

# 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.*

27 March 2022  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Year C



### Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**First Reading** from the book of Joshua 5: 9-12

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

**Response:** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**Second Reading** from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5: 17-21

### Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:  
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Holy Gospel** according to Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

### Communion Antiphon

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

### NEXT WEEK

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**1st Reading:** Is 43:16-21

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Ps 125. R. v.3

**2nd Reading:** Phil 3:8-14

**Gospel:** Jn 8:1-11



## The Story of Rosalie from Congo

Rosalie, 37, is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced years of trauma and hardship. After leaving the military, Rosalie and other ex-combatants were left to fend for themselves, with little support.

With your generous help, Rosalie was able to participate in business and social skills training, supported by Caritas Australia's local partners, to assist her to reintegrate into society. Rosalie is now a business owner, a community leader and a role model for other ex-combatants who are seeking to readjust to civilian life. She is inspiring women and other members of her community to overcome the violence of the past, to work towards a more peaceful and harmonious world for all future generations.

Rosalie had a tough childhood. Her father passed away when she was just two-years-old and her mother struggled to look after the family on her own.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, women are traditionally responsible for household tasks, with limited employment opportunities outside the home. Her mother found it difficult to afford food and clothing, let alone school fees, so Rosalie dropped out of school.

Then, when she was just 15 years old, Rosalie was forcibly recruited into the army. In recent decades, the DRC has experienced ongoing political instability, violence and conflict, and the recruitment of child soldiers is all too common.

Rosalie suddenly found herself forced to transport munitions to soldiers on the battlefield while facing the constant threat of violence inside the military camp. She had to continue to work as a soldier, even after she married and had children because she had no other option – and it was the only life she knew.

"I was in the battlefield with my baby on my back," Rosalie recalls. "I walked with a child in my left hand, a box of ammunition on my head and another child on my back. I also had a weapon on my right shoulder. The chief commander had no mercy on me, even though I had my baby on my back."

When Rosalie was finally demobilised from the army after six years, she was eager to start a new life, free from violence. But like many ex-combatants, Rosalie found the challenge to adjust to civilian life overwhelming. With her childhood and education cut short by the war, she had missed out on developing skills that would help her to find secure employment. She struggled to earn a sustainable income to provide food for her children. There was also prejudice towards ex-combatants in the community.

Rosalie was determined to turn her life around and set a new path for herself and her family. She joined the Protection & Re-Integration of Ex-Combatants program, supported by Caritas Australia, and its local partner organisations, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and Caritas Bukavu. She participated in training in accounting, conflict management, gender awareness and human rights and developed a plan for her own small business.

Rosalie also joined a Saving and Internal Lending Community group (SILC), which helped her with a loan to start her own small business, selling second-hand shoes and natural remedies. She learnt savings and group management skills and became the SILC group's president.

Through the program, she gained essential skills in generating an income while gaining a sense of belonging and community spirit.

"May the Australian people continue to help others as well, so that they can also take care of themselves," Rosalie says. "A really big thank



ROSALIE  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## 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:

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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

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

## Rosters

3 April	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Monitors</b>	Glen & Arlene Correya John Ransom	Gabriel & Ofa Mafi Tess Vergara	Beatrix Reuter, Stuart Lake
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Cody Sainsbury; Christian Ogle	Orly Simbul, Lusia Siaosi	Robert Selvaraj, Ralph Santos
<b>Readers</b>	Candice D'Coutho	Volunteer	Kathy Randal
<b>Flowers</b>	Tracey Kaldasoun	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Kaur Family
<b>Counters</b>	Louise Muscat, Lina Agius	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Mafi 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:** Veni Menezes

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





# Bulletin Notices

## EASTER SERVICES

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

**Passion Sunday** 10 April

**Holy Thursday** Mass at 7.30pm

**Good Friday:** Stations of the Cross at 10am

The Passion of the Lord at 3pm

**Easter Saturday** Morning Prayer Service at 9am

Easter Vigil Mass at 7pm

**Easter Sunday** Masses at 9.30am & 5pm

**The Divine Mercy Feast day** celebration will be held the week after Easter on Sunday 24 April 2022.

**The Journey, 27 March 2022 Weekly Podcast** On The Journey This Week: Fr Antony Jukes' Gospel reflection. Mother Hilda says don't bother looking for the someone else in this parable, it's each of us God is seeking. Plus, Fr Mike Delaney, Cathy Jenkins, and more great music! The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

**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>

**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. This week many of communities are still cleaning up from the floods and some of our communities still remain effected 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

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au)

**Upcoming menALIVE Weekend:** Calling all Catholic MEN. You are invited to Rediscover God's Presence in, and Purpose, for your Life Is your faith life all it could be? Are you dozing in the back pews? The menALIVE Men's Weekend is an opportunity for all men from 18 years of age to explore what makes them feel fully alive. Led by experienced facilitators and speakers from the menALIVE team, the weekend is powerful and dynamic experience, during which Catholic men are inspired and encouraged with a new sense of purpose and mission. 14-15 May 2022, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 193 St Andrews Road, Varroville. Register via brochure or online [www.dow.org.au/events](http://www.dow.org.au/events) Enquiries: Helen Bennett (Diocesan Contact) 4222 2403; Paul Quirk (Parish Contact) 0412 216 589 or Peter Crowe (menALIVE Contact) 0407 913 696.

**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/](http://www.dow.org.au/abolishdeathbill/)

**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.

**Caritas Australia Ukraine Appeal:** The escalating violence in Ukraine is rapidly becoming a dire humanitarian crisis. In a matter of days, over half a million people have been forced from their homes and at least 400 civilians have lost their lives. Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground, supporting people in need during this unfolding humanitarian crisis. Your urgent support today will help provide critical assistance including emergency shelter, food, clean water, transportation services, and psychological support to people affected by this crisis. Donate today at [www.caritas.org.au/ukraine](http://www.caritas.org.au/ukraine) or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

# Holy Gospel according to Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

*Your brother here was dead and has come to life.*

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel Reflection

One of the most beautiful expressions in the Bible comes from the prophet Ezekiel. 'Thus says the Lord, I will take their hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh.' It is a call to be tender and compassionate.

You would need a heart of stone not to be affected by the stories we encounter today. Most of us have heard the story of the two sons in today's Gospel over and over. The brilliance of the way Jesus tells stories is that it still gets under our skin. Here are two young men who think they can live on their own terms. One has a sense of entitlement and demands his share of his father's estate which he then squanders. He is finally prepared to eat humble pie and find his way home. The other son has a different sense of entitlement. He believes that his hard work and reliability should provide him with a greater share of his father's love. At different times in our life, we can relate more to one or other of these people. Jesus implies that they are both blind to the way God's love works and that they both need to grow. They have both been dead and need to come to life.

The story we encounter this week through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion is also deeply moving. Rosalie, aged 37, lives in one of the most damaged countries in the world, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). From the age of fifteen, she was forced to become a child soldier, exposed to violence and heartbreak. She actually says that she was forced into combat with a baby on her back. Now she has seven children and dreams of a better future for them. Thanks to your support of Project Compassion, she has been able to start a small business, so her children might go to school and become an inspiration to others. Recovery from the trauma of war affects people around the world.

Our second reading today reminds us that we are 'ambassadors for Christ.' St Paul says, 'for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation.' Let us all be part of building that new creation, setting the world to rights as best we can. God wants to reconcile the world to himself. Our part in this is to reach out in compassion and love to heal the wounds of the whole human family. The theme of Project Compassion this year asks us to think and act 'for all future generations.' Our hearts need to be warm and strong.

