' – basically meaning talking about the end. In Christian tradition, eschatology concerns many different concepts: the end of the world; the return of Jesus; the Last Judgment; the fulfilment of the Messianic prophecy; the accomplishment of the kingdom of God. These eschatological events are sometimes simply referred to as 'the end times' or 'the last things'. The whole of Mark Ch 13 – from which this gospel passage comes – is referred to as an eschatological discourse by Jesus.