

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.

3 April 2022
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Year C



Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause
against a nation that is
faithless. From the
deceitful and cunning
rescue me, for you,
O God, are my strength.

First Reading from the
prophet Isaiah 43: 16-21

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

Response: The Lord has
done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

Second Reading from
the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians 3: 8-14

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ, king of endless
glory! With all your heart
turn to me, for I am tender
and compassionate. Praise
to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!

Holy Gospel according to
John 8: 1-11

Communion Antiphon

Has no one condemned
you, woman?
No one, Lord. Neither
shall I condemn you.
From now on, sin no more.

Next Week

**Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord**

First Reading: Is 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Gospel: Lk 22:14 – 23:56

Shaniella, 23, grew up in a village in the Solomon Islands with her parents and three brothers.

In 2020, Shaniella moved away to study hospitality and tourism at a vocational school supported by Caritas Australia Solomon Islands (CASI), through the Happy, Healthy, Holistic Community Development program.

The school is in a particularly disaster-prone area and not long after Shaniella started, the school was hit by a landslide, flooding, and a cyclone, all in quick succession. The school's main source of water was destroyed, buildings were damaged and the garden, which the school relied on for food, was devastated.

With your kind support, CASI helped install water tanks, restoring clean water access to nearby schools, health centres and the wider community. Training was held in agricultural skills to help boost the school community's food security, as well as in environmental risk management and emergency responses.

Now, Shaniella can complete her skills training, with enough water and food to eat, and improved sanitation. She is improving her ability to earn an income, learning skills which will expand her job opportunities. Students are also better prepared to respond when disaster strikes. With your generous support, Shaniella's prospects have improved, as have her school's.

Along with your generous support, this program is supported by the Australian Government, through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP).

Pope Francis has spoken a great deal about our need for more women to occupy positions of leadership, both in the Church and in the world at large. For example, in his wonderful letter about the way we belong to each other, *Fratelli Tutti*, he says 'the organisation of societies worldwide is still far from reflecting clearly that women possess the same dignity and identical rights as men. We say one thing with words, but our decisions and reality tell another story.' He is concerned about 'those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence'.

Pope Francis is very much reflecting the attitude of Jesus whose closeness to women distinguished him as a leader and teacher in his time. You might think of significant encounters in the New Testament: the woman at the well, Martha and Mary, the widow of Nain. You might also think of the woman we meet in today's Gospel, described by the scribes and Pharisees as 'caught in the very act of committing adultery.' Listen to the sneer in those words.

These men, who are supposed to be educated and respected, have been peeping through the window. Their behavior is salacious, domineering and demeaning. In their self-righteousness, they threaten violence. There is no sign of the woman's partner who is surely just as much part of the story. Jesus neatly turns the tables. He starts by sitting on the ground, occupying a position lower than that of the woman. He is the only one not taking an eyeful of her.

Caritas Australia, whom we support through Project Compassion, has long acted in constructive ways to uphold the dignity of women and honour their strength, resilience and leadership. A good example is Shaniella, a young woman from a remote village in the Solomon Islands. She is the feature of this week's story and embodies the theme of this year's Project Compassion: For all future generations. Take a few minutes to share her story and consider the odds she is overcoming to create a safer and healthier environment for herself and her community. She is the kind of person who should surely grab our attention.

Today's second reading reminds us that none of us is perfect. But like St Paul, we are still running, still trying to achieve 'the perfection that comes through faith in Christ.' This does not mean judging others as the scribes and Pharisees did. It means challenging ourselves, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, to put water in the wilderness as we consider what we might do 'for all future generations.'

PROJECT COMPASSION
FOR ALL FUTURE
GENERATIONS



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

Rosters

10 April	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Berna Potter, Ronald Tuyor	Irene Ravino, Gerry & Margaret Connolly	Patricia Wicks
Altar Servers	Michelle Griess, Abigail Amurao	Orly Simbul, Carlos Brown	Robert Selvaraj, Ralph Santos
Readers	Suzanne Binny	Ofa Mafi	Sheenalyn Rogan
Flowers	Audrey Tanuvasa	Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family
Counters	George Shiner	Foyer Cleaning	Feiloakitohi 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: Fr Tadgh Tierney, 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



Vale Fr Tadgh Tierney

It is with great sadness we advise that Fr. Tadgh Tierney OCD passed away last Monday morning in his Parish at Morley Western Australia.

Fr Tadgh Tierney has been part our parish family since 1993 when he arrived at Varroville from Ireland.

Fr Tadgh served our community as the Parish Priest of Varroville for 13 years, from 1993 till 2005. Two of the stained glass windows in our church were dedicated in memory of his parents. He will be greatly missed by his brother Carmelites, and all of us who knew him.

The Funeral Mass is on Friday 8 April in Morley, WA, at 2.30pm (WA time: GMT+ 6) This mass will be live-streamed. After the funeral, Fr Tadgh's body will be taken to Varroville for burial in the Carmelite cemetery at the Priory.

There will be a Funeral Mass held in our Parish Church on Wednesday 13 April at 11.00am followed by the burial in the Carmelite cemetery.

More details will be available during the next few days

Friendship Group will be celebrating Easter on Tuesday 5 April at 9.30am, after the 9am Mass. All are welcome and please bring a plate to share.

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, Weekly Podcast On The Journey This Week:

A powerful story of justice and mercy with reflections on the gospel from Fr Anthony Jukes and Mother Hilda. Plus, The Bush Deacon on why we don't like to invite people to share our faith, and more great music! The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au

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 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 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/

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 or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

Holy Gospel according to John 8: 1-11

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking



for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

There is a tough phrase at the end of the Gospel we have just heard; 'Go and sin no more.' It's like a sting in the tail, standing in contrast to the compassion of Jesus in his encounter with the woman. Yet, on closer inspection, it is the most important phrase in the story. And that's saying something because this dramatic event is the only one in the Gospel where Jesus confronts sexual sin, where only the woman is dragged from the scene of the crime to answer the charge of adultery. Is it any wonder that in some early manuscripts of John's Gospel this story was left out, its authorship questioned? The dangerous memory of Jesus' compassion toward the woman was too strong in the minds of John's community for it to be excluded, however, and so it remains as an inspired text for us to make our own. It is sometimes very important to hear Jesus say to us, especially in the area of our sexuality, 'I do not condemn you.'

So often, however, we want Jesus to leave it at that. But Jesus goes further. He tells it as it is. If any of us want life and want it to the full, we have to stop doing the destructive things that get us into trouble in the first place. It does not matter if it is drinking, gambling, eating, working, stealing, sexual dysfunction, being into pornography, being violent at home or any other type of obsessive compulsive behaviour, there is little point in being sorry for the consequences of our weaknesses and not changing the pattern of behaviour that leads us to ruin each time.

Twelve step programs enshrine the wisdom of today's Gospel in how they help us to own up to the destructive behaviour of our lives and yet give us hope to live beyond our worst moments.

Steps four to ten say:

Step 4. I have made a searching and fearless moral inventory of myself.

Step 5. I have admitted to God and to another the exact nature of my wrongs.

Step 6. I am entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Step 7. Humbly ask God to remove my shortcomings.

Step 8. Made a list of all persons I had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.

Step 9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except where to do so would injure them or others.

Step 10. Continued to take personal inventory and when I was wrong promptly admitted it.

The thing I like best about these is that they are pro-active. They alert us to the fact that the best pathway to know healing and forgiveness is not to be passive, but to be active and admit our own faults and work to heal them. Some of us may have been given a tough hand from life's deck of cards, but we do not have to be passive victims, never able to change the cycles of destructive behaviour. If the steps work and we trust today's Gospel then we can be happy, healed and forgiven because we heal and forgive others.

Jesus bestows great dignity on the woman by saving her from being condemned to death, but even more so he knows that it does not have to be like this and so challenges her to turn her life around.

May we hear the same challenge in this final week of Lent. No matter what we have ever done, sexually or otherwise, we are greater than our worst moments. Jesus loves us enough not to condemn us, but to give us this Eucharist so that we might find the strength and hope to stop doing the things that destroy us and to live a life that leads to peace and joy.