



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.

23 January 2022
Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Year C

Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading

from the book of
Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-10. 15. R.
See Jn 6:63

Response: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

Second Reading

from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
12: 12-30

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Luke 1: 1-4, 4: 14-21

Communion Antiphon

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Holy Gospel

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Contact us

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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

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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 <https://dow.sh/dailymass>

Adoration Prayer with the Carmelite Missionaries Sisters:
every Sunday from 6.30—7.30pm

Prayer intentions

*Please
pray for
the sick*

For the sick & homebound: Linda Reetz, Bianca Heuvel, Mary & Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Christabelle Adina, Gloria Gonzales Prudente, Allan & Kelvin Marquez, Amelia Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Nelia Balingit, John Morgos, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Doreen Gibbons,

Clayton Diack, Emily Rose Pavicin, Pat & Denise Furner, Tracey Bokor, Lily Pereira, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Erlinda Hermes, Aurelia Vertucio, Ofilia Mawson, Mary & Frances Raithi, Jeanna San Diego, Hugo Garzotto, Eileen Butcher, Josephina Duefries, Austin Taylor, Marisa Aquirre, Joan Wilson.

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Silvano Stocco, Dorothy and Geoff Jones, Angela Tomarchio, Jovicen Delanon, Harry Loche, Zephaniah John Klarnett, Rozalia Astalosh.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Hilda Young, Ivan Astalosh, Therese Thompson, Resse Mangulabnan, Anthony Pinto, Pauline Marquez,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

Bulletin notices



Alpha Come and See Pancake Night Tues March 1, 7pm at the Parish Hall.

Alpha is a chance to explore life and the Christian faith, to ask questions, and to share your point of view. Come along, with a friend, for a night of pancakes, a film and discussion. Register via the parish office or email: donna.ransom@dow.org.au

Alpha Vision & Coaching Day: All Alpha Teams across the Diocese of Wollongong, and all who are interested in learning more about how Alpha can serve their parishes, are invited to join this Alpha Day Coaching at the Xavier Conference Centre Wollongong on Saturday 19 February 2022, from 9am – 4pm. There you will be equipped to run Alpha in your parish. The day will include vision setting and embedding Alpha in the parish, building a team, small group facilitation coaching, Alpha Retreat coaching, promotion, and invitation. For any enquiries, please contact Darren McDowell darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au To attend, please register via the following link by Monday 14 February 2022: dow.org.au/events

Cursillo Three-Day Weekend Ladies of the Wollongong Diocese. Life has been so unsettled and erratic for many of us. If you are feeling in need of revitalisation in your Spiritual life, please join us for our next 3-day Cursillo weekend. The weekend will be held at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park and consist of talks, discussion, friendship, daily Mass, and spiritual guidance on request. Our Spiritual Director is Father Chris Roberts. The weekend commences at 6pm on 17 March and concludes at 4pm on 20 March 2022. Accommodation and all meals included in the cost. The weekend organisation will be compliant with all COVID safe requirements at the time. For further details please contact Denise D'Amore 0438 254 139, or denisedamore0@gmail.com

The Journey, Weekly Podcast On The Journey This Week: Fr Paul Maunder OCD (Mt Carmel, Varroville) asks how do we value the Word of God? Mother Hilda on giving love because love's prerogative is to give and give. Plus, Michelle Vass calls us to kiss Sister Earth in a prayer of thanksgiving for all the creation you love, and more great music! The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au

Sacramental Preparation in 2022

A Christian family lives within a wider parish community, which also has a responsibility to share its faith to nurture you and your child. Our parish will offer an opportunity of providing faith education for both adults and children. Specific dates and information about Sacramental preparation will be available on our website by the end of January 2022 or by calling the parish office.

Gospel Reflection by Diane Bergant

Ezra is acting in his capacity as priest, one who is responsible for interpreting the law. The assembly is unusually inclusive, embracing not only the men but the women and children as well. The reading of the law takes about six or seven hours, from daybreak to midday. Interpretation was provided along with the reading in order to make relevant in new ways the requirements of a tradition that originated in the past. Such interpretation is always a challenge for a believing community. The people's response is curious. They weep, perhaps out of remorse for infidelity or because they are overcome by the grandeur of the sacred event.

Six different synonyms are used to extol the glories of the law. The psalm describes the blessings that ensue from acceptance of the law. If the law is the will of God for human beings, then the qualities enshrined in that law reflect divine attributes. If the law is the place of encounter with God, then those who are shaped by the law are godlike. The effects of the law enumerated here are all relational, enhancing human life itself. For the psalmist, the law is life-giving and not restrictive, ennobling and not demeaning. Reverence for the law seems to promise the best that life has to offer.

Paul continues his instruction on the diversity found within the community by using the analogy of the body. This metaphor portrays unity in diversity, a unity that is far from uniformity. It underscores the absence of competition among members, since no one activity is elevated above the others. Lowly service is no less important than charismatic gifts. Finally, it underscores the interdependence that exists within the community. Unity within the community is based on common baptism. All were baptised in the Spirit and all were baptised into the body of Christ. All drink of the same Spirit and so all live by the same life, the life of the Spirit. There is no room for competition or resentment in this kind of community.

The name Theophilus means 'friend or lover of God'. The respect that the author accords this man suggests that he is the patron who had assumed responsibility of publishing this writing (cf. Acts 1:1). The actual story begins with a summary statement. Jesus has taught in the synagogues of Galilee and has been praised by all. He now returns to his home town and attends the synagogue service where he is handed the Isaian scroll. With the eyes of the synagogue fixed on him, Jesus makes a bold claim: 'Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing'. He is the prophet that is filled with the Spirit; he is the one who inaugurates the year of deliverance; he is the one who has launched the era of eschatological fulfilment.