

# 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.*

29 May 2022  
The Ascension  
of the Lord  
Year C



### Entrance Antiphon

Men of Galilee, why gaze  
in wonder at the heavens?  
This Jesus whom you saw  
ascending into heaven  
will return as you saw him  
go, alleluia.

**First Reading** from the  
Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

### Response:

God mounts his throne to  
shouts of joy: a blare of  
trumpets for the Lord.

**Second Reading** from the  
letter of St Paul to the  
Ephesians 1: 17-23

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my  
gospel. I am with you  
always, until the end of the  
world. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Luke 24: 46-53

### Communion Antiphon

Behold, I am with you  
always, even to the end  
of the age, alleluia.

### Next Week

### Pentecost Sunday

**First:** Acts 2:1-11

**Resp Ps:** Ps 103:1. 24.  
29-31. 34. R. v.30

**Second:** 1Cor 12:3-7,12-13

**Gospel:** Jn 20:19-23

# LISTEN!

## World Communications Day

**World Communications Day** was established by Pope Paul VI in 1967, in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, which sought to bring the gospel to light in the modern world.

This annual celebration occurs each year on the Sunday before Pentecost. World Communications Day invites us to reflect on how we can best use our gifts to bring about the gospel message of love, compassion, and inclusion.

Pope Francis has chosen the singular word **"Listen!"** as the theme for the 56<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day to be celebrated on Sunday, 29 May 2022. This invitation stirs up so many possibilities for consideration, both at a personal and communal level. In putting into context the theme for this year, Pope Francis shares this story:

*A respected doctor, accustomed to treating the wounds of the soul, was once asked what the greatest need of human beings is.*

*He replied: "The boundless desire to be heard".* Pope Francis,

### World Communications Day Message 2022 – Listening with the ear of the heart

Attending to the desire to be heard, offers a challenge to each of us in how we relate to ourselves, others and the world around us. It takes courage to be able to listen, and to speak the truth. We need only look at Mary MacKillop's life to be inspired by her example. In letters she wrote to her mother, siblings, sisters, Julian Tenison Woods and other confidants, we gain an insight into her lived reality. Her attentiveness to life's challenges, whether her own or the other, and the consolation of 'our good God', were apparent in many of her writings.

In an 1868 letter penned to her mother, Flora, Mary said:

***Believe in the whisperings of God to your own heart. Mary MacKillop 1868***

*World Communications Day* invites us to reflect on how we might listen to the stirrings of our own hearts and to the realities in the world around us. It challenges us to be stopped in our tracks as we identify those voices that need to be heard today and implores us to act justly in our response. Take a moment to consider:

- Whose voice needs to be heard today?
- What is it we need to hear in light of our current realities; personally, locally and in the world?
- How might you give voice to the inner stirrings of your heart? *Anne-Marie Gallagher rsj NSW Region*

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity—29 May - 5 June 2022**

"We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him." (cf Matthew 2:2)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches. More than ever, in these difficult times, we need a light that shines in the darkness and that light, Christians proclaim, has been manifested in Jesus Christ. Resources and information can be found at <https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources>

## Contact us

**Parish Priest:**  
**Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD**

**Assistant Priest**  
**Fr "Sam" Ransom Rapirap OCD**

**Parish Associate:**  
**Sr Ines Comiling, 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

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

| 5 June 2022          | Saturday 6pm             | Sunday 9.30am           | Sunday 5pm       |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Monitors</b>      | Suzanne & Russell, Myra  | Laura & Nelia           | Terry & Maree    |
| <b>Altar Servers</b> | Maria & Cassandra        | Orly & Claire           | Frank            |
| <b>Readers</b>       | Ryan & Bevina            | Gabriel & Ofa           | Gloria & Timothy |
| <b>Refreshments</b>  | Beatrix & Madonna        | Irene, Jessica, Meg     | XXXXX            |
| <b>Flowers</b>       | Mago                     | <b>Church Vacuuming</b> | Vergara family   |
| <b>Counters</b>      | Christine, Nellie & Cira | <b>Foyer Cleaning</b>   | Parish Office    |
| <b>CLOTW</b>         |                          | Fev & Lee               |                  |

**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

As our Parish is developing a culture of Prayer and Worship the PLT (Parish Leadership Team) have decided to make a little gesture of welcoming everyone to express the need for prayer. The boxes are placed in front of the Blessed Virgin Mary wherein you can drop your petition (example: asking for good health, or any favour, etc.) and thanksgiving prayer (answered prayer, favour' s given, blessings received, etc.). After some time, we look forward to forming a group of people who are interested to be part of an intercessor of the Parish Community. For inquiries, you may ask anyone from PLT: Fr. Shane, Fr. Sam, Sr. Ines, Beatrix Reuter, Geoff Ashton, Colleen Haughey, Donna Ransom, Sr. Ninfa

**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:** Sr Sarah Carpenter, Fr John Whitty, Ivanka Banda, Zdravko Vrbanic, Marie Wintour, Martin D.Coutho, Fr Tadgh Tierney, Ofilia Mawson,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Frazer Toweel, Ivan Srebrenovic.  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.*





# Bulletin Notices

**Feast Day planning meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 June at 7.30pm.** We need your assistance to prepare for this year's Feast Day on July 17 in the Parish.

You are invited to our parish **Alpha Celebration Night** on Tuesday May 31 at 7:30pm in the parish hall. For 11 weeks parishioners have been meeting together in various homes as they embark on the Alpha journey. Come along and hear their stories and celebrate what God has done in people's lives through attending Alpha.

RSVP via the parish office 9603 7373 M: 0434 705 176.

**Friendship Group** will next meet on Tuesday 7 June to enjoy a morning with a movie and popcorn. All are most warmly invited to attend.

**The Big Picture Bible Study:** Beginning Tuesday June 7 at 7:30 pm in the parish meeting room or Wednesday June 8 at 10:00 am in the parish meeting room:

- An inspiring step by step journey through Salvation History
- An easy to use book and DVD with daily Bible study reflections
- Six weekly small group sessions

Cost: \$20 -this covers the cost of the book and DVD;

RSVP via the parish office Ph: 9603 7373 M: 0434 705 176;

For further information contact Donna Ransom

[donna.ransom@dow.org.au](mailto:donna.ransom@dow.org.au)

**READER TRAINING:** For those who are new or returning to the ministry of Reader please attend a meeting on Sunday 12 June at 3p.m. The meeting should only go for about an hour. Will discuss training, resources and practicalities. Anyone entering the ministry would do well to complete the Liturgy Brisbane course:

<https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/online-courses/>

where there is a cost involved. No-one should be disadvantaged so if the cost is an issue please contact Colleen. The other good presentation is found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQ41A0TBv7I>

Anyone can attend. If you are thinking about this ministry it may be a good opportunity to help you decide. Anyone wanting further information please contact Colleen at

[chaughey2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:chaughey2@optusnet.com.au).

**Trinity Sunday Celebration on Sunday 12 June at 9am,** Fr Henry Adler, Parish Priest at Holy Family Parish Ingleburn, will celebrate Mass at Holy Trinity Church Minto at 9am. He invites all past and present parishioners from the Minto Community to a special celebration to mark the Feast of the Holy Trinity. This special occasion will give him a chance to meet everyone after Mass. Fr Adler extends this invitation to everyone who has ever been a part of the Minto Community.

**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.

**Eucharist - The Sacrifice We Offer** Join Bishop Mascord and people from across the Diocese for a Workshop on Saturday 11 June 2022 Xavier Conference Centre Wollongong (38 Harbour St), 9:30am - 2:30pm, presented by Sr Carmel Pilcher RSJ, PhD. Lunch and Morning Tea provided. An opportunity to make a donation to assist in covering costs will be provided towards the end of the workshop. At this workshop we will seek to understand what the early church understood by priestly participation in the liturgy. Namely that each of us, together with our sisters & brothers in Christ, bring to the celebration the joys and hopes, grief and anxieties of our week. Ritually we place these on the Eucharistic table along with bread and wine to become the mystery of Christ's sacrifice. From the communion table we go to continue our priestly role as witnesses of Christ's love. This is a great opportunity for formation for anyone who wishes to deepen their appreciation of Eucharist. Register by Tuesday 7 June 2022: [dow.org.au/events](http://dow.org.au/events) Enquires: Anthony Rewak [anthony.rewak@dow.org.au](mailto:anthony.rewak@dow.org.au) / 4222 2465

**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](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BWMJI>

**LIVE Local Macarthur** Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) is back with LIVE Local in the Macarthur, running every Sunday night in the school term from 6:15pm-8:15pm, at St John the Evangelist Parish Campbelltown. For more details on youth groups, visit <https://www.dow.org.au/cymw/>

This regional youth group is for all Parishes and 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](mailto:luke.vail@dow.org.au)

**Discovering God's Plan for our Lives: DoW Vocations**

**Event: DATE: Sunday 19 June** 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](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

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](http://www.dow.org.au/events)

## Holy Gospel according to Luke 24: 46-53

*While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## Reflection

Luke is the only Gospel writer to give a forty-day time frame for the events of Easter:

Stage 1. The risen Jesus is present with his disciples for forty days, confirming their faith and preparing them for their future mission. This time is followed by Jesus' return to his Father.

Stage 2. Ten days later, the Spirit comes upon the disciples.

You might also notice that Luke in fact gives us two different times for Jesus' Ascension. In Luke 24, Jesus gathers his disciples on the same day as the Resurrection. All the events in Luke 24 are situated on the first day of the week. Then, in the Acts of the Apostles, also written by Luke, he provides a longer time-frame that separates Easter, the Ascension, Pentecost.

This fifty day time frame, found in the Acts, may well be governed by the Jewish liturgical calendar where the Feast of Pentecost or 'First Fruits' occurs fifty days after Passover (Easter). Within the Jewish Liturgy, Pentecost/First Fruits celebrates the arrival of the Israelites at Mt Sinai, following their escape from Egypt and crossing the Sea, which was celebrated at Passover.

The Ascension celebrates Jesus returning to God and his glorification at God's right hand. It is a further dimension of the Easter experience that Jesus has triumphed over evil and death, and his humanity is now within the Godhead. The Ascension also celebrates an experience of the early Christian communities. There was a time when they knew Jesus of Nazareth. He lived among them and they were attracted by his vision of God's reign. Then, following his death, there were brief moments of his presence. But there came a time when even these Risen appearances finished. The time of the Jesus bound by human history had come to an end.

And yet, when they gathered to share their memories and to celebrate the Lord's Supper, they knew that he was still a presence in their midst. In fact, in the absence of Jesus of Nazareth, they had a new certainty of faith and an enthusiasm for spreading the Gospel message. This empowering and enlivening presence they called the Spirit, drawing on the words of their Jewish Scriptures that described the power of God's Spirit in people's lives. The Greek word for the power of the Spirit is *dunamis*, from where we get words such as 'dynamic' and 'dynamite'.

With the new experience of the Spirit as a power and presence in their lives, Jesus' return to his Father is not a cause of grief but one of joy, for now people of all times can share the experience of those first disciples. The Risen Jesus lives on with us. Alleluia.

The reading from Hebrews moves from the Greek image of the exaltation in heaven, to the Jewish image of Jesus now present with God in the Temple's inner sanctuary, the Holy of Holies. The anonymous author likens Jesus' ascension into Heaven, to the Jewish High Priest entering once every year into the Holy of Holies to sprinkle the blood from the lamb sacrificed for atonement from sin. This letter's theology is that through Christ's death, sin has been vanquished so that now there is no need for further sacrifices. Because of him, we now have the right/privilege of coming into God's presence. The curtain across the entrance to the Holy of Holies has now been permanently opened, giving all believers access to God.

These images of sacrifice, sprinkling blood, and the Temple curtain would have been familiar to the audience of this letter. Speaking to Christians today such images need to be treated carefully. The line of this letter that perhaps could be developed is, through Jesus, we have the right to enter the sanctuary – or to enter God's presence.

The readings, using different images, all profess a theology of God's ongoing presence with us now – that Jesus' ascension does not mark an end of a relationship, but rather, models our own open access to God.