



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.*

6 February 2022  
Fifth Sunday In  
Ordinary Time  
Year C



**Entrance Antiphon**

O come, let us worship  
God and bow low before  
the God who made us,  
for he is the Lord our God.

**First Reading** from the  
prophet Isaiah 6: 1-8

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 137:1-5, 7-8. R. v.1

**Response:** In the sight of  
the angels I will sing your  
praises, Lord.

**Second Reading** from the  
first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians 15: 1-11

**Gospel Acclamation**

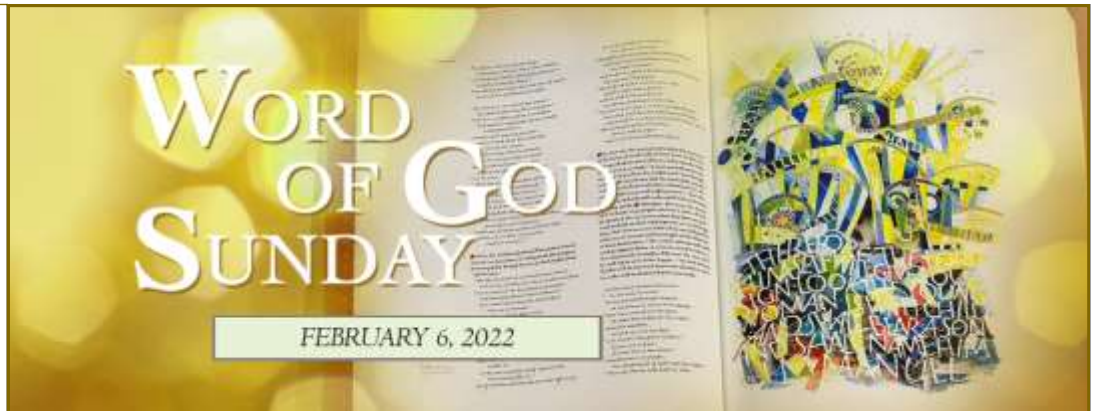
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Come follow me, says the  
Lord, and I will make you  
fishers of my people.  
Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according  
to Luke 5:1-11

**Communion Antiphon**

Let them thank the Lord  
for his mercy, his wonders  
for the children of men,  
for he satisfies the thirsty  
soul, and the hungry he  
fills with good things.

Next week  
13 February 2022  
Sixth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
Year C



This weekend, the Church in Australia will celebrate Word of God Sunday, which was instituted by Pope Francis in 2019 in his Apostolic letter, *Aperuit Illis*. The letter encouraged the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

While many countries celebrate the occasion on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Catholic Church in Australia celebrates Word of God Sunday on the first Sunday in February each year.

In his homily for this year's Word of God Sunday, Pope Francis reminded the faithful that at the heart of the life of God's holy people and the journey of faith is God and his word.

"Everything started with the word that God spoke to us. In Christ, his eternal Word, the Father "chose us before the foundation of the world". By that Word, he created the universe: "he spoke, and it came to be", the Holy Father said:

"The Word wishes to take flesh today, in the times in which we are living, not in some ideal future. A French mystic of the last century, who chose to experience the Gospel in the peripheries, wrote that the word of God is not "a 'dead letter'; it is spirit and life... The listening that the word of the Lord demands of us is our 'today': the circumstances of our daily life and the needs of our neighbour". (Madeleine Delbr el, *La joie de croire*, Paris, 1968). Let us ask, then: do we want to imitate Jesus, to become ministers of liberation and consolation for others, putting the word into action? Are we a Church that is docile to the word? A Church inclined to listen to others, engaged in reaching out to raise up our brothers and sisters from all that oppresses them, to undo the knots of fear, to liberate those most vulnerable from the prisons of poverty, from interior ennui and the sadness that stifles life? ... Let us put the word of God at the centre of the Church's life and pastoral activity. Let us listen to that word, pray with it, and put it into practice.'

Visit [www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodssunday](http://www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodssunday) to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

## 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

13 February	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Monitors</b>	Suzanne & Russell Binny	Bianca Heuvel, Nelia Balingit	Beatrix Reuter, Stuart Lake
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
<b>Readers</b>	Bevina Potter	Allan Roma	Kathy Randal
<b>Flowers</b>	Audrey Tanuvasa	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Lorraine Bryant, Jackie Plasto
<b>Counters</b>	Louise Muscat & Lina Agius	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Allan & Anita Roma

## 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 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:**

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

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

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





## Bulletin Notices

**Parish Pastoral Care Team Retreat and Formation Day:** Saturday 19 February from 9am in the Parish Hall: For many, the events of the past few years have highlighted and exacerbated the pain of loneliness. In turn, many have come to a deep desire for, and greater appreciation of, being present to another person. For those who are interested in joining our pastoral care team, please come to an in-service day which will be led by Br Adalbert, a Carmelite Friar who has experience in Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy. Please contact the Parish office if you would like to be involved.

If you know anyone, whether it be a family member, friend or neighbour, who is struggling in one way or another and would benefit from a pastoral care encounter, do let us know.

**Synod of Bishops:** Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission". The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Those submissions will help the bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. Find out more at: <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

### **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](http://smartloving.org/mk-leader-formation-sydney) T: 0434 346 280 E: [info@marriagerc.org](mailto:info@marriagerc.org)

**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](mailto:darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au) To attend, please register via the following link by Monday 14 February 2022: [dow.org.au/events](http://dow.org.au/events)

**CCD Catechist Level I Training:** Start Date: Friday 4 Feb End Date: Monday 7 March 2022; Time: 9:30am-1:30pm; You are invited to take part in Catechist Training! Unlike our previous Level 1 courses, this year we will start with a session introducing the ministry and the curriculum,

which will be an ideal starting point for all those who are considering joining the ministry. The course will run online via Zoom for five consecutive weeks on Mondays OR Fridays starting Friday 4th February and Monday 7th February, 9:30 am until 1:30 pm.

This course is necessary for all new catechists, but we encourage all catechists who are interested in refreshing their knowledge and skills to attend. It is a requirement for all current catechists to attend the Child Protection and Classroom Management training every three years. These essential Child Protection and Classroom Management subjects will occur in the fourth week of the course. Please register your attendance below for either the Monday or Friday course: If you have any questions or require support, please contact us at [support@ccd.wollongong.com](mailto:support@ccd.wollongong.com) or call Cindy Oliver on (02) 4640 8550.

**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.

**Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love):** Pope Francis' post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation, Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) on love in the family is an Apostolic Exhortation published after the conclusion of a two-year synod process discussing both the beauty and challenges of family life today. The 2015 Synod's theme was "the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and the modern world." Fr Bernard Gordon and James Arblaster will be presenting a 9-week course on Amoris Laetitia commencing Wed 27 April 2022, 7pm at St Francis Xavier Cathedral in the Monsignor Rigney Meeting Room. To follow the talk, please purchase a copy of Amoris Laetitia from St Pauls Publications or from the parish office. To register please contact Lumen Christi Parish Office on 4211 0500 or go to: [www.lumenchristi.org.au/AmorisLaetitia](http://www.lumenchristi.org.au/AmorisLaetitia)

**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](mailto:denisedamore0@gmail.com)

**The Journey, Weekly Podcast:** On The Journey This Week: Fr David Catterall says that on Word of God Sunday, we are called to step out into the deep and take God's Word and proclaim it in word and action. Mother Hilda has a story of 5 blind men describing an elephant. We introduce new presenter Fr Anthony Crook, plus Trish McCarthy and Fr Dave Callaghan, and more great music! The Journey podcast is available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

## Holy Gospel according to Luke 5:1-11

*They left everything and followed him.*

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

The theme that comes through this week's readings is one of 'being called'. The first reading is the call of the prophet Isaiah (Is 6:1-8). Isaiah experiences a vision of the glory of God and is humbly reminded of his own deficiencies: he believes himself to be 'a man of unclean lips'. As such, he is certainly unfit to speak on behalf of God as his unclean lips would taint whatever message he may speak. But his lips are cleansed by God who then asks, 'Whom shall I send?' Demonstrating a complete conversion of heart and mind, Isaiah immediately replies, 'Here I am, send me!'

This first reading provides a perfect balance to the gospel. Jesus is being closely pressed by the crowd when he asks a nearby fisherman to take him just off shore to preach without being overwhelmed by the crowd. Seemingly at random, he has selected the boat of the fisherman Peter. Having finished preaching for the day, Jesus tells Peter to set out into deeper water and pay out his fishing nets. Peter is certainly not keen on the idea! Out of some interest or good nature he had agreed to allow this preacher to use his boat for a while, but now this country bumpkin is trying to tell him how to fish! Just to prove Jesus wrong, Peter agrees to go through the futile exercise and is overwhelmed by the enormous catch of fish. Like Isaiah in the first reading, Peter is suddenly acutely aware of his own deficiencies – 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man'. Like Isaiah, he recognises that he has just seen the glory of God revealed and he feels unworthy to be part of the experience. But Jesus reassures him, 'Do not be afraid,' and calls Peter to follow.

In the other two synoptic gospels – Matthew and Mark – the call of the disciples is one of the first recorded actions of Jesus' adult life. Luke, on the other hand, delays the call until after Jesus' public ministry has commenced. By this stage of the gospel, Jesus has made a public declaration about the nature of his ministry and begun to enact it. In this way, the sort of ministry Jesus will undertake is already established when the disciples are called to join it. It becomes a more conscious decision by the disciples – they know what they're getting in to!

When Peter is overcome by the catch of fish and falls on his knees before Jesus, the response Jesus makes is to simply say, 'Do not be afraid'. This phrase is the most often repeated phrase in the Bible. It appears more than 60 times throughout the Bible – depending on which translation one uses. This is an extraordinary number of times for the one phrase to appear. And the references stretch from the first book, Genesis, to the last, Revelation. It is God's message to us echoing throughout the Bible: Do not be afraid!

Like Isaiah and Peter, each and every one of us is called. It may not happen through Jesus stepping into our boat, but when we quieten our minds and our hearts enough to really listen, we become aware that God truly is calling to each and every one of us. The call comes to us through our friends; our experiences; our hopes and our fears. Sometimes we are so afraid of hearing the call that we fill our lives with noise and distractions. We fear that the call will involve hardship, or at the very least: unpopularity. But that's no excuse!