

# Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Varroville, Raby, St Andrews and Bow Bowing



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.*

**19 December 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday of**  
**Advent Year C**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

### **First Reading**

from the prophet  
Micah 5: 1-4

### **Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16.  
18-19. R. v.4

**Response:** Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

### **Second Reading** from

the letter to the  
Hebrews 10: 5-10

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to Luke 1: 39-45

### **Communion Antiphon**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

## **Todays Gospel – Looking for signs**



When Mary went to visit Elizabeth she was not looking for a sign that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had accepted God's will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation.

At times we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation.

## **Christmas Masses**

As we countdown to Christmas in a few days, I wish that you and your families are able to celebrate with joy the birth of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Mass timetable is listed here and we hope that you and your families feel welcome to attend one of the available Masses.

**The Christmas Pageant is on** Friday 24 December at 6pm & **Mass** starts at 7pm. It will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

**Midnight Mass** will be celebrated in the Church.

**Christmas Morning Mass is at 9am.**

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

# Contact us

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

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

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**Parish Office Ph:**  
**9603 7373 / 0434 705 176**

**Office Hours:**  
**Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm**  
**Email: [varroville@dow.org.au](mailto:varroville@dow.org.au)**  
**Website: [olmcvarroville.org.au](http://olmcvarroville.org.au)**

## Mass times

### Sunday Mass times

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm

### Weekday Mass times

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

Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm

**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: every Sunday  
at 6:30-7:30pm.**

## Prayer intentions

***For the sick & homebound:*** Phyllis Cooper, 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 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:*** Geoff Jones, Angela Tomarchio,

***Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:*** Therese Thompson, Angelo Tomarchio,  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*

# Bulletin Notices

**COVID Update:** New directives have been received during the week. The church capacity has been increased. The congregation is able to join in the singing and masks are not compulsory, but strongly recommended. COVID is still circulating in our community and each of us has a responsibility to protect each other.

**Faith Resources for use at Home:** There are some new adult online faith formation opportunities available on the Diocesan website – go to the new Section on DoW Website – please promote this using the parish bulletin notices. Visit: <https://www.dow.org.au/nourishing-our-faith/>

These resources include Liturgical Prayers, Faith Circles for Small Group, Course on Prayer, and the Catholic Faith and much more. We can assist in helping people of all ages to access these resources and even assist with some Zoom teleconferencing support.

**The Journey, 19 December Weekly Podcast:** Fr Chris Sarkis' gospel reflection. Mother Hilda says God is always with us in our life now, despite our failings. Plus the Spirit of a pandemic year, four reflections from listeners on the blessings encountered during this year, and more great music for Advent! The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au).

**Formed** Join hundreds of other families around the Diocese of Wollongong in nurturing your faith at home, in your own time and at your own pace? FORMED.org is a large Faith Formation Resource library website containing thousands of faith formation documentaries, courses, movies, audio and books covering all aspects of our Catholic faith. Materials for both adults and children. Sign-up for Free using our Diocesan Subscription by contacting [darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au](mailto:darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au) or [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.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>



OH HOLY NIGHT!

## Holy Gospel according to Luke 1: 39-45

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel Reflection by Diane Bergant

There is always excitement at this time of the year. It is as if everything is filled with promise. Animosities are set aside; estrangement dissolves into reconciliation; the whole world seems gentler; and we are filled with the spirit of generosity. In the days just before Christmas, the possibility of newness is almost palpable. The spirit of the season has caught hold of us even before the actual day has arrived. Today we stand on the threshold of fulfilment. The future that God has prepared for us is open before us, even though we have not yet stepped out into it.

The incarnation takes place in human history, thus affirming the fundamental goodness of human life and concerns, and sanctifying them even further. The child comes from simple people, from a place that is relatively insignificant, thus underscoring God's preference for what is ordinary. The body that was offered for our salvation, the body that consecrated us through having been offered up, was the body that grew in the womb of Mary. The extraordinary salvific deed of God was accomplished through his coming into the world as one of us. The obedience that Christ played out through his body fulfilled for us the promises made by God.

We stand on the threshold of fulfilment, the fulfilment of an event that has already taken place. We ritually re enact it so that we never take it for granted, so that we never forget that it is in and through human history that the marvellous deeds of God are accomplished.