

**14 May 2023**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**



**Entrance Antiphon**

Proclaim a joyful sound  
and let it be heard;  
proclaim to the ends of the  
earth: The Lord has freed  
his people, alleluia.

**First Reading** from the Acts  
of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

**Response:** Let all the earth  
cry out to God with joy .

**Second Reading**

from the first letter of  
St Peter 3:15-18

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my  
words, and my Father will  
love them and we will come  
to them. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
John 14:15-21

**Communion Antiphon**

If you love me, keep my  
commandments, says the  
Lord, and I will ask the  
Father and he will send you  
another Paraclete, to abide  
with you for ever, alleluia.

**Next Week**

The Ascension of the Lord  
Year A

**First:** Acts 1:1-11

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Ps Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**Second:** Eph 1:17-23

**Gospel:** Mt 28:16-20

*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.*

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
FOR THE 57th WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
**Speaking with the heart**  
**“The truth in love” (Eph 4:15)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After having reflected in past years on the verbs “to go and see” and “to listen” as conditions for good communication, with this Message for the LVII World Day of Social Communications, I would like to focus on “speaking with the heart”. It is the heart that spurred us to go, to see and to listen, and it is the heart that moves us towards an open and welcoming way of communicating. Once we have practised listening, which demands waiting and patience, as well as foregoing the assertion of our point of view in a prejudicial way, we can enter into the dynamic of dialogue and sharing, which is precisely that of communicating in a cordial way. After listening to the other with a pure heart, we will also be able to speak following the truth in love (cf. Eph 4:15). We should not be afraid of proclaiming the truth, even if it is at times uncomfortable, but of doing so without charity, without heart. Because “the Christian’s programme” — as Benedict XVI wrote — “is ‘a heart which sees’”. A heart that reveals the truth of our being with its beat and that, for this reason, should be listened to. This leads those who listen to attune themselves to the same wave length, to the point of being able to hear within their heart also the heartbeat of the other. Then the miracle of encounter can take place, which makes us look at one another with compassion, welcoming our mutual frailties with respect rather than judging by hearsay and sowing discord and division.

Jesus warns us that every tree is known by its fruit (cf. Lk 6:44): “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure produces evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks” (v. 45). This is why, in order to communicate truth with charity, it is necessary to purify one’s heart.

Only by listening and speaking with a pure heart can we see beyond appearances and overcome the vague din which, also in the field of information, does not help us discern in the complicated world in which we live. The call to speak with the heart radically challenges the times in which we are living, which are so inclined towards indifference and indignation, at times even on the basis of disinformation which falsifies and exploits the truth.

As Christians, we know that the destiny of peace is decided by conversion of hearts, since the virus of war comes from within the human heart. From the heart come the right words to dispel the shadows of a closed and divided world and to build a civilization which is better than the one we have received. Each of us is asked to engage in this effort, but it is one that especially appeals to the sense of responsibility of those working in the field of communications so that they may carry out their profession as a mission.

May the Lord Jesus, the pure Word poured out from the heart of the Father, help us to make our communication clear, open and heartfelt.

May the Lord Jesus, the Word made flesh, help us listen to the beating of hearts, to rediscover ourselves as brothers and sisters, and to disarm the hostility that divides.

May the Lord Jesus, the Word of truth and love, help us speak the truth in charity, so that we may feel like protectors of one another.

## 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: Friday 14 April from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon		
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12

### 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:** Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, 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:** Luke Stephenson, Phyllis Cooper, Emmanuel Vella, Hugh Madden,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Remember our Mothers who are in heaven.

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



### Our Community: Rosters

21 May	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Tracey, Richard & Estela	Nelia & Laura	Terry & Maree
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Maria, Cassandra & Abigail	Orly, Fisiilose & Claire	Frank
<b>Readers</b>	Ryan & Bevina	Ronda & Tina	Kathy & Margaret
<b>Refreshments</b>	Beatrix & Madonna	Ofa & Charlotte	
<b>CLOTW</b>		Lee & Emma	
<b>Flowers</b>	Katalina	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Binny family
<b>Counters</b>	Irene, Ruby & Cynthia	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Wicks family

### Our Community

**Fundraising Cash Raffle:** We will be selling raffle tickets in our annual major raffle to be drawn at the parish feast day on 16 July. Tickets will be sold after Mass and books of tickets are available to take home and sell.

**Sacramental Preparation** dates are now available on the parish website. Preparation for First Holy Communion commences this weekend. Please keep the children who are preparing and their families in your prayers at this time.

**Baptism** for infants and children under the sacramental age is conducted on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Registration is essential at the parish office. Parents must attend a parent preparation session prior to the baptism date.

**Marriage** must be arranged through the parish office at least 6 months in advance. Couples wishing to marry must undergo a marriage preparation course.



# Bulletin Notices

## Alpha Reunion Night

**Tuesday May 16 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall**

If you have attended Alpha at OLMC, Varroville either as a guest and/or as part of the Alpha team, then this is the night for you. The Alpha Reunion Night is a chance for you to reflect on what has happened in your life since attending Alpha, reconnect with others who have also completed the Alpha journey and find out what's happening regarding Alpha in our parish this year. Please bring a plate for supper.

## Music is a joyful service. Come serve with the Music Ministry.

•musicians• singers • slides •

Do you Value Music at Mass? The challenge we face in our liturgy today is one that affects the whole parish. Our music ministry needs guitar and keyboard players specifically to meet the needs of the near future.

All Sunday Masses would benefit from another musician to provide another option to those that currently are committed, sometimes without any break, from week to week. Those who come forward will be well supported with initial formation, resources and tuition as needed, for as long as needed, before becoming "active" or "live". There are many current musicians who are willing to share their experience of leading the worship of God through song. The commitment to playing at Mass is based on availability. So if you know anyone who is a competent guitar or keyboard player, and who wants to belong to a friendly and supportive faith community, please encourage them to value this opportunity. For details contact the Parish office or approach the choir after mass.

**Let us all pray for the growth of this ministry as an expression of our thanksgiving to God.**

**The Rosters will finish at the end of May.** All current serving ministers will be invited to join the rosters for the next 6 months from June – November. All ministries will welcome new members. To sign up please contact the parish office or speak to one of the welcomers in the foyer after Mass today. Discernment and training will be provided if you are unsure where you can serve our parish community.

**Have you registered your family with our parish office.** If you have been attending Mass here and consider this to be your parish, please register your details with the parish office. Also, if your contact details have changed, please let us know. Knowing how many active families are in our parish helps us plan for the future.

**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.

**Anointed:** MGL Sisters Pentecost Intensive, 24-28 May; Deepen in your anointing as a Christian called to intentional relationship with the Trinity, radical discipleship, generously sharing the charismatic gifts and a life of mission and service

through inputs, discussion and practical workshops. Join us for 5 days live-in at Carmel House, Varroville. More info & register: [www.trybooking/cfbrf](http://www.trybooking/cfbrf).

## CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS:

Please join the Catholic Charismatic Renewal NSW & Parramatta in celebrating Pentecost 2023 with an uplifting, inspiring encouraging Holy Spirit afternoon of Praise & Worship, Testimonies, Hearing the Word of God, and Prayer Ministry. Date Saturday 27th May 2023, venue Servants of Jesus Centre 15 Park Road Seven Hills. Time 2pm-5.30pm. Enquiries 9810 2499 or email [ccrnsw.org.au](mailto:ccrnsw.org.au)

**The Journey, Weekly Podcast** This Week: Fr Rob Galea on the way life works through the Holy Spirit. Mother Hilda says we just need to find the good and concentrate on that. Plus, MenAlive Growing Good Men weekend, Trish McCarthy, and Deacon Josh Clayton. The Journey podcast is available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au).

## Prayer Breakfast Book Launch | Fr Tony Percy 27 May 7:30am

-9am Cost \$10; Micah House Evangelisation Centre, 35a Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown Join us for a Prayer Breakfast, commencing with morning prayer of the Church, followed by breakfast and a Q & A with Fr Tony Percy about his new book which espouses that nations need strong foundations if they are to endure. Resting on the work of David Kemp's five-volume political history, Fr Percy investigates the liberal intellectual roots of Australia's democracy and asks what went right and what went wrong. He shows that, by any reasonable measure, the last 120-odd years prove the roots of this nation are strong. Spots are limited for what will be an engaging morning including a hot breakfast. I would strongly encourage you to register now to secure your spot by clicking here; RSVP by Wed 24 May. Any enquiries: [cindy.oliver@dow.org.au](mailto:cindy.oliver@dow.org.au)

## Go Deeper in your Faith with popular & FREE Catholic Podcasts

• **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 signing up at [www.ascensionpress.com/biy](http://www.ascensionpress.com/biy) and it's not too late to catch up or simply work through at your own pace.

• **Catechism in a Year** This year, Ascension Press have commenced the Catechism in a Year podcast which will slowly and prayerfully read through and break open the Catechism over 365 days. It's not too late to catch up, and the daily podcasts can be listened to at your own pace. It is available at [www.ascensionpress.com/ciy](http://www.ascensionpress.com/ciy)

**The Chosen – A TV Series about Jesus** is a new 'free to view', series, now in its third season, that beautifully and creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and are receiving acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to watch [angelstudios.com/thechosen](http://angelstudios.com/thechosen) to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via The Chosen app (download) or for your Smart TV. Watch it on your own, or better still with family and friends.



## Holy Gospel according to John 14:15-21

*I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



## Homily by Pope Francis

Peace, love and joy are three key words which Jesus has entrusted to us, and it is the Holy Spirit who makes them a reality in our lives. In his farewell discourse, in the final days before going up to heaven, Jesus spoke of many things", but they all revolved around the same point, represented by three key words: peace, love and joy.

We recognise that Jesus said many times that the commandment is "to love God and to love thy neighbour". In a similar gospel passage (John 15:9-11), Jesus tells us something new about love: we are to abide in his love. In fact, the Christian vocation is to abide in God's love, i.e., to breathe in and live on this oxygen, to live on this air. Thus, we must abide in God's love.

But what is God's love like? The words of Jesus give us a clue: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you". It is therefore a love that comes from the Father, and the relationship of love between him and the Father becomes a relationship between him and us. Thus, he asks us to abide in this love that comes from the Father. The Apostle John will then go on and tell us that we must also give this love to others. Yet we must first "abide in love".

How are we to abide in love? Jesus says "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love". Therefore, "keeping the commandments" is "the sign that we abide in Jesus' love". This is a beautiful thing: I follow the commandments in my life! So much so that when we remain in love the commandments follow on their own, from love. Indeed, love leads us to fulfil the commandments quite naturally, for the root of love blossoms in the commandments, and the commandments, in the love that comes are the guiding thread which binds the chain that unites the Father, Jesus and us.

Let us also consider the word "joy". Jesus says: "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full". Joy is the sign of the Christian. A Christian without joy either is not a Christian or he is sick, his Christian health is not good...I once said that there are Christians with faces like pickled chilli peppers: always with red faces, with souls to match. And this is unseemly!. These are not Christians, for a Christian without joy is not Christian.

Indeed, for a Christian, joy is present even amid suffering, tribulation and persecution. We consider the martyrs like Saints Felicity, Perpetua and Agnes who went to their martyrdom as though they were going to their wedding. This great Christian joy safeguards peace and love". Three key words, then: peace, love and joy. However, we need to thoroughly understand their true significance; their meaning does not derive "from the world" but from the Father. It is the Holy Spirit who creates this peace; who creates this love that comes from the Father and the Son and which then comes to us; who gives us joy. Yes, it is the Holy Spirit...who is the great forgotten One in our lives. He is the "gift that gives us peace, that teaches us to love, and who fills us



*On this day, O beautiful Mother  
Let us wish you with all our love  
A very happy Mother's Day*

*From the depths of our hearts, we thank you  
For your unfailing love for all of God's children  
For your graceful patience  
And powerful intercessions on our behalf*

*Lead us to your son, Jesus  
That we may build with Him  
The Kingdom of love, joy and peace  
Amen*

