

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Serving
Varroville, Raby, St Andrews and Bow Bowing

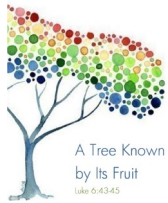
Since 11 May, 1980



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.

27 February 2022
Eighth Sunday In
Ordinary Time
Year C



Entrance Antiphon

The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

First Reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91:2-3, 13-16. R. See v.2

Response: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15: 54-58

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Luke 6: 39-45

Communion Antiphon

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

Next week:

First Sunday in Lent

First: Dt 26:4-10

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 90:1-2, 10-15. R. v.15

Second: Rom 10:8-13

Gospel: Lk 4:1-13

National Church Life Survey (NCLS) 2022

Our parish has been invited to participate in this survey again. The NCLS is the most comprehensive audit of churches and leaders undertaken worldwide, across over 20 denominations in Australia since 1991. I appeal for all parishioners to participate this week.

Church vitality can be assessed in many ways. Counting numbers of people and churches have their place as one type of metric of church health. These estimates of church growth and decline sit alongside measures of qualities of healthy church life including things like spiritual growth, belonging, inclusion, reaching out in word and deed, in addition to having a vision, an innovative and empowering leadership culture. This paper draws on national Australian data sources from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and NCLS Research to provide evidence about trends in religious affiliation, church attendance, number, locality and size of local churches. It shows that while the Church, as a whole, has declined in size, there are signs of resilience and even some growth.

The survey reports have enabled many clergy to respond to the needs of their local community more effectively. The Survey will now be held in NSW, ACT and Victoria in February 2022 and there are currently over 3,000 individual churches from over 20 denominations participating.

The National Church Life Survey will provide valuable information including:

- *Who is coming to Mass, their age groups and gender, education, migrant background and employment?*
- *What parishioners currently value in your parish*
- *What they see as priorities for the future*
- *How parishioners relate to God through prayer, the Mass etc.*
- *Current involvement of parishioners*
- *Percentage of parishioners who are growing in their faith*
- *Who is outreaching to the community and how*
- *Relationships with other parishioners – how strong is your community?*

The Survey will be more important than ever as we look to move out of lockdown and into careful gatherings of parishioners at Mass and other celebrations.

Please complete this survey this week. The paper survey is available in the foyer for you to take home after Mass and return next week or by completing it online. There is a survey especially for children aged 8-14 years. (online at childsurvey.ncls.org.au)

We are able to complete the survey online at attendersurvey.ncls.org.au.

The parish code is **TA703701** Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Varroville.



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>

Ash Wednesday is on 2 March. Mass will be held at 9am and 7.30pm

If you have any palms left from last year, bring them along for Fr to burn to make the ashes.

Rosters

6 March	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Berna Potter, Ronald Tuyor	Sarah Locke, Martin & Violetti Hunt	Beatrix Reuter Stuart Lake
Altar Servers	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Readers	Russell Binny	Ofa Mafi	Timothy Selvaraj
Flowers	Audrey Tanuvasa	Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family
Counters	Vilma Marquinez, Jeanette Balane	Foyer Cleaning	Feiloakitohi Family

Prayer intentions

We have been praying for many people listed in our prayer intentions each week. If you wish to include a person's name who is sick, recently departed or having an anniversary please call the parish office.

Some names have been on the sick list for a very long time, and the office doesn't know whether the person has a chronic illness or has recovered and forgotten to inform the parish office. If your name is on the sick list and you have recovered from your illness, please inform the parish office.

If you know of someone who would like a visit from someone in our Pastoral Care team, please call the parish office.

For the sick & homebound: 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 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: Rose Refalo, Porfinio Perez, Kevin Quinn, Marie Carter, Mary Gardner, Silvano Stocco, Dorothy and Geoff Jones,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Edwin Benney, Anne Migus,

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





Bulletin Notices

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

Friendship Group We'd like to invite you back to our Friendship group meeting. It is on TUESDAY, 1st MARCH, 9:45AM (after the mass). We aim to finish at 11:30am. All are welcome to attend Friendship group, there is no age or gender barrier. It is a social group for ALL people who are available to attend. God bless us all.

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

Mount Carmel Catholic College Year 7 2023 Enrolment Information evening is on Monday February 28

* Subject Displays 6 PM to 8 PM*

* Presentation by the College Leadership 7PM*

Mount Carmel Catholic College is a systemic co-educational secondary college located in the Macarthur region. Founded in 1986 on a proud Marist tradition, it is comprehensive in its approach and has a student population of approximately 1130 and a staff of 110. With an unenviable academic record for our graduate students, Mount Carmel values excellence as more than just an aspirational goal.

All in the Mount Carmel community are expected to achieve their best, guided by the College motto:

"Ite In Veritate" (Walk in Truth).

We look forward to welcome prospective families into our Community; *A Christ Centred Community providing opportunities for Excellence.*

210 Spitfire Drive, Varroville, NSW 2566

www.mcccdow.catholic.edu.au - 02 9603 3000

Ash Wednesday is this coming Wednesday 2 March.

There will be 2 Mass times available; 9am and 7.30pm. If you have blessed palms from last year, you can return them to be burnt to make the ashes for this year.

Ash Wednesday is a Day of Penance when fasting and abstaining from meat is obliged, depending on your age and health.

AGE OBLIGATION: Under 14 - No abstaining or fasting obliged.

14-17 - Abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No fasting obliged.

18-59 - Abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting obliged.

60+ No abstaining or fasting obliged, while maintaining the spirit of Lent.

Easter Sunday is on April 17 this year.

Lenten Groups will be available at various times each week. If you would like to join please call the parish office.

Lenten Reflection books are available this weekend for purchase in the foyer.

Paschal Precept Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday (2 March 2022) and Trinity

Sunday (12 June 2022) unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

Lenten Reflection Group will meet in the Parish Meeting Room from 6pm-7pm for the Sundays during Lent 2022. This group will be for the young adult demographic. The gathering will consist of praise and worship, Lenten scriptural reflection, meditation and discussion. We hope and pray that the Spirit moves us all through this Lenten experience.

Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are available in the foyer this weekend. During Lent, stories and reflections will be shared in the bulletin about the ways Caritas is helping people in our world. Please take a box or set of envelopes home and return to the parish before Easter.

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, the 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.

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

Technology skills workshops CatholicCare and the Being Connected Network are teaming up to facilitate small group sessions aimed at assisting older Australians with improving their digital skills and knowledge. Sessions will be held at Campbelltown Catholic Club on Monday 7 and 14 March from 10am-12pm spaces are very limited. This is a great opportunity to learn new skills and connect with others. Morning tea will be provided, and we encourage you to stay, purchase lunch from the club and continue the conversation. For more information Jane Hollier, Parish and Community Liaison Officer 0417018152 janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au

Note: all NSW Health Covid 19 guidelines will be adhered to

SYNOD OF BISHOPS – EXTENSION: The local consultation period for the international Synod on Synodality has been extended. Submissions can now be received through the online portal until Sunday, 13 March 2022. Don't miss out on this chance to take part in a global conversation about the Catholic Church. How are we called to walk together as Christians? How can we listen to one another in making important decisions about our faith and our mission? Find out more and share your contribution at: <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

Holy Gospel according to Luke 6: 39-45

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord!



Gospel Reflection by Richard Leonard

At Rome, during the 16th Century, the most famous confessor in town was St Philip Neri. Popes and paupers sought his counsel and spiritual direction.

One day a famous Duchess came to him and confessed the sin of gossip. Philip Neri told her to go home and get a feather pillow and return to the steps of the Church. Some time later he met her there and produced a small knife. He told the noblewoman to rip open the pillow. As she did, the swirling wind in the square picked up the loose feathers and they danced around the square and down the lanes.

St Philip and the Duchess watched in silence as the feathers went everywhere. He then turned to her and said, "Now, go and collect all the feathers." To which she protested, "They have gone everywhere, I couldn't possibly find and regather them." "So too with your tongue, Madam," St Philip scolded her, "You have no idea where you gossip goes and you can never unsay it."

In today's Gospel Jesus teaches us that our words reflect the state of our hearts.

Psychologists tell us that there are three main reasons why people habitually gossip, or 'share the news' as Australian men prefer to call it: power, envy and boredom.

To know something about someone else can put us in a more powerful position with friends or colleagues. By being able to share what we have 'just heard', we are seen to be current and interesting. But this type of power is destructive because our friends normally assume that when they are absent they are maltreated in the same way. Gossipers have more alliances than friendships.

The most malicious gossip often comes out of envy. Envious gossip often sees people make things up about others and pass it off as though it were true. The worst of tabloid newspapers, television and radio trades on this destructive vice. There is no place for the 'rumour file' in the Christian life. Sometimes, when a company or person have to deny the false accusations made about them, we get what we want – their reputations are tarnished and even their business can be in danger. No wonder medieval theologians called envy a 'deadly sin'.

Boredom, however, is a modern cause for gossip. Our relationships and the way in which we hold each other's trust and good name to be paramount, are undermined by images from the media about how exciting life should be for everyone. Scene after scene in novels, television programs and films where confidences are betrayed and lives are raked over for comment and intrigue fill in the boredom in our lives with a distorted portrayal of human behaviour. The more we take it in, the more we mirror it in our own conduct.

Jesus does not tell us today that there is no place for criticism, challenge, confrontation and correction in the Christian life. Just that we have the responsibility to very careful about what we say about others and how we criticise and condemn them. Jesus reminds us that most of our condemnation of others, is what we now call, "projection", where we ignore similar failings in ourselves, but roundly condemn them in others.

May this Eucharist, then, help all of us let go of the need to be powerful, the deadly sin of envy and more creative with what we do when we are bored. May it help us make better choices about how we speak, to whom we speak and what we say.

St Philip Neri knew it all too well: most times we cannot know the consequences of what we say and we can never unsay it.