



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.

28 November 2021
First week of Advent
Year C



Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul,
O my God. In you, I have
trusted; let me not be
put to shame. Nor let my
enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in
you be put to shame.

First Reading

from the prophet
Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

Response: To you,
O Lord, I lift my soul.

Second Reading

from first letter of
St Paul to the
Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy
and love, and grant us
your salvation. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his
bounty, and our earth
shall yield its increase.

The Coming of our Saviour

When my father died some years ago, the light went out of my mother's life: there was an intense longing to be reunited with him. The in-between time was almost devoid of meaning.

His life on earth was full of constructive, good activities in many spheres. But for the boys, we sons, there is a sense of things unfinished, of a legacy which has to be worked at before we see the really final working out of the plan of his life.

I think it was exactly the same for the followers of Jesus after his crucifixion and resurrection and then the withdrawal of his physical presence. The light seemed to go out of the lives of many of the disciples; there was an intense longing to be reunited with him; the time between his earthly ministry and his return in glory at the end of history had to somehow be given a meaning.

For his followers there was a sense of things unfinished, so the meaning came from the disciples working on his legacy, so that they could contribute to the really final working out of the plan of Jesus' life.

It is the same for us. We have to work at translating the legacy of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He has, in principle, rescued us from the Power of Darkness. We have to work at translating that legacy into our personal lives, into the life of the Church, into the life of our society. And don't we at times intensely long for Our Lord to more clearly manifest himself? Sometimes our own lives, the life of the Church, the life of our society, so clearly cry out for Jesus to come again and rescue us.

In some instances, and to varying degrees, we can become conscious of Jesus' saving, transforming power in a particular situation. But, for the whole of humanity across the millennia, we do not know the day or the hour when death and all its warriors such as disease and violence, will be absolutely vanquished by Christ in glory.

This can lead to a type of pain which finds solace in all those things which dull the spirit. Our Lord gives examples: debauchery, drunkenness. Today he might have added 'living in the virtual world'. Rather, Our Lord wants us to live in the real world on high alert.

In the meantime each one of us can be a signal of what is to come. I am thinking of:

– the heroic love of a parent for a child or, the sometimes harder, heroic love of a child for a parent,

– taking a risk with a friendship or your place in work or society, by speaking up where you see an injustice or some degrading of our world,

– being joyful in an over-the-top, extravagant way.

All these signal that the kingdom is already being established on earth. These can give you and me and those we care about hope in the future and faith in the power of unselfish love. They are real foretastes of the real future.

Let us continue to give reasons to each other for our hope and faith that:

Christ *has* come, Christ *is* risen, Christ *will* come again.

Fr Michael Tate



Contact us

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Parish Office Phone:

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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!
You are invited to join **every Sunday at 6:30-7:30pm.**

Rosters

5 December	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Suzanne & Russell Binny Myra Cortez	Irene Ravino Margaret & Gerry Connolly	Terry & Maree Reilly
Altar Servers	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Readers	Bevina Potter	Allan Roma	Kavya Thalody
Flowers	Lorraine Bryant & Vai Ah Ching	Foyer	Allan & Anita Roma
Counters	Marg McDermott, Paul & Marilyn Robins	Vacuuming	Vergara Family

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Phyllis Cooper, Geoff & Dorothy Jones, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, 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 Gibbons, 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: Angela Tomarchio, David Donovan, Domingo Furcciniti, Rozalia Astalosh,

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

Vinnie Christmas Appeal will be held on the weekend of 4 & 5 December. Gifts and food donations for Christmas hampers to be returned by 11th December for packing and delivering to the families we are assisting.

Fundraising : 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.

Friendship Group will meet on Tuesday 7 December for the Christmas Party after 9am Mass. This year the group will gather at the home of Beatrix and Michael. All the usual festivities will be enjoyed; Please contact the parish for the address. Bring a plate for morning tea and a Kris Kringle gift for under the tree.

Christmas Pageant Preparation: On Christmas Eve, we are planning to have the pageant and outdoor vigil Mass. You can register after Mass or at the parish office if you wish to join in. There are roles for children and adults; music, costumes, scenery & props, etc.

Pastoral Care: Our Pastoral Care team have been calling parishioners during the lockdown to say hello. Now we are able to return to Mass and normal activities they will move their focus to those who are alone and can't return to Mass. If you or anyone you know is lonely and/or not able to attend Mass and would like home visitation with Communion please contact the Parish office.

Social Justice Statement
Response to the Cry of the Earth calls us to equitably address climate change, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Advent Resource
Families are invited to use this wonderful advent resource in preparing primary aged children for Christmas. It is full of games, activities, stories, and music. Please click on https://issuu.com/ccressnsw/docs/2021_adventchristmas_sre_family_resource_wollongong to use this free Catholic resource.

The Journey, Weekly Podcast On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says in Advent we must stay awake and step outside the secular culture around us, Mother Hilda calls us not to settle for the superficial, plus Michelle Vass, Deacon Josh Clayton and more!
The Journey podcast 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>

Prayer Seminars to experience different prayer styles – All Welcome Thank you to all those who have attended Prayer Seminars! This coming Tuesday, 30 November, is our final Prayer Seminar for this year and we urge you to join us for what will be a very inspiring seminar! Paul Elarde, who witnessed his wife Juliana being healed and walking out of her wheelchair at Lourdes, will lead us to 'Rediscover the Power of the Rosary'. The Rosary for some, may seem to be a repetitious and an old-fashioned style of prayer. Heaven, however, would disagree. In every Church approved Marian apparition for the last 150 years, Mary has called us to pray the Rosary. It is THE prayer of our times! Fatima visionary Sr Lucia said: "There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary." In this seminar we will offer solutions for the common problems in praying the Rosary and then offer a chance to pray and enter deeply, in perhaps a new way, to help rediscover the immense power of the Rosary. Please register before the day of the seminar, to ensure you receive your zoom link on time. <https://www.dow.org.au/events>.

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

Plenary Council First Assembly - Member Q&A Session
Interested in hearing about the First Assembly of the Plenary Council, held 3-10 October?
Some of the Diocese of Wollongong Plenary Council Members will be sharing their experiences and answering questions via a Zoom livestream on 8 December 2021, 7:00p.m. – 8:30p.m. The event will also be recorded and provided to Parishes.



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Reconciliation Service
Friday 17 December at 7.30pm

Christmas Pageant and Mass
Friday 24 December at 6pm & Mass at 7pm. (hopefully outdoors)

Midnight Mass

Christmas Morning Mass at 9am

As Christmas Day is a Saturday, there will not be a 6pm Vigil Mass.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection by Brendan Byrne SJ

A few words on Advent in general. Advent transports us back to the longing of the prophets of Israel for the coming of a Saviour. The Saviour has come. But salvation is not complete. We proclaim, 'Christ has died, Christ is risen', and then add, 'Christ will come again.'

Why? Because there is so much 'unfinished business' in the work of redemption. Our world and even the lives of believers still appear very 'unredeemed'. Our salvation is still being worked out. The first generation of Christians believed that the Lord would return very soon to complete his messianic work. They were dismayed when some believers began to die and still he had not come (1 Thess 4:13-18). The later writings of the New Testament, the four Gospels included, all address this problem. It may be that the Lord will not come tomorrow, next year, or even before this generation dies out. But come he will in a time known only to God (Mark 13:32).

Meanwhile, this time of waiting is not devoid of meaning – like time spent waiting on a bus stop. This 'in-between' time is a sacred time, a time for the Church to proclaim the Gospel to every nation (Mark 13:10; Acts 1:6-8), to make sense of the present, while never giving up the hope that God's Messiah, Jesus, will have the last word.

Advent is the season that honours and celebrates this waiting aspect of Christian life. Because we live in the time following the first coming of the Saviour, the prime focus of our waiting and our expectation is upon the second coming of the Lord. But because salvation is not complete, because we are so conscious of a world still ravaged by suffering and violence, we can identify with the prophets and holy men and women who hung upon the promise of salvation before the first coming of the Lord. Their cries express our own longings and hopes for a liberated and just world.

The **Gospel** (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36), taken from Jesus' long instruction on the future (21:5-38), again focuses upon the second coming of the Lord. It is full of the kind of apocalyptic descriptions and portents that have always excited the fundamentalist religious imagination. They create real difficulty for preachers today. The important thing, I think, is to focus upon the basic intent of such discourse, which is to address the sense of dismay and challenge to hope that calamities of various kinds present. While God may appear to be silent or absent, somehow all these things are held within the divine purpose, which will ultimately win through. The reference to the coming of Jesus as Son of Man catches up the vision of Daniel 7:13-14, a text which played a very significant role in early Christian messianic hope. Jesus will come 'with all his saints' – the 'communion of saints' that unites the Church on earth with all who have gone before us to the Lord and with all those holy ones who lived before his coming, will at last be revealed.

While the basic message is one of comfort and reassurance, the second part of the gospel adopts a more admonitory tone. Believers must be like people expecting visitors but unsure as to when exactly they will arrive. The time of waiting requires attentiveness and a sharp spiritual sense. Anything that dulls the spirit (debauchery and drunkenness) or causes it to be distracted (absorption in the cares of life) must be avoided.

Advent is a time for examination in such areas. It is also a time for exploring our deepest longings and desires and allowing them to surface. They can ride up, so to speak, on the rich Scripture texts that the Church puts before us at this time.

God's only wish in our regard is to communicate to us the life and love for which we long. Each Advent should expand both our longing and our capacity to receive the gift of God.