



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.

9 January 2022
The Baptism
of the Lord
Year C

Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading

from the prophet
Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1-2. 3-4. 24-25.
27-30. R. v.1

Response: Oh, bless the
Lord, my soul!

Second Reading

from the Acts of the
Apostles 10: 34-38

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

Communion Antiphon

Behold the One of whom
John said: I have seen and
testified that this is the Son
of God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

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

Website: varroville.dow.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 <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: Phyllis Cooper, Dorothy Jones, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Christabelle Adina, Gloria Gonzales Prudente, Allan & Kelvin Marquinez, Amelias Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Nelia Balingit, John Morgos, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Doreen Gribbons, 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, 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 Marquinez,
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

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.

Summer Nights, Youth Retreat, 12-15 January 2022

Summer Nights is a four day non-live in retreat experience held at the Mount Carmel Retreat Centre at Varroville. In the picturesque grounds enjoy an outdoor event including friends, fellowship, prayer & worship, excellent speakers, Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, music & dramas, powerful encounters with God. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community. From 12 – 15 January 2022. Ages 16-35.

<http://www.summerschool.org.au/summernights>

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving

Given that some parishioners are unable to attend Mass in our church, many who support our parish planned giving envelope program have asked how they can continue to financially support the parish. So, we respectfully encourage all parishioners to join our electronic parish planned giving program to help us ensure that we limit the financial pressure this current situation will impose on our parish. Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving/> to learn of the two simple ways you can give to our parish electronically.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

Today's gospel begins with a level of expectancy among the people that John the Baptist may be the Christ; the Messiah. This seemingly throw away introductory comment confirms the fact that the Jewish expectation of the Messiah was particularly heightened at the time of John and Jesus. At the time of the ministries of John and Jesus, the Romans had been the occupying force in Judaea for about 80 or 90 years. Throughout most of their lives the infamous Galilee area had been relatively peaceful and free of revolutionary activity but that changed from about 26 CE. With the anti-Roman sentiment on the rise, the ancient yearning for a Messiah resurfaced.

Reflection by Greg Sunter

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This Messianic expectation stretched back hundreds of years and was richly associated with the sovereign line of King David. The Davidic line ruled for more than 400 years until it was ended in the early 6th Century BCE by the Jewish people being exiled in Babylon for about 50 years.

The term, Messiah, literally means anointed one. In ancient Israel, the king was designated by being anointed with oil on his head. Following the exile in Babylon, the people longed for another great king, in the style and from the line of David. Over time, this expectation grew into an ideal that one day a perfect king would rise up again and be the anointed one; the Messiah. As the years grew into decades and centuries, this expectation took on more and more significance. When the Messiah came, the whole world would be put to right; a period of justice and peace would prevail; the oppressed would be liberated.

Whilst the people longed for the Messiah to appear, the gospels reveal that they had difficulty believing Jesus was the one for whom they hoped.

John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrong-doing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' This declaration by the voice from Heaven – the voice of God – is an amalgamation of two earlier pieces of scripture: 'You are my son; today I have begotten you' (Ps 2:7) and 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights' (Is 42:1). The fact that it is uttered before Jesus has begun his ministry is a sign to all of us that God delights in us for who we are, not for what we have achieved in our lives.

The baptism event in the gospels is a moment of revelation of the Trinitarian nature of God. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove whilst the voice of God is heard to declare of Jesus, 'You are my Son.' It is a unique moment in the scriptures where the three persons of God are individually and collectively revealed. Although the scriptures do not explicitly name God as Trinity, by the time of Paul's early writings, blessings in the name of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit are frequent. Despite this, Trinity continues to be a difficult concept for many Christians.

