

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Serving Since 11 May, 1980
Varroville, Raby, St Andrews and Bow Bowing



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.

13 March 2022
Second Sunday in Lent
Year C



Entrance Antiphon

Of you my heart has
spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord,
that I seek; hide not
your face from me.

First Reading

from the book of Genesis
15: 5-12, 17-18

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

Response: The Lord is my
light and my salvation.

Second Reading

from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians 3: 17-41

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the
Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son,
hear him. Glory and praise
to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Holy Gospel

according to
Luke 9: 28-36

Communion Antiphon

This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well
pleased; listen to him.

Next Week

Third Sunday in Lent

First: Ex 3:1-8. 13-15

Responsorial:

Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8

Second: 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

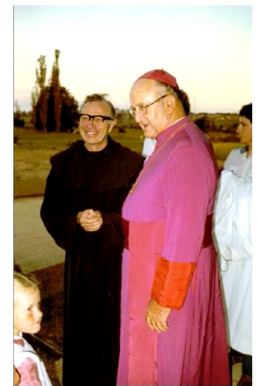
Gospel: Lk 13:1-9

14 March is the 30th Anniversary of the opening of our church

The journey to where we are today began when, in 1980, the Carmelite Fathers of the Carmelite Retreat Centre at Mount Carmel, expressed their willingness, on request from Bishop Murray, to become more involved in pastoral ministry to the people of the rapidly growing area of Macarthur. On 11th May 1980, Bishop Murray established our parish under the patronage of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and the task of working together with the first Parish Priest, Father Albert McKeogh, to build a truly Christian community, began. Fr Albert was assisted by Sister Patricia Lawless SGS.

The celebration of Mass began in St Andrews Primary School Hall. By 1984, the number of families in the parish had grown to 450. The need for a parish centre was realized when Bishop Murray blessed and opened what is now our Parish Hall March 17th, 1984. The Carmelite Fathers made available two hectares of land for this purpose.

By 1990, the parish had grown to 800 Catholic families; catechists taught 700 Catholic children at the two local state schools; Renewal of Faith groups, Catholic Enquiry Groups (now RCIA) and other Adult education groups were meeting regularly to journey in faith together. The Parish Pastoral Committee was active in many ways laying plans for a Parish Church.



This church, designed by a parishioner, Mr Tony Agius, was dedicated and consecrated on 14th March, 1992 by Bishop Murray. The Parish church has been at the centre of many celebrations in the past 30 years: Baptisms, funerals and the many sacramental celebrations. During the 2020 pilgrimage for the Relics of St Therese and her parents, one visitor likened the lunch being served in the hall to the wedding feast at Cana.

The interior of our church has retained the simple beauty as when it was built. In 2001 the parishioners raised the

money to install the beautiful stained glass windows we see today, depicting Jesus on the Cross, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Carmelite saints Teresa of Jesus, Therese of Lisieux, and the saint for Australia, Mary MacKillop.

2004 also saw the much awaited arrival of an international group of Carmelite Missionaries, known as Palau Sisters, we have been blessed by the presence of the Sisters who bring their gentle Carmelite Charism. Sr Ninfa, our Pastoral Associate is a Carmelite Missionary.

In 2005 our Parish built the additions: meeting room and office area onto the church. The meeting room is used daily and is a hub of activity for many activities from meetings and prayer gatherings to children's liturgy to friendship group.

This year will see a renovation to the entrance, kitchen and toilet areas, enhancing the facilities for the parishioners who come to gather and worship here.

The past 2 years has seen unimagined hardship for everyone, being locked out of the Church and having to attend Mass online and communicate via zoom and social media. We hope never to see our church locked again. We are reminded that the Catholic Church is people of God and not a building, however our beautiful church is the welcoming place where the community gathers and worships together

In conclusion I quote a line in our parish prayer: *Keep us close to you and open the minds and hearts of many other men, women and young people to build the kingdom in our parish.*

Contact us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Assistant Priest
Fr “Sam” Ransom Rapirap 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>

Ministry Meetings

Readers Ministry Meeting	4th Friday of each month	Pastoral Care Team	11 March at 11.30am
Liturgy Committee	11 March at 7pm	Children’s Ministry	26 March
Property Committee	30 March at 7.30pm	Friendship Group	Tuesday 5 April at 9.30am

Rosters

20 March	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Suzanne & Russell Binny Myra Cortez	Sarah Locke Martin & Violetti Hunt	Betty & Boby Thalody
Altar Servers	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Readers	Ryan Potter	Allan Roma	Rachel Johnny
Flowers	Lorraine Bryant	Church Vacuuming	Binny Family
Counters	Christine Bath & Nellie Byrne	Foyer Cleaning	Allan & Anita Roma

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, 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: Ofilia Mawson, Rose Refalo, Angelito Molano, Porfinio Perez, Kevin Quinn, Marie Carter, Mary Gardner, Dorothy and Geoff Jones,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Epifanio Degollado Valenzuela
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.





Bulletin Notices

Lismore Bishop's Flood Appeal: We will have a leaving collection after Mass this weekend to send some financial assistance to help the residents of the Lismore Diocese who have been devastated by the recent floods in that area. Also if you wish to send money electronically the details are: BSB: 037-889

Account: 1061 5829

Acc Name: DOL Flood Appeal

Email: chancery@lismore.catholic.org.au

Easter Sunday is on April 17 this year.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the Parish Church each Friday at 7pm.

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.

Casual Cleaners URGENTLY required at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Rd, Varroville

- Lovely place to work.
 - Supportive and flexible environment.
 - We can accommodate your timetable.
 - Award rates
 - 2 minutes drive from Mt Carmel Catholic College.
- Please call the Centre Manager, John on: 0435 857 690

The MGL Sisters are hosting a Consecrated Life

Weekend for young women on the 26 – 27 March 2022.

Where and how is God calling you to respond to His love? Have you taken time to listen? Here's your opportunity to come and hear the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and times of sharing to help you discern your vocation. Call 9626 8382 or email mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com to register your interest.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend 22 – 24 April 2022

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! This is a wonderful opportunity in the year of the family.

Come and join us on 22 – 24 April at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

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.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS: People around the world have been participating in an international conversation about the Catholic Church. You are invited to join the discussion, helping shape a major global meeting in 2023. You have one more week to make a submission to your local consultation for the international Synod on Synodality, calling the People of God to walk together in our mission as Christians. Find out more at: <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

Light to the Nations at Varroville Retreat

Over the Easter Triduum up to 1000 young people and families will gather (and camp) on the grounds of the retreat centre to celebrate the Easter liturgies. You ALL are most welcome to attend - ltnn.org.au
An event like this requires many volunteers to help serve and make it happen. Our catering team are especially looking for people to come and chop, prepare and serve food. If you can help with this or serve in other ways we'd love to hear from you!

Please call Therese (MGL Sisters) on 0432 228 250 or email Therese.mgl@gmail.com

LIVE Local Macarthur

Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) is excited to announce that LIVE Local is returning to Macarthur! Starting on the 20th of March LIVE Local will run now every Sunday night in the school term from 6:15pm—8:15pm, at St John the Evangelist Parish Campbelltown. This youth group is open to young people aged 13 -17 who want to make new friends and grow in their faith. Come along for snacks, games, formation, prayer and music. For more information, please contact our Deanery Youth Group Coordinator Luke Vail at luke.vail@dow.org.au
For more details on youth groups, visit <https://www.dow.org.au/cymw/>

ePetition to abolish the Death Bill Bishop Mascord urges you to take a stand to ABOLISH Alex Greenwich's Death Bill. It is imperative that all our supporters of life sign this ePetition - WITHOUT DELAY – encouraging others to do the same. To do so, please click here or go to www.dow.org.au/abolishdeathbill/

menALIVE's – reFUEL Weekly Sharing and Journaling Sessions – Every Tuesday 7.30pm: 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.
- pray as a group for individual needs and the needs of others. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87979703609>

The Journey Weekly Podcast

On The Journey This Week: Fr Joe Murphy says we can experience the transfigured Jesus by climbing life's mountain with prayer. Mother Hilda says we must take off our masks to reveal our real self. Plus, Fr Mark De Battista, Fr Mike Delaney, Huw Warmenhoven from Alpha, and more great music! The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au

Holy Gospel according to Luke 9: 28-36

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.



The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Reflection



Biru's Story, India

Biru 30, lives in a rural village in Jharkhand State in India's east. He lost mobility in one of his legs, after contracting polio as a child, which makes it difficult for him to walk. With your generous support, Biru was able to access an entrepreneurship and livelihoods development program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India. He gained the skills, support and encouragement he needed to establish his own bicycle repair business.

Now, Biru is able to provide a good life for his family – and an essential service to his community. He has discovered a sense of pride, confidence and hope which has inspired others living with a disability and paved the way **For All Future Generations**.



Reflection

Apparently there is an old Syrian saying "inside the people you know, there is a person you don't know". One of God's gifts is the grace to keep discovering beautiful things about the people close to us. If you talk to people who have been married for a long time, they will often mention the way their partner surprises them, even after 20 years of sharing the same kitchen sink. Likewise, our children and our friends. If we put them in a box with a label, we can become blind to some unexpected wonders God wants us to see.

Perhaps it was like this for Peter, James and John on the occasion of the transfiguration which we hear about in the Gospel today. By this stage, they have been on the road with Jesus for some time. They have seen the storm calmed, the demoniac brought to peace, the woman healed of her hemorrhage, the daughter of Jairus raised to life. They have heard outrageous things. You'd think they'd be getting the picture by now.

The experience on the mountain allows them to understand that they have hardly begun to understand the depth of the mystery of Jesus. A voice from the cloud says "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him."

This week, as part of Project Compassion, we hear the story of Biru, a young man from the Hp ethnic minority in India. He lives with a disability. But there is so much more to him that needs to be seen. Our support of Caritas Australia has empowered him to become an entrepreneur, to meet his future with pride, confidence and hope. Project Compassion challenges us to see beyond the immediate situation of the people such as Biru and discover the person we don't yet know, to celebrate the possibilities of life for all future generations.

Both before and after their great experience on the mountain to, Luke's gospel reminds us that the disciples still face a challenging road. Life will teach them more and more about Jesus. Let us all be open to the lessons of a real relationship with the God of justice and love

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help people living with disabilities **in India gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to build a better future for all.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.