

**13 November 2022**

**Thirty Third Sunday in  
Ordinary Time Year C**



**Entrance Antiphon**

The Lord said: I think  
thoughts of peace and not  
of affliction.  
You will call upon me, and I  
will answer you,  
and I will lead back your  
captives from every place.

**First Reading** from the  
book of Malachi  
Mal 3:19-20

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Ps 97:5-9. R. see v.9

**Response:** The Lord  
comes to rule the earth  
with justice.

**Second Reading** from the  
second letter of St Paul to  
the Thessalonians

**Gospel Acclamation**  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see;  
your redemption is near at  
hand.  
Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Luke 21:5-19

**Communion Antiphon**  
To be near God is my  
happiness, to place my  
hope in God the Lord.

**Next Week**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King  
of the Universe Year C

**First:** 2 Sm 5:1-3

**Resp Ps:** 121:1-5. R. see v.2

**Second:** Col 1:12-20

**Gospel:** Lk 23:35-43

*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.*

## A Christian Soul

The passing of Queen Elizabeth II was headline news that captured the world's attention. Considered the longest reigning British monarch in history, the queen was admired and praised for her personal qualities by leaders and celebrities as well as by ordinary people everywhere.

News coverage of her historic leadership noted many grand, historic titles she held over her 70-year reign. And as her family and the world bid her farewell in Westminster Abbey, the archbishop of Canterbury commended Queen Elizabeth to God as he called her by one simple title, namely "Christian soul."

As the church's liturgical year draws to a close, Scripture reminds us of the end of time. God's word invites reflection on our most fundamental identity as Christians.

In the Gospel, Jesus reminds his disciples, and us, that this visible world will pass. Only God and our relationship to God will endure and be present at the end of time.

Today's Gospel passage begins with people admiring the grandeur and beauty of the Temple that rightly caused their admiration and pride in human achievement. Yet Jesus warns them, to their surprise, that even the glorious Temple would crumble and fall one day. Jesus then spoke of many signs and wonders that will accompany the end of the age. His words capture the general spirit of Scripture readings as the liturgical year draws to a close.

In these weeks before Advent, we are invited to reflect on the coming reign of God's kingdom at the end of time, in our hearts and in our lives today. We ponder how best to prepare for that final coming of Jesus among us.

Jesus goes on to speak of wars and insurrections as nations rise against other nations and natural events such as earthquakes, famines and plagues. Then, Jesus notes many awesome sights and mighty signs that will come from the sky.

Finally, Jesus warns the crowds that those who believe in his name must prepare for rejection, betrayal and persecution. Centuries later, some of the scenes described in this Gospel are echoed even now in the daily round of today's world events. In pondering this Gospel, we listen as Jesus gives his disciples, and us, a deeply consoling message of faith, hope and love. On many occasions, Jesus has told his disciples to "be not afraid!"

Now, Jesus invites his disciples to move beyond fascination with exterior signs, whether human-made or natural, to an interior state of mind and heart that rests peacefully in God's wisdom and providential care.

Moreover, Jesus assures his disciples, and us, that while, "you will be hated by all because of my name, ... not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

The fundamental identity of a follower of Jesus is to be a Christian. A Christian soul is anchored in perseverance and trust in God's love and mercy, in times of turmoil and challenge. This confidence in God gives us the courage to pray, "speak to me, Lord."



## Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri & Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon		
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		

### Contact us

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm

Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176

Email: [varroville@dow.org.au](mailto:varroville@dow.org.au)

Website: [varroville.dow.org.au](http://varroville.dow.org.au)

Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Assistant Priest: Fr "Sam" Ransom Rapirap OCD

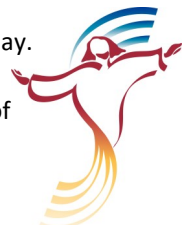
Parish Associate: Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

### Prayer intentions

**For the sick & homebound:** Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Lily Pereira, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys  
*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.*

**For our recently dearly departed:** Marita Waugh, Danilo Mercado, John McDermott, Benito Cossetini, Sanjaey Pillay.

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Angela Tomarchio and all our loved ones remembered on the tree of remembrance in the month of holy souls.  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.*



### Our Community: Rosters

20 November	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Monitors</b>	David & Bev	Laura & Nelia	Terry & Maree
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Bernadette & Ralph	Orly & Claire	Robert
<b>Readers</b>	Loretta & Gerard	Allan & Laura	Sheenalyn & Kavya
<b>Refreshments</b>	Beatrix & Madonna	Irene & Meg	
<b>CLOTW</b>		Fev & Cordelia	
<b>Flowers</b>	Vai & Lorraine	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Pavan & Kaur
<b>Counters</b>	Louis & Lina	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Parish Office staff

### Our Community



**The focus this weekend is the Property and Fundraising Committees.** The Property committee manages the maintenance of our building and grounds. They are also managing the foyer renovation project. It is a very small core group who meet monthly and will joyfully welcome new members. If you have a gift to share, have a trade or handy skills; have some time to garden or clean and maintain our buildings, please introduce yourself to a committee member after Mass or call the parish office.

The Fundraising team are primarily raising funds for the renovation project. The team meet monthly and organise the raffles, social events, bunnings bbqs. It is a very small group and will benefit from fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Please consider sharing your gifts with one of these teams by introducing yourself in the foyer after Mass or calling the parish office.



# Bulletin Notices

**Rosters:** All active ministers are requested to recommit and update their contact information in the foyer after Mass. The new rosters will be created for 6 months from the first weekend in December.

Ministry workshops will be held for new and existing members during the next few weeks. Induction, training and support will be offered for new and existing members of the ministries at the listed times. Please set aside the time to attend in your chosen ministry in the meeting room.

- **Flower arranging workshop** will be held on Thursday 17 November at 6pm.
- **Foyer cleaners and church vacuuming workshop** will be held on Saturday 26 November at 10.30am.
- **Money Counters workshop** will be held on Sunday 27 November at 10.30am.
- **Welcomers workshop** will be held after every Mass on the weekend of 19/20 November.
- **Refreshments workshop** will be held after every Mass on the weekend of 3 / 4 December.
- **The Readers Ministry meeting** is held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7pm via Zoom

**The Ordination to the Priesthood of Br Adalbert Imperial, ocd** will take place on Wednesday 14 December at 7.30pm in our church followed by a supper in the hall.

On Saturday 17 November at 9am Br Adalbert will celebrate with a Mass of Thanksgiving, followed by refreshments.

If you wish to contribute to the supper please put your name on the list in the foyer or send a message to the parish office. If you wish to contribute to the refreshments, please put your name on the list in the foyer or send a message to the parish office.

**Francisco Palau Appeal: Next weekend at all Masses we will conduct the Francisco Palau Appeal.**

**Advent reflection booklets this year are titled "Incarnate".** The books are available to purchase from the piety stall. The cost of the books is \$5. If you are interested in joining and Advent reflection group please contact the parish office.

**Men's Rosary Group** – The Parish of Rosemeadow invites other men from around the Diocese to join with them on the last Tuesday of the Month to pray the Rosary, commencing on Tuesday 29 November at 7pm in Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rosemeadow. Contact David on 0410 487 630 / [djbarrett85@gmail.com](mailto:djbarrett85@gmail.com).

**Roll up your sleeves; make a difference overseas** Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities abroad are asking for qualified and experienced Australians able to mentor their people in education, health, administration, trades, agriculture and more. Imagine yourself re-engaging your vocational passion in Africa, Asia or the Pacific. Since 1961 Palms Australia has been recruiting Australians able to offer mentoring that will allow overseas counterparts opportunities otherwise unattainable. Sharing your skills will strengthen the capacity of workers overseas to serve their communities for generations to come, long after you return home.

Communities in American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Zambia are seeking to fill a variety of roles. Enquire about those roles via [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) or by calling 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

**The Journey Weekly Podcast** On The Journey This Week: Fr Mark De Battista's Gospel reflection on life's last things: death, judgement, heaven, and hell. Mother Hilda says we are often looking in the wrong places to find God. Plus, Robert Falzon, Fr Brian Lucas and Deacon Josh Clayton. The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

**Social Justice Statement** We affirm the work being done by faith communities and organisations to support those who experience domestic and family violence and abuse, and to address the drivers and enablers of violence. We look for further ways in which we can all respond to spiritual violence. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

**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 may be viewed at <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>. Please pray for this ongoing process of prayer and discernment for the XVI Ordinary Synod.

**CatholicCare** - Have you thought about becoming a foster carer? We need foster carers who provide love, care, and support to help these children thrive and reach their full potential. Carers receive comprehensive support from the Fostering Futures team to ensure they have a full range of resources and networks to nurture their forever home. Our team have over 30 years' experience helping carers give vulnerable children a loving home and a brighter future. For more information, please call 0418 783 956, or email [fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au) or go to [www.catholiccare.dow.org.au](http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au)

**Social Justice Statement** - We believe that respect, dignity and justice, transformation and hope are possible. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

**menALIVE's—reFUEL Weekly Sharing and Journaling Sessions**—Every Tuesday 7.30pm; reFUEL is a weekly hour-long gathering of men every Tuesday evening on Zoom providing the chance to: break open the Sunday reading using a Lectio Divina style exercise "catch up" with great men from across Australia and New Zealand. gain strength and inspiration by the witness of other men & pray as a group for individual needs and the needs of others. Join via this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88436558468>

**Formed (Free for DoW Parishioners)** Join hundreds of other families around the Diocese of Wollongong in nurturing your faith at home, in your own time and at your own pace? FORMED.org is a large Faith Formation Resource library website containing thousands of faith formation documentaries, courses, movies, audio and books covering all

## Holy Gospel according to Luke 21:28

*Your endurance will win you your life.*

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



### Reflection by Pope Francis

Today's Gospel passage contains the first part of Jesus' discourse on the end times, [according to] the writing of Saint Luke (21:5-19). Jesus made this proclamation while standing before the Temple of Jerusalem, and was prompted by the peoples' words of admiration for the beauty of the sanctuary and its decorations (cf. v. 5). Then Jesus said: "the days will come when there shall not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down" (v. 6). We can imagine the effect these words had on Jesus' disciples. However, he did not want to insult the temple, but rather make it understood — to them as well as to us today — that human structures, even the most sacred, are fleeting, and we should not place our security in them. How many supposedly definitive certainties have we had in our lives, which later were revealed to be ephemeral! On the other hand, how many problems have appeared to be a dead end, and then were overcome!

Jesus knows that there are always those who speculate about the human need for safety. For this reason, he says: "Take heed that you are not led astray" (v. 8), and guard against the many false Messiahs who will appear (v. 9). Even today there are these! And, he adds, do not be frightened and bewildered by wars, revolutions, and disasters, since even these are part of the world's reality (cf. vv. 10-11). The history of the Church is rich with examples of people who withstood tribulations and terrible suffering with serenity, because they were aware that they were firmly in God's hands. He is a faithful Father, an attentive Father, who does not abandon his children. God never abandons us! We must have this certainty in our heart: God never abandons us!

Remaining firm in the Lord, in this certainty that he does not abandon us, walking in hope, working to build a better world, despite the difficulties and sad circumstances which mark our personal and collective existence, is what really counts; it is how the Christian community is called to encounter the "day of the Lord". It is precisely within this context that we want to place the undertaking that we have lived with faith during these months of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (2016), which concludes today in the Dioceses of the world with the closing of the Holy Doors in the cathedral Churches. The Holy Year impelled us, on the one hand, to fix our gaze toward the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God and, on the other, to build a future on this earth, working to evangelize the present, so we can make it a time of salvation for everyone.

In the Gospel Jesus encourages us to keep firmly in mind and in heart the certainty that God guides our history, and that he knows the final end of things and events. Under the Lord's merciful gaze, history unravels in flowing uncertainty, and weaves between good and evil. However, all that happens is contained within him. Let us pray to the Virgin Mary that she may help us, through the happy and sad events of this world, to firmly maintain hope in eternity and in the Kingdom of God. Let us pray to the Virgin Mary, that she may help us deeply understand this truth: that God never abandons his children!