



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.

**17 April 2022**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**Year C**

**Entrance Antiphon**

All the earth shall bow  
down before you, O God,  
and shall sing to you,  
shall sing to your name,  
O Most High!

**First Reading** from the  
Acts of the Apostles  
10-34. 37-43

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23.  
R. v.24

**Response:** This is the  
day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad.

**Second Reading** from  
the letter of St Paul to the  
Colossians 3:1-4

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ has become our  
paschal sacrifice;  
let us feast with joy in  
the Lord. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according  
to John 20:1-9

**Communion Antiphon**

Christ our Passover has  
been sacrificed, alleluia;  
therefore let us keep the  
feast with the unleavened  
bread of purity and  
truth, alleluia, alleluia.

**Easter Message from Bishop Brian Mascord**

As we come to celebrate the feast of Easter in 2022, there is great cause for reflection on what has been happening in our world. The war in Ukraine, the lasting effects of COVID-19, and the damage inflicted by severe flooding continue to sorely test the strength and capacity of people to respond to these devastating events. Many people can only ask: "Where is God in all of this?" It is the same question that Jesus asked in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross.

The answer to that question is discovered in our response of faith. Jesus asks a very human question—our question—and God answers it with the Resurrection. For it is in this experience that God overcomes all that would separate us from God. Everything that Jesus experienced in his suffering we are seeing in our world today. We live in a fragmented world—a world in continual need of personal reconnection and integration. The final words of Jesus on the cross, words of forgiveness and words of entrustment, are exactly what we are called to do in our broken and disunited world. Living as disciples of Jesus does not mean that we are exempt from pain and suffering. Rather, our discipleship calls us to be even more conscious of it in our world and carefully respond to it. This is where our prayer enables faith to become active and life giving to others. Our prayer and our outreach to those afflicted with pain and sorrow can be a sign of God's presence—a continuation of the goodness and mercy of Christ.

As we continue to reconnect as communities of faith and hope, we are called to help others move away from isolation to a life of communion and reconciliation. The whole importance of the Resurrection is found in God's love calling us back into friendship with Christ and each other as the family of God. This is something that is often accomplished, not through great works, but by many small words and deeds. As St Teresa of Calcutta said: "Do small things with great love." In the gift of the Holy Spirit's love, let us reconnect with our families through gentleness & patience." *For the full text go to our parish website.*

## Contact us

**Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD**  
**Assistant Priest: Fr. "Sam" Ransom Rapirap OCD**

**Parish Associate: Sr Ines Comiling, CM**  
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**Parish Office Ph: 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

**Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online:** For all of the online Mass options—  
please visit <https://dow.sh/dailymass>

**Adoration Prayer with the Carmelite Missionaries Sisters:**  
every Sunday from 6.30—7.30pm

## Prayer intentions

**For the sick & homebound:** John McDermott, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, 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:** Mary Wintour, Martin d'Coutho, Fr Tadgh Tierney, Ofilia Mawson, Rose Refalo, Angelito Molano, Porfinio Perez, Mary Gardner, Dorothy and Geoff Jones,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Anthony Mangos, Angelo Crasto, Veni Menezes.

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

## Bulletin notices

**Welcome back dear Sr Ines**—We are happy to see you return to our Parish, far away from the terrible floods and bushfires you have experienced in Lismore. **Sr Nory will be leaving our Parish** at the end of April to start a fresh assignment in Spain. We thank you Sr Nory for your friendship during the past 11 years.

**The Divine Mercy Feast day** celebration will be held the week after Easter on Sunday 24 April 2022 commencing at 2pm with Confession, the Chaplet of Mercy & Benediction. Holy Mass will commence at 3pm. All are most welcome.

**Sacramental Preparation:** The parish is currently accepting enrolments for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. For further details check our Parish Website and register at the Parish Office as soon as possible. For Baptism and Marriage enquiries call the Parish Office.

**Parish Raffle Fundraising:** Tickets for the big raffle will be selling from now and will be drawn at the Feast Day in July. You can take home a book of tickets and sell to family and friends. Each tickets costs \$2 and there are 25 tickets in each book. You can pick up the books of tickets from the parish office this week and next weekend the fundraising team will be distributing books and selling tickets after all Masses.

**The Rosters are due for renewal at the beginning of May.** If you would like to join a roster please send a message to the parish office. Full support will be given if you are new to a ministry or are rejoining after a break. For more information call Patricia at the parish office.

**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 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)  
For enquiries: Paul Quirk 0412 216 589

## Gospel Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Anyone who has been up at the crack of dawn in Hobart will know of the beauty of the first hint of the sun rising. It is a moment of anticipation. As it was for the women hurrying to the tomb 'as the day was dawning', 'just as the sun was rising', as the gospels tell us. What a setting of the scene! Dawn is breaking. The power of darkness is being dispelled.

The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, the Power of Darkness which had Jesus cruelly tortured, the Power of Darkness which had Jesus buried in the pitch-blackness of the tomb. That Power of Darkness is being conquered by the life-giving energies of the now Risen Son. The menacing and gloomy power of the Prince of Darkness, whose principal warrior is Death, was vanquished by the Son-Rise of all sunrises flooding our world and the whole of human history with divine light and energy. Those women who had gone to the burial site with oils and spices to do loving service to the body of Jesus were inspired to understand that the empty tomb was, in reality, an empty womb.

The earth could not contain the death-annihilating new life of Jesus the Nazarene, Jesus the Christ, Jesus the Son of God. Our world, our history was earth-quake opened and filled with the creative presence of the Risen Lord. This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the entry to the Church.

From that earthly element we lit the Easter Candle, we processed in: the Exsultet was sung. 'Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.' Our faith is that an earth-shattering event occurred – that the tomb carved out of the earth was unsealed by Divine Power!



That is what the women first saw, simply an empty tomb. They did not see the resurrection itself, which is nowhere described in the gospels. But they were inspired to believe that he was risen as he said. And the women went running to tell the news to the disciples.

It was women who were the first bearers of the message of Our Lord's victory over death, a message which they proclaimed to men: men who did not believe that the grave injustice done to the most innocent man to walk the earth could be set right; men who did not believe that the deadly violence done to the greatest exponent of non-violence could be healed; men who did not believe that Death could be done to death.

Eventually, the men did believe, and we gather here today because we believe: that grave injustice has been set right – and can be set right again and again be healed again and again that Death has been done to death – and can be done to death again and again because the Son has risen.

'O Death, where is thy sting? O Death, where is thy victory?'

His body was transformed by the energy of Divine love. The power of love had risen superior to the merely biological. The power of Divine love had risen superior to death and its warriors; entropy, exhaustion and decay. This power is not confined to the body of the Nazarene. We can, by grace, participate in the resurrection life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.