

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 March 2022
Third Sunday in Lent
Year C



Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the
Lord, for he rescues my
feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have
mercy on me, for I am
alone and poor.

First Reading from the
book of Exodus 3: 1-8,
13-15

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8
Response: The Lord is
kind and merciful.

Second Reading from the
first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

Gospel Acclamation
Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is
at hand. Glory to you,
Word of God, Lord Jesus
Christ!

Holy Gospel according to
Luke 13: 1-9

Communion Antiphon
For anyone who drinks it,
says the Lord, the water
I shall give will become in
him a spring welling up to
eternal life.

NEXT WEEK
Fourth Sunday in Lent
First: Jos 5: 9-12
Responsorial:
Ps 33: 2-7. R.v. 9
Second: 2 Cor 5: 17-21
Gospel: Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

Third Sunday in Lent

When Jesus is asked about the deaths of some Galileans and some residents of Jerusalem, he seizes the opportunity to remind his audience that their obsession with the 'sin' of the victims is misplaced. He challenges all who are listening that unless they repent, they will all perish in a similar fashion. This would have been very confronting to those in the audience who were ingrained in the thinking that 'bad things only happen to bad people'. The purity codes of the day stated that if one maintained purity of action – obeying the Law and respecting the prohibitions on certain actions – then one was fulfilling one's duty and maintaining right relationship with God. Jesus chastises the people for this attitude and tells them that they all must 'repent'. For 1st Century Jews, the word 'repent' had a greater depth of meaning than our current understanding. Rather than simply 'being sorry', to repent meant to completely turn life around – both individually and as a society. His injunction to repent would be seen as a challenge to question motives and actions and set a new direction.

To follow this up, Jesus tells his audience a parable about a fig tree that has not borne fruit after three years. There are many interpretations of this parable and it is often interpreted in isolation from the gospel passage that immediately precedes it. Given the challenge to 'repent' that is given so strongly, we can see the parable as an example to the listeners that their time for repenting is running out. The one year reprieve for the fig tree is an indication to the listeners that their change of heart and change of spirit had better take shape in the very near future.

The parable of the unproductive fig tree at the end of today's passage is not a straightforward story with a clear message. Indeed, this is a hallmark of the style of storytelling that we call 'parable'. A parable is deliberately open to interpretation at different levels. In the first instance, today's parable is a simple farming story. However, the original audience knew (as we know) that there had to be more to the story. Parables use metaphoric and symbolic language that invites the listener or reader to explore deeper and find a meaning that lies beyond the literal.

Today's gospel taps in to the vexing question: 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' The question implies that God is punishing good people. Surprisingly, this attitude continues and one only has to watch news coverage of a tragedy to hear someone ask, 'How could God let this happen?' The very question suggests a belief in a God who interferes in our lives and manipulates events. Jesus suggests that tragic events are not punishment from God, but the accidental, deliberate or natural event does provide a reminder to turn our lives around and live lives that matter.

Throughout the gospels, Jesus challenged the prevailing 'purity codes' that separated and classified people. The Jewish religious officials of the day were obsessed with the 'letter of the Law' as it applied to purity observance. Jesus told them that a spirit of compassion was much more important than the blind adherence to the Law. He suggests that it is not the lack of observance of purity codes that makes a person 'unclean' or 'sinful'; rather, it is lack of compassion informing their actions towards others. The call to 'repent' is a call to complete conversion of heart – to take on an attitude of compassion.

Greg Sunter

Contact us

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Office Hours:

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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	7 April at 11.30am
Liturgy Committee	18 March at 7pm	Children's Ministry	26 March
Property Committee	30 March at 7.30pm	Friendship Group	Tuesday 5 April at 9.30am

Rosters

27 March	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Tracey & Richard Kaldasaun	Bianca Heuvel Nelia Balingit	Terry & Maree Reilly
Altar Servers	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
Readers	Richard Kaldasaun	Gabriel Mafi	Gloria Divinagracia
Flowers	Patricia Wicks & Jessica Menezes	Church Vacuuming	Lorraine Bryant & Jackie Plasto
Counters	Polly Benny & Nora Burgess	Foyer Cleaning	Wicks 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: John McDermott, 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, 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, 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

Divine Mercy Devotion will be on today at 3pm.
The Divine Mercy Feast day celebration will be held the week after Easter on Sunday 24 April 2022.

Reconciliation Service For Easter will be held on Friday 8 April at 7.30pm.

THANK YOU for supporting the Lismore Flood Appeal last weekend. We have sent \$3170.30 to Bishop Greg Homeming to help the Diocese of Lismore. That's a very generous response to last week's appeal.

Bishop Brian's Flood Relief Appeal: Whilst the worst of the rain is hopefully gone, the damage it caused will be felt for a long time to come. Last week we had towns and friends in our diocese cut off by flood water; this week some of our communities remain cut off by landslides and damaged roads. In a heartfelt video message to his flock, Greg Homeming OCD, Bishop of Lismore, said it had been "a very tragic few days". To those who had "lost everything" in these floods, Bishop Greg said that everyone across the diocese was suffering with them. "This has all happened at a time when we were hoping that 2022 would be a year of hope, a good year," he said.

As a diocese, I would like to provide practical support for the people of Lismore. I also want to provide pastoral and practical support for the people in our own diocese who have been and will continue to be impacted by these floods. I invite you to join me in prayer for these people, and to donate to my Flood Relief Appeal <https://www.dow.org.au/giving/>, so that with your support, we can meet this goal. +BM

Thriving not just Surviving: Practical steps on how to unleash the potential of your Parish Zoom Webinar: Tuesday 29 March 2022, 6:30PM

Is your parish fulfilling the Great Commission to go out to the world and make disciples? Divine Renovation together with Alpha in a Catholic Context invites you to join the conversation on how you can reach the 'unchurched' and bring your parish alive during these times. We'll be joined by Fr John Adams and Cathy Kennedy who will share practical tips on how we can be more missional and invitational. Register via dow.org.au/events

Light to the Nations (LTTN) Easter Youth Pilgrimage:

LTTN is a bi-annual Easter Youth Pilgrimage for young people (16+) and the young at heart. From Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday young people camp under the open skies and join in celebrating the Easter liturgies, led by the Missionaries of God's love. Young people encounter Jesus vibrantly, through prayer, worship, drama, music, and personal sharing. LTTN 2022 will be held at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville. In the year of Amoris Laetitia, families are especially encouraged to consider joining with hundreds of others for this amazing experience. DoW Youth Ministry team members will eagerly be looking to connect with young people from around the Diocese. For more information, and registration details, or simply for a day booking head to <https://ltn.dojcommunity.com/>

Call for Volunteer Support: 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

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 nswhbookings@wwme.org.au

Former members of Wollongong CYO (Catholic Youth Organisation) and YCW (Young Christian Workers) are holding a reunion on Saturday 30 April 2022 with Mass at 11:00am at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral followed by lunch at The Fraternity Club. Put the date on your calendar. More details on Wollongong CYO/YCW Reunion 2022 Facebook page.

LIVE Local Macarthur Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) is excited to announce that LIVE Local is returning to Macarthur! 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/

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.

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>

Holy Gospel according to Luke 13: 1-9

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Janice, Australia

A Wagilak woman, Janice is a traditional dancer who tells her family's stories through movements handed down over generations.

"With many elders gone, we must transfer knowledge, to keep a connection to culture and nurture future leaders," Janice says. "Me and my family, we keep the culture going, we need to keep our culture strong."



Like many remote communities, Janice's faces a range of challenges – low employment and education, financial hardship, poorer health and lower life expectancy.

With your help, Caritas Australia supports Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, which operates a centre for traditional and contemporary Aboriginal arts and culture, providing employment and generating income for local communities.

Elders run workshops and share their knowledge with the younger generation, and with visitors. Local guides run bush cultural tours and architect-designed tourist accommodation is available for visitors.

"This is a safe place, a place we come with family and get away from problems. We, here in the art centre, work as a family," Janice says. Janice believes that Djilpin Arts' work is essential to create opportunities for young people to stay on-country, to share intergenerational knowledge between elders and the younger generation - to promote healing, and to keep culture alive.

Reflection

Sometimes you hear Indigenous people refer to Jesus as a 'person of Country'. What might this mean? It is hard to imagine the Gospels without the connection of Jesus to the sea, the river, the desert, the fields and the mountain. His teaching often featured seeds and birds and sheep and corn. In today's Gospel, we hear the parable of the fig tree. The impatient person wants to cut it down. A wiser person is prepared to work with nature by putting manure on the tree and looking after it. This is a story of growth. God is creative. God is patient with us. God gives us another chance.

We have so much to learn from the depth and resilience of Australian Indigenous culture and spirituality, both of which are intimately linked to Country. This week, Project Compassion features the story of Janice, a Wagilak woman from the Northern Territory. Janice, who lives in a remote community, is part of the Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, supported by Caritas Australia. Janice is among those overcoming many obstacles to keeping their culture strong. She does this through dance. She honours the generations who have come before her and taught their community how to respect the land and live in harmony with it. Our response to Project Compassion is providing practical support for the blossoming of Indigenous culture for all future generations.

In today's reading, Moses is in the wilderness, a place of surprising possibilities. Like the Australian landscape, the wilderness in scripture is subtle; it is a place of encounter with God. Moses thinks he is having a regular day in the family business, looking after his father-in-law's sheep. But a voice comes from a bush that is blazing without being burnt up. The voice tells Moses to take off his shoes because 'the place on which you stand is holy ground.' This is the beginning of the freedom story of his people, the start of their journey out of captivity.

May our journey to the freedom God wants for us also begin with the realisation that we too are standing on Holy Ground. God calls us all to be people of Country.