

*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.*

**12 February 2023**  
**Sixth Sunday in Ord time**  
**Year A**



**Entrance Antiphon**

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to  
save me.

For you are my rock, my  
stronghold!

Lead me, guide me, for the  
sake of your name.

**First Reading**

from the the book of  
Ecclesiasticus Sir 15:15-20

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-  
34. R. v.1

**Response:** Happy are they  
who follow the law of the  
Lord!

**Second Reading** from the  
first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians 2:6-10

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little  
ones the mysteries of the  
kingdom.  
Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Matthew 5:17-37

**Communion Antiphon**

God so loved the world  
that he gave his Only  
Begotten Son,  
so that all who believe in  
him may not perish,  
but may have eternal life .

**Next Week**

7th Sunday in Ord Time  
Year A

## Lenten group Invitation

Dear friends in Christ,

If you have experienced a faith sharing small group then you have experienced the church with a small "c". When we come together in small groups to read the Good News, pray, reflect and share our own stories and experiences, then we are drawn into the ways the first disciples connected with Jesus.

This coming Lenten season there are a number of parishioners who are opening their homes to provide this experience for all: other parishioners as well as neighbours who may have become disconnected from Church with a capital "C". Church can be perceived by some as a large impersonal organisation so we exercise our Christian discipleship when we are truly present to others, listening, praying and sharing in small groups. There will also be groups meeting in the parish meeting room and via Zoom.

The Diocese of Wollongong provides a wonderful resource in a booklet for a parish subsidised cost of \$5, that includes daily readings. The group focus will be for each Sunday in Lent with Reflection commentaries and questions provided so all can be confident in knowing what is being discussed. Each area in our parish will have a Lenten group meeting and the leaders are hoping that those living nearby can come along, and invite a neighbour to also come along, to connect with each other in a welcoming, familiar environment.

Last Sunday was "Word of God" Sunday and we were reminded that the Good News is meant to be shared, we are called to be a light of hope and healing to others. As St Paul VI says " today's world listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if [it] listens to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." This may be one way that you can witness to, or discover, how God works in your life. Lenten groups are not for teaching they are for listening and each person discerning God's message to them: sharing can lighten life's worries, concerns , doubts. Please consider inviting others to join you when you join a group.

Groups meet for 90 minutes. Groups currently available are listed in the foyer and more will be formed based on demand. If you would like to lead / host a group please speak to either Donna Ransom 0413 429 557 or Diane Redmayne 0403 322 098. Also see website.



## 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:** 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, Marites Sitjar, Ron Allen, Norly Tuyor, Lydia Fajardo, Lily Pereira.

**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.*



### Our Community: Rosters

19 February	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Suzanne, Russell & Berna	Nelia & Laura	Particia & Matthew
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Berna, Ralph & Kenneth	Orly, Claire & Meliame	Vu
<b>Readers</b>	Richard & Tracey	Gabriel & Ofa	Gloria & Rachel
<b>Refreshments</b>	Suzanne & Myra	Tina & Ronda	
<b>CLOTW</b>		Rebecca & Asinate	
<b>Flowers</b>	Lorraine & Effie	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Tamisin
<b>Counters</b>	Vilma & Jeanette	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Suzanne

### Our Community

**Parish Vision: LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER: Opportunities:**

**Develop a deeper understanding of Lent and Easter**— A study group to satisfy your thirst! This group meets in the Parish Meeting Room on Thursdays at 10am till 12:30pm— newcomers are welcome each week. The topics to be covered this coming week are ***The Weekdays of Lent*** and ***The Spiritual meaning of Lent***. The sessions are facilitated by Colleen Haughey and are based on video presentations by Fr John Baldovin. All are welcome.



# Bulletin Notices

**Lenten Reflection Groups** Groups available are advertised on the parish website and church foyer or contact parish office or organisers Diane Redmayne 0403322098 or Donna Ransom 0413 429 557 . The meetings go for 90 minutes and run for 6 weeks beginning 19th Feb. The booklets will soon be available for sale at the piety stall or from the parish office at a cost of \$5 each.

**Reading Ministry:** Any recent or prospective members who have not attended the short initial training are invited to a brief meeting on Sunday 26th February from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. The expectations for Reading Ministers will be highlighted. Anyone who cannot attend on this day please contact Colleen to organise an alternate 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 and **The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)** is responsible for creating and shaping and monitoring the overall Parish Vision, Mission and Pastoral Plan.

**The Journey Weekly Podcast** On The Journey This Week: In the Gospel reflection Fr Slawek Plonka says it's more than just keeping the commandments; it's also avoiding sins of omission. Mother Hilda's story about Pope John XXIII. Plus, Deacon Josh Clayton, Trish McCarthy and Fr Mike Delaney . The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

**A vocation view**

"You have heard that it was said . . ." Jesus challenges His disciples to a deeper embrace of His teachings. Embrace His teachings with your whole heart, mind and soul. (Matthew 5:20-37) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

**Caritas Turkey** are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes. Thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster.

Visit [caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/](http://caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to our East Emergency Appeal.

**We're always here if you ever need...** These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes. To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email [intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au)

**Promoting Adult Faith Formation with two popular FREE Catholic Podcasts – Bible in a Year and Catechism in a Year**

• *Bible in a Year*

Last year, Ascension Press ran the Catholic Bible in a Year Podcast featuring Fr Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins. It was the world's number 1 Religious Podcast with over 250 million downloads. It will run again throughout 2023 – and while a new podcast is released daily, you can do it at your own pace by signing up at [www.ascensionpress.com/biy](http://www.ascensionpress.com/biy) and it's not too late to catch up or just work through at your own pace.

• *Catechism in a Year*

Following on from this success, Ascension Press has commenced the Catechism in a Year podcast. This podcast will slowly and prayerfully read through and break open the Catechism over 365 days. We have been promoting this formation amongst our SRE Catechists but would encourage you to promote it amongst the faithful of your Parish. It's not too late to catch up, and the daily podcasts can be listened to at your own pace – over two years or longer – if that suits you. It is available at [www.ascensionpress.com/ciy](http://www.ascensionpress.com/ciy)

**Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese**

Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at [dow.sh/stayingconnected](http://dow.sh/stayingconnected) or visit [dow.sh/weeklybulletin](http://dow.sh/weeklybulletin) to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes weekly.

**Social Justice Statement**

Loving God, you made each of us in your image and likeness. Open our eyes to recognise one another as equals, replacing domination and control, violence, and abuse, with mutuality, reciprocity, respect, and freedom. Help us to love like you. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

...Continued from back page: Jesus then tells his disciples not to swear, as swearing is a sign of the insecurity and duplicity with which human relationships unfold. God's authority is exploited so as to guarantee our human narrative. Instead, we are called to establish among ourselves, in our families and in our communities, a climate of clarity and mutual trust, so that we can be considered sincere without resorting to greater tactics in order to be believed. Mistrust and mutual suspicion always threaten peace!

May the Virgin Mary, a woman of listening and joyful obedience, help us to draw ever closer to the Gospel, to be Christians not 'of façade', but of substance! This is possible with the grace of the Holy Spirit, who allows us to do everything with love, and thus to wholly fulfil the will of God.

## Holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:17-37

*You Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you .*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.



'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

## Reflection by Pope Francis

Today's liturgy presents us with another passage of the Sermon on the Mount, which we find in the Gospel of Matthew. In this passage, Jesus wants to help his listeners to reread the Mosaic law.

What had been said in the ancient covenant was true, but that was not all: Jesus came to bring to fulfillment and to promulgate in a definitive way the Law of God, up to the last iota. He manifests its original aims and fulfils its authentic aspects, and he does all this through his preaching and, even more, with the offering of himself on the Cross. In this way, Jesus teaches how to fully carry out God's will, and he uses these words: with a 'righteousness' that 'exceeds' that of the scribes and the Pharisees. A righteousness enlivened by love, charity, mercy, and hence capable of fulfilling the substance of the commandments, avoiding the risk of formalism. Formalism: this I can, this I cannot; up to this point I can, up to this point I cannot.... No: more, more.

In particular, in today's Gospel, Jesus examines three aspects, three commandments [that regard] murder, adultery and swearing. With regard to the commandment 'you shall not kill', he states that it is violated not only by murder in effect, but also by those behaviours that offend the dignity of the human person, including insulting words. Of course, these insulting words do not have the same gravity and culpability as killing, but they are set along the same line, because they are the pretext to it and they reveal the same malevolence. Jesus invites us not to establish a ranking of offences, but to consider all of them damaging, inasmuch as they are driven by the intent to do harm to one's neighbour. Jesus gives an example. Insulting: we are accustomed to insulting; it is like saying "good morning". And that is on the same line as killing. One who insults his brother, in his heart kills his brother. Please do not insult! We do not gain anything....

Another fulfillment is generated by the matrimonial law. Adultery was considered a violation of man's property right over the woman. Instead, Jesus goes to the root of the evil. As one comes to killing through injuries, offences and insults, in this way one reaches adultery through covetous intentions in regard to a woman other than one's own wife. Adultery, like theft, corruption and all the other sins, are first conceived in the depth of our being and, once the wrong choice is made in the heart, it is carried out in concrete behaviour. Jesus says: one who looks with a covetous spirit at a woman who is not his own is an adulterer in his heart, has set off on the path towards adultery. Let us think a little bit about this: about the wicked thoughts that go along this line.

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