

To Know, love and serve Jesus by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission 193 St Andrews Rd Varroville NSW 2566 W: varroville,dow.org.au E: varroville@dow.org.au T: 96037373 / 0434705176

15 January 2023 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



Entrance Antiphon

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 49:3. 5-6

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. v.8. 9 (R.) Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will .

Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Word of God became
flesh and dwelt among us.
He enabled those who
accepted him to become
the children of God.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to John 1:29-34

Communion Antiphon

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst. We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners & 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.

Cardinal George Pell

8 June 1941 - 10 January 2023

Australian Catholic Cardinal

He served as the inaugural prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy between 2014 and 2019, and was a member of the Council of Cardinal Advisers between 2013 and 2018.

Ordained a priest in 1966 and bishop in 1987, he was made a cardinal in 2003.

It was with great sadness that I learned of the unexpected death of Cardinal George Pell in Rome on Tuesday evening (Rome time). Cardinal Pell provided strong and clear leadership within the Catholic Church in Australia, as Archbishop of Melbourne and Archbishop of Sydney and as a member of the Bishops Conference for more than 25 yrs.

His many strengths were widely recognised, both in Australia and around the world, as his Vatican appointments as Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy and as a member of the Council of Cardinals, an advisory group to Pope Francis, testify.

Cardinal Pell's impact on the life of the Church in Australia and around the world will continue to be felt for many years. As we remember him and reflect on his legacy, I invite all Catholics and other people of goodwill to join in praying for Cardinal Pell, a man of deep and abiding faith, and for the repose of his soul.

Eternal rest give to George, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Contact us

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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	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 at 11am every Saturday

Healing Mass: First Saturday of each month at 9am

Adoration Prayer every Saturday at 9:30-10:30am after 9am Mass

Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm **Alliance of the 2 Hearts**: First Friday at 7.30pm

Prayer intentions

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

For our recently dearly departed: June Wrightman, Sandra Bastoli, Georg Hauswirth, Marites Sitjar, Ron Allen, Norly Tuyor, Lydia Fajardo, Lily Pereira, Pope Emeritus Benedict XV1, Cardinal George Pell.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Gardner, Hilda Young, John Peter Francis, Lio Feiloakitohi, Resse Mangulabnan, Florentine Menezes,

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

Bulletin Notices

Parish Pastoral Council is accepting Expressions of Interest for new members.

In our Parish we have 2 Leadership Committees who meet regularly to plan for and give direction to our Ministry Teams. To summarise the different roles:

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is responsible for creating and shaping and monitoring the overall Parish Vision, Mission and Pastoral Plan.

The Parish Leadership Team (PLT) is responsible for leading the overall implementation of the Pastoral Plan and prioritising delivery.

Ministry Leaders are responsible for leading the implementation of the Parish Vision, Mission and Pastoral Plan within a specific area of parish life.

The PPC members commit to serving on the Council for 2 years . The current council has just completed the 2 year cycle and so, Fr Shane is inviting interested parishioners to consider joining. There will be a leadership day on Saturday 21 January for new and existing members of the PPC. Anyone who would like more information should call the parish office and register their interest.

Children's Mass: Sunday 29 January at 9.30am: Our parish has a children's Mass on the 5th Sunday of the month (when there are 5 sundays in the month). The Children's choir will sing and the children will do the readings and offertory. If you would like your children and grandchildren to take an active part in the Mass, please contact the parish office.

The Family Fun Night that was postponed in October will be held on Saturday 11 February 2023 at 7pm in the parish hall. Tickets will be available for purchase during January and all those who purchased tickets previously will be contacted to confirm they are able to attend the new date.

Road Works on St Andrews Road: We have been advised that road works will be undertaken on the road outside the church from 18—25 January.

Property news: The Construction certificate has been issued for the proposed foyer, toilet and kitchen refurbishment. The Property Committee will be able to finalise the tenders. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient, and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue or restart your monthly gift at any time. Please visit https://dow.sh/parishgiving to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronically.

Holy Gospel according to John 1:29-34

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also

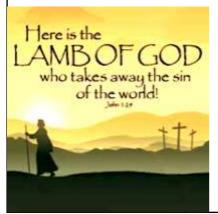


declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

What does it mean to be 'holy'? It does not mean 100% morally correct, or separate from the great mass of people: 'Holier than thou'! It means being so close to God that God's holiness rubs off. We are adopted members of the Holy Family, and something rubs off. Each one of us has heard at our baptism 'You are my beloved son/daughter'. We have been adopted into God's family and that brings us into close proximity to God. So, if St Paul were writing to us today, as he did to the Corinthians, this is how it would run: '... to the church of God that is in [your town], made up of those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.'



But, we are not alone. In a multitude of places there are people who have also been baptised and therefore share a certain family resemblance. How is the 'togetherness' held together? By being in communion with the Bishop of Rome, currently Pope Francis. We might pause for a moment to thank God that we are amongst the baptised who can receive St Paul's greeting: 'Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'