

29 January 2023
Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the
nations, to give thanks to
your holy name, and
make it our glory to
praise you.

First Reading from the
prophet Zephaniah
2:3;3:12-13

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

Response: Happy
the poor in spirit; the
Kingdom of heaven is
theirs!

Second Reading from the
first letter of St Paul to
the Corinthians 1: 26-31

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great
in heaven. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 5: 1-12

Communion Antiphon

Let your face shine on
your servant. Save me in
your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be
put to shame, for I call on

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.



Pope Francis Establishes 'Word of God' Sunday

In September 2019, Pope Francis instituted the celebration of Word of God Sunday when issuing the apostolic letter *Aperuit Illis*. The letter encouraged the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

The Catholic Church in Australia celebrates Word of God Sunday on the first Sunday in February each year -- February 5 in 2023. Many countries celebrate the occasion on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The Pope instituted this celebration because, he wrote,

"It is fitting, then that the life of our people be constantly marked by this decisive relationship with the living word that the Lord never tires of speaking to his Bride, that she may grow in love and faithfulness." The Scriptures themselves tell us that "the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword ..." (Hebrews 4:12). This tells us two things: first, that God wants to speak to us; second, that listening to God speak is the way for us to grow into our fullest potential.

In response to the call of Pope Francis to celebrate and study the Word of God, come and learn about **Lectio Divina** or divine reading - a method for praying with the Scriptures. During the seminar, the five steps of Lectio Divina will be covered. Even if you have learned about and practised Lectio Divina before, it is a chance to be refreshed by the Word of God as we pray with Scripture together.

There will be a morning and an evening option available.

Tuesday January 31 at 9:45 - 11 am or 7:30 - 9:00 pm in the parish meeting room. Please register via the parish office.

Contact us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

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Parish Office Ph:
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Assistant Priest:
Fr "Sam" Ransom Rapirap OCD

Office Hours:

Parish Associate:
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm
Email: varroville@dow.org.au
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Mass times

Sunday Mass times

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm

Weekday Mass times

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

Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm

Reconciliation at 11am every Saturday

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

Healing Mass: First Saturday: 9am

Alliance of 2 Hearts: First Friday: 7.30pm

Maori Mass: First Sunday: 2pm

Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even
months at 12pm

Philipino Mass: Third Sunday: 11.15am

Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday: 3pm

Children's Mass: Fifth Sunday at 9.30am

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Emmanuel Vella, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, 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 XVI, Cardinal George Pell.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Paul Thompson, Anthony Selvaraj, Mary Gardner, Hilda Young, John Peter Francis, Lio Feiloakitohi,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Bulletin Notices

Lectio Divina Seminar: Come and learn about *Lectio Divina* or divine reading- a method for praying with the Scriptures. During the seminar, the five steps of Lectio Divina will be covered. Even if you have learned about and practiced Lectio Divina before, it is a chance to be refreshed by the Word of God as we pray with Scripture together. There will be a morning and an evening option available.

Tuesday January 31 at 9:45 am or 7:30 pm in the parish meeting room. Please register via the parish office.

Friendship Group will commence on Tuesday 7 February for morning tea after the 9am Mass. All are most welcome to come along at that time.

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. Anyone who would like more information should call the parish office and register their interest.

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.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter: A course delivered by Father John Baldovin on DVD will be facilitated by Colleen. It will begin on Thursday February 9 and conclude on either March 16 or March 23 to allow us to respond to the needs of the group.

These will be on Thursday mornings between 10 and 12.30. [Ash Wednesday is on February 22 and Passion Sunday is on April 2.] Please register to the parish office.

The Journey, Weekly Podcast On The Journey This Week: In the Gospel reflection Fr Mark De Battista tells why the poor in spirit are blessed. Mother Hilda shares her experience of being told to have a nice day. Plus, Deacon Josh Clayton, Trish McCarthy, and Fr Mike Delaney. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 5: 1-12

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:



‘How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reflection by Dianne Bergant

To follow Jesus does not mean merely that one travels with him from place to place. It means that one learns from him, that one follows his manner of life and his way of thinking. To follow Jesus means to follow his example in the way he respects himself and other people, in his use of the things of the natural world. It means that one listens to what he says, and asks for an explanation when what he says is not understood. All of this requires that the disciple be a learner, one who can learn from the life of Jesus as well as from his teaching.

The first lessons that the disciples must learn are found in the beatitudes. The same lessons are placed before us, the modern-day disciples. The setting of Jesus’ teaching is so serene; a mountain apart, a teacher with his disciples gathered around him, simple statements that are coupled with glorious rewards. However, the reality of the lessons is in stark contrast with this tranquil scene. These beatitudes, these blessings call for profound inner transformation.

The gospel outlines the kind of person the disciple is to become; the psalm sketches the program to which the learner is called. The disciples of Jesus are not merely his followers; they also continue the work that he began. In whatever circumstance of life we find ourselves, as disciples of Jesus we work to sustain the good that is in the world and to transform whatever needs transformation.