

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Serving
Varroville, Raby, St Andrews and Bow Bowing

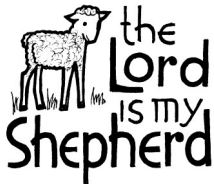
Since 11 May, 1980



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.

8 May 2022
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Year C



Entrance Antiphon
The merciful love of the
Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord
the heavens were made,
alleluia.

First Reading
from the Acts of the
Apostles 13: 14, 43-52

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3
(R.) We are his people, the
sheep of his flock.

Second Reading
from the book of the
Apocalypse 7: 9, 14-17

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd,
says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and
mine know me. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
John 10: 27-30

Communion Antiphon
The Good Shepherd has
risen, who laid down his
life for his sheep and
willingly died for his
flock, alleluia.

Next Week
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Year C

First: Acts 14:21-27
Response: Ps 144:8-13.
R. cf. v.1
Second: Rv 21:1-5
Gospel: Jn 13:31-35



Solemn Profession and Ordination to the Diaconate for Br Adalbert

This weekend we are witnessing Br Adalbert making his Solemn Profession to the Order of Discalced Carmelites on Saturday and Ordination to the Diaconate on Sunday.

Br Adalbert Imperial of the Beloved, OCD joined the Carmelite Friars in 2015 and has been studying and preparing for his Vocation as a Carmelite Friar.

We congratulate Br Adalbert for achieving this milestone and pray for him as he continues to prepare for his Vocation to the Priesthood.

Discovering God's Plan for our Lives

This Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, is known as "Good Shepherd Sunday", with a focus on Vocations. In our Diocese we are keenly aware of the need for more priests to serve our people now and into the future. However, the Bishop and Vocations Team want us all to go deeper than just "getting more priests" and rather to work together throughout our Diocese to create a "culture of vocation" (to borrow a phrase from St John Paul II). This will be a collaborative effort in our parishes, schools, and families, to ensure that every young Catholic will be actively seeking to discern how they are called to serve Christ and his people - whether in Marriage, Ordained Ministry, Religious Life or Single Life. The stronger this culture of vocation, the more we will find ourselves blessed with faithful priests and religious, inspiring marriages and generous single Catholics.

With this in mind, this Good Shepherd Sunday we are pleased to announce a Vocations Event with a panel addressing all 4 Vocations and an opportunity for Q and A. This will be a wonderful opportunity especially for young people to come together and learn how to hear and respond to God's call. There will be more details to follow but for now please invite anyone you think may be interested, and if you're interested RSVP as soon as possible!

DATE: Sunday 19th 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

We also give thanks for the Ordination to the Diaconate of James Arblaster last weekend, a truly joyful occasion for him and for our Diocese. Please continue to pray for him and for the 4 seminarians continuing their vocational journey with our Diocese - posters and prayer cards from the Diocese will help you to get to know their names and faces - and let's pray for all young people discerning their vocation, and for our Diocese as we continue to work together to build a culture of vocation.

Fr Duane Fernandez, Vocations Director, Diocese of Wollongong.

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: by appointment

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

15 May	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Glen & Arlene Correya John Ransom	Gabriel Mafi & Tess Vergara	Patricia Wicks
Altar Servers	Bernadette & Charlotte	Orly & Meliame	Frank & Ralph
Readers	Suzanne & Russell Binny	Irene Ravino, Lee Scales	Sheenalyn Rogan, Kavya Thalody
Refreshments	Joanne Manuel, Margaret Mc Dermott	Sarah & Steve Locke	XXXX
Flowers	Tracey Kaldasau	Church Vacuuming	Lorraine Bryant, Jackie Plasto
Counters	George Shiner, Irene Ravino	Foyer Cleaning	Mafi Family
CLOTW		Rebecca & Fev	

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 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.





Bulletin Notices

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.

Liturgy Committee meeting is on Friday 13th via zoom at 7 pm for those involved in Liturgical Ministries.

Readers in Service is held on the last Friday of the month at 7 via zoom.

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.

Bunnings BBQ: Our Fundraising team will be having a Bunnings BBQ at Gregory Hills next Sunday. If you can lend a hand please call the parish office and if you are able to donate some bbq supplies or soft drink please take them to the parish office.

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.

Diocese of Wollongong menALIVE Weekend 14-15 May at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 193 St Andrews Road, Varroville 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. Register via brochure or online www.dow.org.au/events
Enquiries: Paul Quirk (Parish Contact) 0412 216 589

Weekly Podcast On the Journey this week we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday with a great Gospel reflection and input from Mother Hilda Scott. Wonderful music this week too as we enter into the joy of the Easter Season. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au

Mary Help of Christians Walk for Australia/Walk for Life Friday 20 May : We walk to raise PRAYERS for Australia for all life issues, the day before the Federal Election. You are warmly welcome to join us in our tenth year, praying along the Kiama Coastal Walk to Gerringong (13km). B.Y.O Lunch, snacks, water, and hat. Support vehicle provided all the way, shuttle cars return pilgrims to Kiama.
BENEFITS: Mass. Prayer. Hymns. Exercise. Spectacular scenery. Joyful fellowship. Blessings in abundance.
START: 9:30am Kiama Catholic Church (*Holy Mass*)
FINISH: 3:30pm Gerringong Catholic Church (*Benediction, confession also available*). For information contact Sue Hill: 0435 336 195 or Gabriella De Battista, (02) 4261 2500

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

- Sinews of the Heart 6 Days: 6-12 May \$930/ Weekend: 6-8 May \$310 (Presenter: Paul White)
 - Men's Weekend - Journeys Homewards: 13-15 May 2022 \$310 (Presenter: Paul White)
 - 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

Holy Gospel according to John 10: 27-30

I give my sheep eternal life.

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life;
they will never be lost
and no one will ever steal them from me.
The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,
and no one can steal from the Father.
The Father and I are one.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Reflection by Greg Sunter

Shepherds in the first century did not have a particularly good reputation. Whilst the task itself was a responsible one, it was usually undertaken by hired help – usually young men or even boys. Being hired help, they had little allegiance to the flock and were generally regarded as basically untrustworthy and often accused of illicitly selling off the sheep's milk and even the occasional lamb. They lived for months at a time out in the hills with the sheep; often risking their lives in defence of their flock, yet still regarded with suspicion.

Shepherds were held in such low regard that they could not appear in court as a witness. Yet, despite this grim picture of shepherds, Jesus described himself as the *Good Shepherd*. With that one word, he acknowledged the reputation of shepherds but utterly dismissed it by describing himself as a shepherd – but a good shepherd. He chose to describe himself as the worst of all occupations but raised the status to unimpeachable heights.

In describing himself as the good shepherd, Jesus joined a distinguished list of biblical shepherds: Abraham, his son Isaac, and grandson Jacob were all shepherds; Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, when God appeared to him in the burning bush and revealed God's name; and the great King, David, began life as a humble shepherd-boy. So, despite the poor reputation of shepherds in Jewish society, some of the greatest leaders of the Jews began life as shepherds.

Today's gospel passage follows the famous 'good shepherd' passage in the gospel of John and continues on the image. The passage portrays Jesus as 'claiming' his flock; guaranteeing them not only safety but also eternal life. This oath of loyalty and commitment is all the stronger and more remarkable in light of Jesus' rehabilitation of the status of shepherds.

The final sentence of today's passage has Jesus declaring, 'The Father and I are one.' It seems a fitting way to finish the gospel reading for liturgical use in the Easter season. However, the passage in John's gospel continues on. Immediately upon hearing these words, the listening crowd grab rocks and are about to stone Jesus to death! They were horrified by his apparent blasphemy – claiming to be one with God. Such a bold declaration of oneness with the Father was no doubt used by the gospel writer to try to eradicate emerging questions about the divinity of Jesus.

You may have noticed that during the Easter season, we have been hearing exclusively from the gospel of John. But aren't we in Year C of the liturgical cycle – the year of Luke? Well, yes, but ... The gospel of the year is predominantly proclaimed during Ordinary Time. However, there is no Year of John. This gospel is read during the Easter season and at other specific feasts and seasons. As the synoptic gospels focus on the life and ministry of Jesus, the theological and metaphoric nature of John's gospel is much more suited to the post-resurrection season of Easter.

In the gospel passage, Jesus says of the sheep that belong to him, 'I give them eternal life.' He does not say, I give them the promise of eternal life. The message that comes through the gospel of John is clear that eternal life is not some future existence, but rather a new way of being in the here and now. But that is not to suggest that there is not an 'eternal' quality to eternal life. The gospel of John makes clear that eternal life begins in the here and now but has no end.