



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.

5 DECEMBER 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT YEAR C



Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to
save the nations, and the
Lord will make the glory
of his voice heard in the
joy of your heart.

First Reading from the
prophet Baruch 5:1-9

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 125. R. v.3

Response The Lord has
done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the
Lord, make straight his
paths: all people shall see
the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according
to Luke 3: 1-6

Communion Antiphon
Jerusalem, arise and
stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which
comes to you from God.



Vinnies Christmas Appeal

The Vinnies Christmas Appeal is being held in our parish this weekend.

The Vinnies Christmas Appeal brings hope to those less fortunate in these uncertain times. Vinnies will provide material and emotional support to families experiencing immense hardship and struggling to feed their

families, pay their bills and put toys under the tree at Christmas time. As the global pandemic continues to push people into poverty, your donation will make a difference in the life of those less fortunate.

Thousands of families are experiencing immense hardship and stress in Australia and this has been made worse by COVID-19. For many that pain is only going to intensify at Christmas, as more people turn to Vinnies for assistance at what should be a happy time of year. As families are placed under greater financial pressures, having no place to call home, being unable to afford a basic Christmas meal or a small gift can be devastating at a time like this.

Over the Christmas period, Vinnies will support thousands of individuals and families by providing food, including vouchers and hampers, clothing, gifts and assistance with rent and utility bills. These acts help to restore hope and dignity to those less fortunate at a time when they could easily feel forgotten and help to give families something to celebrate during the festive season.

The support that Vinnies offers is there for as long as it is needed. As well as providing essential support such as food and housing, Vinnies works to equip those experiencing disadvantage with the contacts, emotional support and practical tools they need to get back on their feet again.

Donations can also be made online at <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>

Gifts and food donations for Christmas hampers are to be returned by next weekend, 11th December, for packing and delivering to the families we are assisting. Columban Calendars and Christmas cards are now available in the Piety stall.

The piety stall has a range of gifts and cards to suit different occasions.



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

Rosters

12 December	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Tracey & Richard Kaldasaun	Chris & Margaret Pew	Beatrix Reuter & Stuart Lake
Altar Servers	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Readers	Tracey Kaldasaun	Gabriel Mafi	Rachel Johny
Flowers	Patricia Wicks & Jessica Menezes	Foyer	Wicks Family
Counters	Christine Bath & Nellie Byrne	Vacuuming	Hermi & Charity Tamisin

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, Jovicen Delanon, Harry Loche, Angelito Baterina, Zaphaniah John Klarnett, David Donovan, Domingo Furcciniti, Rozalia Astalosh,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Angelo Tomarchio, Les Wicks, Thi Nguyen, Therese Douglass
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.





Bulletin Notices



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.

Working Bee on Saturday 18 December from 9am; the focus will be on getting ready for Christmas and sprucing up the church and grounds. There are trees to trim, gardening and cleaning inside the church. Just come along on the day with any tools & equipment you can use to help. There has been things stored under the hall for many years and we would like your help to remove the rubbish from under the hall. If you can help with maintenance jobs but cannot attend the working bee, please contact the parish office and you can come during the week.

Fundraising : Bunnings BBQ: thank you to everyone who supported the BBQ by donations, volunteering and supporting us on the day. The team raised \$1250. This money is being raised to help with the planned refurbishment of the foyer and toilet area of our church.

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>

6pm Mass is trialling livestreaming the Mass each week. If you are able to help with operating the computer at that Mass please talk to Fr Shane or Nick in the choir after Mass.

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.

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 the new date of 6 December 2021, 7:00p.m. – 8:30p.m. The event will also be recorded and provided to Parishes. Please register dow.org.au/events where you can also include any questions or topics you would like to hear about. There will also be a small amount of time given to questions submitted during the event through the Zoom Q&A function. In the meantime, the Concluding Statement from the First Assembly is available.

The Journey, 5 December 2021 –Weekly Podcast

On The Journey This Week: Fr Bernard Gordon says this week's readings call us to be clothed in God's joy. Mother Hilda says God's name is our name. Fr Mike Delaney remembers childhood sayings that have new meanings as an adult. Plus, Darren McDowell, Trish McCarthy, and Pete Gilmore. And more great music! The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

CatholicCare - Have you thought about becoming a foster carer? We need foster carers who provide love, care and support to help these children thrive and reach their full potential. Carers receive comprehensive support from the Fostering Futures team to ensure they have a full range of resources and networks to nurture their forever home. Our team have over 30 years' experience helping carers give vulnerable children a loving home and a brighter future. You can find out more by calling 0418 783 956, email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or go to <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au> more information.

A Vocation view: John the Baptist cried out and made ready for the Lord. Promote the Gospel in our community (Luke 3:1-6) If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

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. The shows are of the highest quality and is receiving acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen> to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via The Chosen app (download)

Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:1-6

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun last week, but still, rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. The gospel writer includes a quote from Isaiah in which the prophet says, 'Prepare a way for the Lord.' (Often translated as 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.) The application of this passage to John the Baptist is a logical one. This gospel emphasises that John was preaching 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. Throughout the gospel of Luke, the recognition of sinfulness and the desire to repent and seek forgiveness is the prelude to receiving God's favour.

This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognise our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. It is only through such repentance that we can make ourselves receptive to the love of God. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive. We are absolutely assured of God's love. The problem is that we often feel that we are undeserving of that love or are unable to receive it. When we are called to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts - to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognise God's love if we 'Prepare a way'.

This particular gospel goes to great lengths to place the events of Jesus' life in a particular historical context. It is the gospel of Luke that identifies the birth of Jesus as taking place in the reign of Caesar Augustus and the governorship of Quirinius. Again, in today's passage, the writer is keen to establish the historical time and place. It is made clear that the ministry of Jesus occurred in a particular time and place. But the gospel makes clear that the message Jesus proclaimed reaches beyond its original context across time and place to our lives today.

We may think that Baptism is an invention of the Christian community but today's gospel makes it clear that baptism was used within the Jewish community and was put to a particular purpose by John the Baptist. Baptism was part of the Jewish tradition well before the time of Jesus. Ritual cleansing by full immersion was an important element of worship and converts to Judaism were required to walk through a deep bath known as a *mikveh*. John's use of baptism as a washing away of sin was a different interpretation of the well established practice.

Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.