



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.

7 November 2021
Thirty second Sunday
Ordinary Time Year B



Entrance Antiphon

Let my prayer come into
your presence.
Incline your ear to my
cry for help, O Lord.

First Reading

from the first book of the
Kings 17: 10-16

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10. R.v.2

Response:

Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading

from the letter to the
Hebrews 9: 24-28

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is
theirs. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according
to Mark 12: 38-44

Communion Antiphon

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall
want.
Fresh and green are the
pastures where he gives
me repose, near restful
waters he leads me.



As the Church in Australia prepares for Prison Sunday, Bishop Don Sproxton has thanked prison chaplains for their ongoing pastoral care of prisoners, especially in a time when ministry has been hindered by the pandemic.

Bishop Sproxton, the Bishop Delegate for Prisoners' Pastoral Care, cited the words of Pope Francis in underlining the importance of the work and presence of chaplains.

"The task of a chaplain is to let the prisoners know that the Lord is inside them," Pope Francis wrote. "No cell is so isolated that it can keep the Lord out. He is there. He cries with them, works with them, hopes with them. His paternal and maternal love arrives everywhere."

Bishop Sproxton said while some chaplains were designated as essential workers and could continue to visit prisons, others have seen in-person contact prohibited.

As in other parts of the Church's ministry, those restrictions have prompted creativity in responding to prisoners' needs. "I am pleased to hear that in some jurisdictions, video access has enabled some centres which have been previously deprived of chaplaincy services, to access a chaplain remotely, leading to quality conversations and remote pastoral care especially at times of death in families," Bishop Sproxton wrote.

"I commend you for using such opportunities to 'be there' through new forms of technology and by necessity having to reflect on what it means to be present in the digital world.

"The environment in which you perform chaplaincy alters the interactions with people. We might find ourselves asking, how is it possible to 'attend' when one cannot be 'present'?"

Prison Sunday this year will be celebrated on November 7, the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time in the Church's liturgical year. The Gospel of the day is the story of the generosity of the poor widow, who gives in humility. "She gives from the heart without counting the cost," Bishop Sproxton said in his letter.

"The ministry to those in prison starts from the standpoint of humility, not from superiority. Jesus came as a slave, as one who served, and who knew the power of being with a person. It is the gift of Chaplains and Pastoral Workers in our prisons to be with the prisoners, to listen attentively from the heart, and to share experiences together.

"Christ can become present, despite the walls, through this dialogue and can continue to live in the hearts of those who are not free. This is giving from our poverty. This is love."

Access resources for Prison Sunday, including a prayer for chaplains and liturgical resources, at: www.catholic.org.au/prisonsunday

Contact us

Parish Priest:
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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	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

14 November	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Glen & Arlene Correya John Ransom	Sarah Locke Violeti & Martin Hunt	Patricia Wicks Volunteer
Altar Servers	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Readers	Candice D'Coutho	Sheenalyn Rogan	Gloria Divinagracia
Flowers	Tracey Kaldasau	Foyer	Mafi Family
Counters	George Shiner, Volunteer	Vacuuming	Lorraine Bryant, Jackie Plasto

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, 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: All the holy souls we pray for during November.
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



catholic mission Partnering with the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok :

Thank you for choosing to support the work of Catholic Mission this year, and for sharing the important and vital work of missionaries around the world with your parishioners.

This year, we invite you to partner with the essential work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok, Thailand, as they reach out to vulnerable mothers and their babies, and children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

By providing a loving home, a community of women from similar backgrounds, parenting skills training and pre- and post-natal medical care, the Good Shepherd Sisters are supporting women and their babies in need. However, the Home can only continue this work through the generosity of others. Through this appeal, parishioners are given the opportunity to come alongside the Sisters to ensure more mothers in need are given an opportunity at a brighter future.

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, 9 November, Katherine Kingsley MGL will lead us in Prayer through Creative Listening. Come with an open heart and spend some time conversing with God through creativity. Creativity is a place of meeting with our Creator and can be a powerful place of prayer encounter and discovery. No creative skills are needed, just an open mind to hearing God speak.

The Journey, 7 November 2021 – Weekly Podcast

On The Journey This Week: Fr Slawek Plonka's gospel reflection. Mother Hilda on finding Christ right in front of us. Fr Mike Delaney's Navy chaplain story. Plus, Darren McDowell, Trish McCarthy, and Pete Gilmore. And more great music! The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.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>

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

Plenary Council Update: 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 & 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/

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>

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>

Urgent Action Required Now - Vote on euthanasia

There is an urgent need to not delay in mobilising the voice of people of faith in urgently opposing Euthanasia in NSW by contacting state MP's NOW to stand for the culture of life from conception to natural death.

Whilst voting has been delayed until early 2022, MPs are making decisions about how they will vote in coming weeks. 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. 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.

Holy Gospel according to Mark 12: 38-44

This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The woman in the first reading has very few resources to call upon. Despite the fact that she is a widow, she is still required by custom to provide hospitality to whoever approaches her, regardless of the cost this might exact of her. She followed the word of the prophet, and God's word came to pass. Her miraculous supply of flour and oil lasted for a year. In her oath, she had declared that Elijah's God lives. She made this proclamation in the face of what appeared to be inevitable death. The miracle showed the woman that this God who lives can and will grant life even in the face of death.

The psalm is a hymn of praise of the Lord – Hallelujah in Hebrew. The word is used as a refrain, a response to a series of statements that offer examples of God's indescribable graciousness. 'God of Jacob' (v.7) refers to the special protection that was given to the ancestor after whom the nation was named. God's graciousness to the vulnerable is next extolled (vv.8-9). The final verse praises God as sovereign and eternal ruler in Jerusalem. All of the verses of the psalm testify to the glory of this God who reigns forever from the very hill that is at the centre of the lives of the people. Such a God surely deserves praise.

The argument in the second reading plays on the difference between the true sanctuary and the one patterned after it. It claims that while high priests performed their sacrificial duties in the earthly temple, the exalted Jesus entered the true sanctuary. It insists that the cultic system, established to enable people to participate in cosmic events by re-enacting them, was only able to actualise those events for a short time. This explains why the ritual of the Day of Atonement was re-enacted year after year. In contrast to this, Jesus offered himself once for all. His sacrifice, like all cosmic acts, was unrepeatable. Earthly ritual may re-enact his sacrifice, but there is no need for Jesus himself to repeat it.

In the gospel, Jesus condemns ostentation. Some men wore religious robes in public, hoping that people would consider them prayerful. Others sought the most important seats in the synagogue or at banquets. Still others made sure that their temple offerings were acknowledged. In contrast to this, Jesus pointed out the offering of a poor widow. She offered the smallest coins in circulation at that time, but she gave out of the generosity of her heart. Jesus spoke of the source of the offering. The wealthy donated from their surplus, what they did not need. The woman gave what she herself needed. Her total giving implied absolute trust in God. The passage that opened with a condemnation of the false piety of the unscrupulous, closes with praise of the genuine piety of the simple.

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

This week Catholic Mission will share the story of Churai*, who having experienced much heartbreak in childhood, turned to the Mother and Babies Home run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok when she experienced rejection as an adult, abandoned by her partner and pregnant.

Without this program, many vulnerable mothers like Churai will have nowhere to turn when they need love and care the most.

Please give generously today to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/thailand or by texting 'GIVE' to 0488 854 436. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

*Name and images altered to protect identity



catholic mission

Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/thailand

