

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.

15 May 2022
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Year C



Entrance Antiphon
O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading
from the Acts of the Apostles 14: 21-27

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1
Response: I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Second Reading
from the book of the Apocalypse 21: 1-5

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to John 13: 31-35

Communion Antiphon
I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Next Week
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C
First: Acts 15:1-2. 22-29
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8. R. v.4
Second: Rv 21:10-14, 22-23
Gospel: Jn 14:23-29



Why are the dates for the celebration of Laudato Si' Week in Australia different from those on the international Laudato Si' Week website?

Last May the Australian Bishops decided to celebrate Laudato Si' Week from 16 – 24 May during each year of their seven-year Laudato Si' Action

Plan journey. These dates allow both Laudato Si' Week, and National Reconciliation Week from 27 May – 3 June, to be celebrated appropriately by Australian Catholics. The dates were announced in the Social Justice Statement *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*.

Previously, Laudato Si' Week was celebrated internationally to mark the first anniversary of the encyclical. The next Laudato Si' Week was not celebrated until the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si' in 2020. This was part of the Laudato Si' Special Anniversary Year. The third international Laudato Si' Week marked the end of that Special Anniversary Year. In each instance the dates varied.

The first Laudato Si' Week was held 12-19 June 2016. Although the encyclical is dated 24 May 2015, it was officially published on 18 June 2015. The dates for this first celebration reflect the publication date rather than the official promulgation date. In 2020, Laudato Si' Week was celebrated 16-24 May & in 2021, the dates were 16-25 May

When the Australian Bishops took their decision to celebrate an annual Laudato Si' Week in Australia, no decision had yet been made by the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development on whether this special week would become an annual international event, and if so, on which dates. In mid-March 2022, the dates for the international Laudato Si' Week 2022 were published on the Laudato Si' Week website. Stable annual celebration dates will enable our Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace to prepare prayer and reflection materials for Laudato Si' Week in a timely manner each year fulfilling our commitment in Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor.

It is common for international celebrations in the Catholic Church to be celebrated at separate times in various parts of the world. For example, in Australia we celebrate Word of God Sunday on the first Sunday in February whereas other countries celebrate it on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Bishops Conferences make these decisions taking into consideration the pastoral needs of local communities.

Our prayer, reflection, and action materials for Laudato Si' Week 2022 are labelled for each day from 16 to 24 May, but they can be used at any time. You may choose to use one, some or none of them and adapt them to suit your context or needs.

While fostering right relationships with First Peoples should be part of our response to Laudato Si' Goal Two, responding to the cry of the poor, Reconciliation Week is a major national event that draws attention to a fundamental question of justice in Australian society. It should not be displaced by or simply subsumed into other celebrations.

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM (Conv)
Chair, Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service
Bishop of Parramatta

Contact us

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Assistant Priest
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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

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm

Reconciliation: Saturday at 11am

Weekday Mass times

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday Mass at 9am

Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm

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>

Rosters

22 May	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Tracey & Richard	Sarah, Violetti & Martin	Beatrix & Stuart
Altar Servers	Cody & Christian	Orly & Carlos	Robert, Volunteer
Readers	Suzanne & Russell	Ronda & Tina	Evangeline & Rachel
Refreshments	Berna, Suzanne & Emmarie	Ofa & Charlotte	
Flowers	Audrey	Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family
Counters	Vilma & Jeanette	Foyer Cleaning	Feiloakitohi Family
CLOTW		Cordelia & Sarah	

Readers are needed: We are trying to approach as near to normal (pre covid) as possible within our church ministries. Please consider joining the Ministry of Reader. If you feel called to this ministry we will offer you our prayers, training and support. For those who have previously been Ministers of the Word, please consider returning to this ministry. There is a readers in service meeting on the last Friday of each month. Colleen from the Readers group is happy to discuss this ministry if you have any questions or concerns about joining.

Prayer intentions

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 John Whitty, Ivanka Banda, Zdravko Vrbanic, Marie Wintour, Martin D.Coutho, Fr Tadgh Tierney, Ofilia Mawson, Mary Gardner, Dorothy and Geoff Jones,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Hilda Young, Orlando Ramirez Castano

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

Please contact the parish office to add a name to the prayer intentions list.

If you are not able to attend Mass please contact the parish office to request Communion.





Bulletin Notices

Bunnings BBQ: Our Fundraising team will be having a Bunnings BBQ at Gregory Hills today. Come out and say hello and buy a sausage.

Feast Day planning meeting will be held on Tuesday 24 May at 7.30pm. We need your assistance to prepare for this year's Feast Day on July 17 in the Parish.

Ministry Rosters have been completed and sent out by email. If you require a paper copy of the roster please request at the parish office. Thank you to everyone who has renewed their roster commitment. If you wish to join a roster please contact the parish office at any time and you can partner with an existing team till the next roster is prepared.

Faith Circles small groups meet every Monday at 2pm and at 7pm on zoom. Contact the Parish Office for the zoom link. During this period of COVID pandemic, you are encouraged to spend time in prayer and spiritual reading and faith Circles is one way that you can do this. The weekly Faith Circles resource is available for free to download. It is available to download at www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/ or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

Fundraising Meeting is on Wednesday 18 May at 7pm in the parish meeting room. We will have a light supper at this meeting to welcome new team members. The fundraising committee is working hard to help raise funds for our proposed renovations. All are most welcome to attend.

Raffle Ticket books are available in the foyer after Mass and all parishioners are encouraged to take home a book and sell them to family and friends. It will be drawn on 17 July at the Feast day.

Sacramental Registrations are currently being accepted for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. There will be a parent formation evening on Wednesday 29 June at 7.15pm. There is information available on our parish website and all enquiries should be directed to the parish office.

Appeal for Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders: We are appealing for members of our parish to please consider joining our Children's Liturgy of the Word team. In recent years, we have lost many of our helpers and are down to a small number of dedicated volunteers. As with any ministry, the ideal would be to have enough volunteers so everyone would only be on the roster twice a term. You can volunteer to just assist or you can begin as an assistant and progress to leading the Liturgy. A typical session includes reading the scriptures, discussing the Gospel message in two groups (younger children group and an older children group), singing the Creed and saying a kid friendly version of the Prayers of the Faithful. If time allows, we finish with a colouring or activity sheet. The whole session takes 20 mins or so and there is a PowerPoint display that guides you. It is not as hard or scary as people may think and everyone is welcome! Contact Lee Scales on 0407000281 for more information or contact the Parish Office.

Deeper: Pentecost Intensive - Carmel House, Varroville 1-5 June: Join the MGL Sisters as we deepen together in the experience of Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Come for a five-day intensive retreat in the lead-up to Pentecost and be encouraged in discipleship, activating the charismatic gifts, and being equipped for mission through inputs, discussion, prayer, and practical workshops. Enquiries: mgl-sisters.sydney@gmail.com Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BWMJI>

May Retreats: St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park

- Living More Deeply in God - Praying with Ignatius of Loyola: 6 Days: 20-26 May \$930/ Weekend: 20-22 May \$310 (Presenters: Retreat Team)
 - Seeing with Fresh Eyes: Encountering the Risen Christ: 6 Days: 27 May - 2 June \$930/ Weekend: 27-29 May \$310 (Presenter: Elizabeth Lee)
- Enquiries: contact@towersretreat.org.au
Phone 02 46300233 <https://www.towersretreat.org.au>

The Journey, Weekly Podcast On the Journey this week we celebrate the fifth week of the Easter Season. Come join in the joy of the resurrection with us on this week's show. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au

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/

Discovering God's Plan for our Lives: DoW Vocations Event You are invited to join with vibrant people from around the Diocese including an expert panel, addressing all 4 Vocations, with the opportunity for Q and A. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn how to hear, discern and respond to God's call in our lives. There will be more details in coming weeks but to book your spot, follow the links below but in the meantime, if anyone would like to discuss their vocation with Fr Duane, Vocations Director, email vocations@dow.org.au
DATE: Sunday 19 June TIME: Light refreshments 1:30pm for 2pm start PLACE: Xavier Centre, next to St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Wollongong, RSVP: www.dow.org.au/events

The XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops The Diocese has completed its XVI Synod Synthesis Report, with the advice gleaned from the discernment, discussion and writing of the faithful of the Diocese, used as the basis of Bishop Mascord's submission in contributing to the XVI Ordinary Synod global church feedback.

The Diocese of Wollongong Synthesis Report will be made publicly available in coming weeks. Please pray for this ongoing process of prayer and discernment for the XVI Ordinary Synod.

"Towards a better kind of politics" Australian bishops issue election statement You can download the statement at: dow.sh/ElectionStatement
The Australian Catholic bishops have called for a shakeup that focuses the country's politics on the common good of all, including—and especially—those who struggle to participate in the community.

Holy Gospel according to John 13: 31-35

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.
My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.
I give you a new commandment:
love one another;
just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.
By this love you have for one another,
everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection by Mary Coloe PBVM

What love means

The small section of John 13 that we hear today lies at the heart of the Johannine Gospel message 'Love as I have loved'. To be a Christian is to live and to love, with Jesus as the measure of what life and love look like. The Gospel mentions Judas and if we are to understand what Jesus means by love we need to remember that up until this stage in the Gospel Judas has been present. He is one of Jesus' own who gather for his final meal. Judas has had his feet washed by Jesus and received from Jesus' hand the morsel of bread. Jesus willingly gives of himself even to one who will betray him.

This is Jesus' definition of love – a giving of self even when that will not be reciprocated, even when that love will be rejected and betrayed. This is not a romantic fuzzy feeling, but the tough faithful love asked of disciples. It's the love seen in families where parents give themselves to the care of their children even when it seems their care is not appreciated. It's the love seen when adult children give themselves to the care of an aged parent who can no longer remember them. It's love in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad.

The short passage we read today is from John 13 and follows on from the account of Jesus' washing the disciples' feet. In the synoptic Gospels on the eve of his death Jesus used bread and wine to symbolise the meaning of his death as his body given for his disciples. The Foot-washing has a similar function in John.

When Jesus *lays* aside and then *takes up* his garments, these words recall what was said about the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep and then can take it up again.

'I lay down my life for the sheep. . . . For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.' (10:15, 17-18)

Jesus says to the disciples, 'You do not understand what I am doing now, but you will understand later.' (13:7) It is only after the Cross that disciples will grasp the deeper symbolism of this action. Both the action of foot-washing and the image of the Good Shepherd are John's symbols of the Cross – of Jesus laying down his life as the expression of God's love for the world. This is the model, or standard of love that disciples are challenged to live by. 'Love as I have loved.'

The sign of discipleship is love as Jesus loved. This means that discipleship can never be measured by one hour in church each week. Discipleship is best measured in the family home, in our places of work, on the bus, in the street.

The passage from Revelations proclaims the ultimate victory of God over evil. It is an image, not a description or timetable of what will happen in the end – that is still within God's mystery. In this vision, the author sees Jerusalem, the holy city, and hears the announcement that God now lives here among people. What is missing from this vision is the Temple. There is no building, no dwelling place of God, for ultimately God's dwelling is not in a building but within all humanity. The entire earth is now a living Temple of God's presence.