

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Serving
Varroville, Raby, St Andrews and Bow Bowing

Since 11 May, 1980



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.

20 February 2022
Seventh Sunday In
Ordinary Time
Year C



Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading from the prophet Samuel 26:2.7-9
12-13, 22-23

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Luke 6:27-38

Communion Antiphon

Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God, who is coming into this world.

Alpha and RCIA programs

This Sunday at the 9:30am Mass in our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Varroville, we celebrate as a community, and pray for, three catechumens who are about to enter the final stage of their preparation to be baptised and confirmed this coming Easter. The stage is known as the Period of Purification and Enlightenment and coincides with Lent: a time of repentance and spiritual renewal for all Catholics. Raquel, Colin and Bhlane are called catechumens because they are in the apprenticeship phase for the past year. By sharing in the Liturgy of the Word, through prayer, learning and coming to know other Catholic Christians, our catechumens are discovering the love and power of God in their lives and in the church. They will be anointed with the Oil of Catechumens, olive oil blessed during the Chrism Mass in 2021 by the Bishop



Brian Mascord, and the anointing is used before baptism to eliminate weaknesses and obstacles to following Christ and strengthen all that is upright and good in them. There are further blessings during Lent.

On Sunday 6th March, at the 9:30am Mass there will be a rite of sending Raquel, Colin and Bhlane to the Bishop at Wollongong Cathedral to be enrolled in the Book of the Elect. At this Rite of Election at 2pm that afternoon, their godparents and sponsors will testify to the Bishop what they have witnessed: that their catechumen has faithfully listened to, and responded to the Word of God and begun to walk in His presence, that he/ she has joined with us, their Christian brothers and sisters, in prayer. The Bishop will then sign the Book as a promise that the Church will baptise and fully initiate with the sacraments of Confirmation and first Eucharist, this coming Easter. From the 6th March, our catechumens are called "The Elect" and not catechumens because they have been elected by the Church, represented by the Bishop, because they are judged ready to receive the Sacraments.

Our parish also supports and prays for adult candidates, those who have been baptised into a Christian church, who have now decided to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Once they have been suitably prepared, and experienced the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spiritual renewal, candidates can receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and first Holy Communion at any suitable time in the year. This weekend we pray for Chontelle and Emma who are candidates for Initiation for Pentecost.

The faith journey for both Catechumens and Candidates is often begins with Alpha: As RCIA Coordinator I am deeply thankful to the Alpha team and the work they do. Diane Redmayne

Alpha begins with a **Come and See Pancake Night** on Shrove **Tuesday March 1** in our parish hall at 7:00pm. This is a chance for you to bring someone along so that they too can experience the blessings of attending Alpha, meet some of the people involved in running it and enjoy a pancake supper.

The following week, **Alpha@Home** begins. Generous parishioners have volunteered to host Alpha in their homes. The 3 options for Alpha@Home are:

Tuesday @ 7:00 pm at Macquarie Links beginning March 8
Wednesday @ 6:30 pm at Varroville beginning March 9
Thursday @ 10:00 am at St Andrews beginning March 10

To register for our Come and See Pancake Night, please ring the parish office on (02) 9603 7373 M: 0434 705 176 or head to the parish website at www.varroville.dow.org.au/alpha/



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:

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

27 February	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Glen & Arlene Correya	Irene Ravino, Gerry & M Connolly	Terry & Maree Reilly
Altar Servers	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Readers	Gerard Binny	Irene Ravino	Angeline Forrosuelo
Flowers	Patricia Wicks & Jessica Menezes	Church Vacuuming	T. Vergara
Counters	Richard Kaldasaun	Foyer Cleaning	Mafi Family

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Linda Reetz, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Christabelle Adina, Gloria Gonzales Prudente, Amelia Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, 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:

Kevin Quinn, Marie Carter, Mary Gardner, Silvano Stocco, Dorothy and Geoff Jones, Angela Tomarchio,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Edwin Benney

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.





Bulletin Notices

Children's Liturgy:

Children's Liturgy will be now available every Sunday at the 9:30am mass.

Carmelite Retreat: The Carmelite friars have released their 2022 retreat program. This program offers day, weekend and week long retreats to give you some guidance "along the way". They open up the great treasury of the Scriptures, our Christian heritage and the wisdom of the Carmelite saints.

In march weekend retreats include "The gist of Joy! A Retreat in the spirit of Taize with Brother Matthew March 11-13 and "Embracing Multi-Dimensional Thinking: The Length and the Breadth, the Height and the Depth" an art retreat featuring John Charadia and the Artist Tutor Team.

For more details contact their website:

Mtcarmel.com.au

Or phone (02) 8795-3400 or 0435-857-690 during office hours Mon-Fri.

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

Jamberoo Abbey Retreat: Online retreat 'a Lenten Odyssey' with *Sr Antonia Curtis OSB* will begin on March 6. All videos and texts will be available on their website.



There are 5 conferences—one for each week of lent. The cost is \$250.

Register online at:

Jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats

An invitation for men to connect reFUEL Weekly Scripture reflection and prayer Groups

reFUEL is an online initiative of menALIVE that many men from the Diocese of Wollongong connected with last year but which is expanding in 2022. It aims to help men connect in faith, grow in their relationship with God, as men on mission no matter their age or calling in life.

reFUEL is a weekly hour-long gathering of men every Tuesday evening on Zoom providing the chance to:

- break open the Sunday reading using a Lectio Divina style exercise
- "catch up" with great men from across Australia and New Zealand.
- gain strength and inspiration by the witness of other men.

- give strength and inspiration to others through your own witness.
- pray as a group for individual needs and the needs of others.
- spend quality time with God in an environment that is relaxed, welcoming and non-judgemental.

The reFUEL sessions are held weekly on *Tuesday nights at 7.30pm AEDT (NSW, VIC, TAS)* on Zoom. To make it easy, we are still using the same link as we did last year, and it will be same each week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87979703609>

SmartLoving The Marriage Kit Leader Formation Program:

April – June 2022 Online Gatherings: Wednesdays @7:30 pm | April 27, May 11, May 25, Jun 8, Jun 22.

The Marriage Kit is an online course for couples to strengthen and enrich their marriage. It includes multimedia input via SmartLoving's online learning platform, individual reflection, and couple activities.

Enrolment includes:

1. Access to the Marriage Kit online course (Apr 1- June 30). The course is comprised of 5 lessons with each one taking approximately 2 hours to complete.
2. Access to Online Gatherings, community chat, file share, via MS Teams private group.

More Info & enrolment Web: smartloving.org/mk-leader-formation-sydney T: 0434 346 280 E: info@marriagerc.org

New Youth Ministry innovative: The Diocese of Wollongong is excited to be launching two deanery-based youth groups in Wollongong and the Macarthur this year. These youth groups will be run weekly under the name LIVE Local. Further details to come later in the month.

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

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: In many places throughout the world there is a shortage of priests and therefore religious sisters are the custodians of the faith. These sisters however often struggle to live and support the faithful, so across the course of a year ACN supports more than 18,000 religious sisters in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Could you help support a religious sister? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/sisters

Holy Gospel according to Luke 6:27-49

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you.

Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect?



For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Gospel Reflection by Father Michael Tate

Learning the Language of Heaven

Jesus challenges us to unlearn the language of the world and to learn a language which is counter-cultural, paradoxical, perplexing, such as: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you' etc, etc. Are such attitudes and actions possible?

Our Lord is the best model. Jesus *is* the Word of God in human history. Jesus *is* the language of Heaven spoken in a human life. We have to read the Gospels and then imitate His dialect. Otherwise we might merely mutter to ourselves which would end up being eternally Hellish.

When we become aware of our language malpractice, i.e., sinning, and if we become *really* tongue-tied, i.e., seriously sinning, we can come to the Sacrament of Confession and emerge articulate and conversant with Christ again. We can talk with Our Lord again. We are singing the same tune.

Then at the moment of death we can gracefully pass over to our intended destiny which is not incommunicado, but communicado, holy communicado, holy conversation with God and with every creature.

We might pause for a moment and resolve to practise the language of Heaven and to 'walk the talk' every day.

