

**28 May 2023**  
**PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
**YEAR A**



**Entrance Antiphon**

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

**First Reading** from the Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-11

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

**Response:** Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

**Second Reading** from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to John 20: 19-23

**Communion Antiphon**

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

**NEXT WEEK**

**4 JUNE 2023**

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**  
**YEAR A**

**First Reading:** Ex 34:4-6. 8-9

**Responsorial Psalm**

Dn 3:52-56. R. v.52

**2nd Reading:** 2 Cor 13:11-13

**Gospel:** Jn 3:16-18

*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.*

**National Reconciliation Week 2023**  
**"Be A Voice for Future Generations".**

May 26 marks National Sorry Day remembering and acknowledging the hurt and trauma of the Stolen Generation, those forcibly removed from their families and communities.



**The Voice to Parliament**

As a vote on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament nears, Australia's bishops have encouraged Catholics to read and discuss the Uluru Statement from the Heart – the document from which the Voice proposal emerged.

During their plenary meeting in Sydney this week, (11/5/2023) the bishops considered how they might assist Catholics in preparing for the referendum to enshrine the Voice to Parliament in the Constitution, with a vote due in the second half of 2023.

While the bishops – based on a decision they took in May 2022 – will later this year issue their annual Social Justice Statement on the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australian society, they decided to issue a statement at this point in the referendum process.

The bishops argued that the fact First Nations Peoples have lived in Australia for many thousands of years but their custodianship of the land isn't mentioned in the Constitution is "an omission which needs to be rectified".

A Voice to Parliament isn't the only way to achieve that outcome, the bishops wrote, but it "is the way requested by those who gathered at the historic meeting at Uluru".

"This could be a significant step towards a more just and equitable Australia," the statement says. "We want to encourage all Australians to educate themselves as well as possible concerning the proposal to establish the Voice.

"This is an important moment in the history of the nation, and it can help us to move towards a deep and just reconciliation. It also offers a mechanism to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples."

The bishops call for a meaningful debate on the issue, acknowledging that "people may, in good faith, have differing concerns and perspectives". "We are an open democracy, and this is a moment to use our democratic institutions to produce a high-quality debate shaped by a genuine concern to do justice and bring healing to First Nations Peoples," they wrote.

"We ask those drafting the changes to the Constitution to work together in a spirit of cooperation, so that the proposal presented to the Australian people will appeal to a wide range of the population."

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart in 2021, with the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia taking the same step last year.

The bishops encouraged Catholic parishes, schools and agencies to arrange opportunities for people to read the document and have discussions about their response to its key messages. Read the full statement at: <https://bit.ly/BishopsVoice>

Access the Uluru Statement at: <https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/view-the-statement/>

## 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 Raporap 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:** Antonio Azevedo, Luke Stephenson, Roy Ward, Phyllis Cooper,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Ivan Srebrenovic, Jennifer Bishop, Noreen Farrell.  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



### Our Community: Rosters

4 June	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Glen & Arlene	Gerry, Margaret & Sr Jill	Betty & Boby
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Andrew, Sebastian, Eliarna	Orly, Claire, Meliame	Volunteer, Samantha, Nathan
<b>Readers</b>	Suzanne & Russell	Martin & Tina	Evangeline & Kavva
<b>Refreshments</b>	Josephine & Glenda	Steve & Sarah	
<b>CLOTW</b>		Rebecca & Fev.	
<b>Flowers</b>	Patricia, Asinate	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Pawan & Effie
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret McD & Aida	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Mafi family

### Our Community

**Parish Feast Day Preparation Meeting** was very well attended, Thank you to everyone who has offered to help prepare for our feast day. This weekend you can nominate what you can do on our feast day to assist. The Novena Masses will be held every night at 7.30pm commencing on Friday 7 July. More information will be available in the next few weeks and on our website. The next meeting will be held on Monday 5 June at 7.30pm. For more information please call Patricia on 0434 705 176.

**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.



# Bulletin Notices

**Friday Faith & Supper** is returning on Friday 2 June at 7pm. Sr Kerry MacDermott will present and facilitate a discussion about the upcoming Federal Referendum “The Voice”. Sr Kerry was awarded the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) – 2021 Non-Indigenous Service to Community Award*.

**State of Origin (Rugby League) is on 31 May at 7.30pm.**

The game will be on in the meeting room and you are challenged to come along and cheer for NSW (or QLD). BYO drinks and snacks.

**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. 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.**

**A vocation view – Pentecost Sunday** “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” The coming of the Spirit gives us the power and vitality to be a witness to Christ, no matter the cost. (John 20:21). If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

**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.

**On The Journey Weekly Podcast this Week:** Bishop Brian Mascord’s Pentecost reflection; the tongues of fire are out there in the congregation. Mother Hilda’s elephant story. Plus, Pat Keady, Trish McCarthy and Deacon Josh Clayton. The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au). The Journey podcast is available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au).

**The Rosters will finish at the end of May.** The new rosters will be emailed out. If you don’t receive a roster this week, please call the parish office. Paper copies are available by request. Thank you for your commitment to our Masses. If you are not on a roster and would like to join please contact the parish office for options.

**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.

**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. Go to [watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen](http://watch.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.

**Alpha Reunion Night feedback**

On May 16, 25 people gathered to reflect on their experience of attending Alpha in our parish over the last 5 years. During the evening we reflected on our experience of Alpha and what fruit it had borne in our life and in our parish. These included a greater sense of the saving love of Jesus and the infilling of the Holy Spirit and a greater desire for community, prayer and scripture.

Kathy Randall who has served on the Alpha team shares some of her thoughts about Alpha.

*“I forget how many Alpha’s I have done, but I have done quite a few. Every single time I get something new out of Alpha, and that has a lot to do with – not only the films that we watch or the songs that we sing (and I do get a lot of them)– but the people who come along and the discussions we have.*

*For me, to belong to a community of believers who share with each other and who care about each other is so important. I think Jesus thought so too. Let’s think about what He did. He gathered people together, He shared the Word with them, they questioned and discussed it, He cared for them, sometimes He fed them, He modelled - truly - “The Way”.*

*This is what also happens in Alpha. What a better way to show someone you know or love what it is you believe! Alpha is the tool by which our Parish would like to reach people and let them know about Jesus, His life and what it is that He offers us. This is exactly what Jesus asks of us – to spread the Good News.*

*Now, I have never actually been a guest at Alpha. I have always been on team. I have met many people from the Parish and beyond and have witnessed the difference Alpha makes to their lives – particularly on the Holy Spirit weekend. If you didn’t get to go to one of those during your Alpha, I highly recommend it. Such an enriching experience – but so too is being on team. I’m no expert, but I can welcome people and talk with them. Others show their support of Alpha by intercessory prayer; setting up the hall when needed; helping with catering when needed etc.*

*Pope Francis reflects about the gospel wherein Jesus tells us to spread the good news: “Christ’s presence in the world is mediated by those who believe in him and proclaim him – and that our mission is to witness and live the gospel in every environment with enthusiasm and courage” – and I’ll add, hopefully, a smile.”*

For further information on Alpha in our parish, head to the parish website, [www.varroville.dow.org.au/alpha/](http://www.varroville.dow.org.au/alpha/)

**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. It is available at [www.ascensionpress.com/ciy](http://www.ascensionpress.com/ciy)

● **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

## Holy Gospel according to John 20: 19-23

*As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.*

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven:

for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



### Homily by Pope Benedict

(12 June 2011, Exerpt)

The Gospel passage then offers us a marvellous image to clarify the connection between Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Father: the Holy Spirit is portrayed as the breath of the Risen Jesus Christ (cf. Jn 20:22). Here the Evangelist John takes up an image of the creation narrative, where it says that God breathed into the nostrils of man the breath of life (cf. Gen 2:7). The breath of God is life. Now, the Lord breathes into our soul the new breath of life, the Holy Spirit, his most intimate essence, and in this way welcomes us into God's family. With Baptism and Confirmation this gift was given to us specifically, and with the sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance it is continuously repeated: the Lord breathes a breath of life into our soul. All the sacraments, each in its own way, communicate divine life to human beings, thanks to the Holy Spirit who works within them.

In today's liturgy we perceive another connection. The Holy Spirit is Creator, he is at the same time the Spirit of Jesus Christ, but in such a way that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one God. And in the light of the First Reading we may add: the Holy Spirit gives life to the Church. She is not born from the human will, from man's reflection, from his ability or from his organizational capacity, if this were so she would have ceased to exist long ago, as happens with all that is human. Instead the Church is the body of Christ, enlivened by the Holy Spirit. The images of wind and fire, used by St Luke to portray the coming of the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 2:2-3), evoke Sinai, where God revealed himself to the People of Israel and granted it his Covenant. "Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke", we read in the Book of Exodus, "because the Lord descended upon it in fire" (19:18). Indeed Israel celebrated the 50th day after the Passover, after the commemoration of the flight from Egypt, as the feast of Sinai, the feast of the Covenant. When St Luke speaks of tongues of fire to represent the Holy Spirit, this Old Covenant is called to mind, established on the basis of the Law received by Israel on Sinai. Thus the event of Pentecost is represented as a new Sinai, as the gift of a new Covenant in which the Covenant with Israel was extended to all the peoples of the earth, in which all the barriers fall from the old Law and its heart appears holier and more unchangeable; in other words as love, which the Holy Spirit himself communicates and spreads, a love that embraces all things.

At the same time the Law is expanded, it is opened, even though it becomes simpler: it is the New Covenant which the Spirit "writes" in the hearts of all who believe in Christ. The extension of the Covenant to all the peoples of the earth is represented by St Luke with a list of peoples, that is considerably long for that epoch (cf. Acts 2:9-11). With this we are told something most important: that the Church was catholic from the very outset, that her universality is not the result of the successive inclusion of various communities. Indeed, from the first moment the Holy Spirit created her as the Church of all peoples; she embraces the whole world, surmounts all distinctions of race, class and nation; tears down all barriers and brings people together in the profession of the triune God. Since the beginning the Church has been one, catholic and apostolic: this is her true nature and must be recognized as such. She is not holy because of her members' ability but because God himself, with his Spirit, never ceases to create her, purify her and sanctify her.

Lastly, today's Gospel presents these beautiful words to us: "the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord" (Jn 20:20). These words are profoundly human. The Friend lost is present once again and those who were formerly distraught rejoice. But it says far more. For the lost Friend did not come from just anywhere but from the night of death; and he passed through it! He is not just anyone; indeed he is the Friend and at the same time the One who is the Truth that gives life to men and women; and what he gives is not just any kind of joy but joy itself, a gift of the Holy Spirit. Yes, it is beautiful to live because I am loved and it is the Truth who loves me. The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Today, at Pentecost, these words are also addressed to us, because in faith we can see him. In faith he comes among us and to us too he shows his hands and his side and we are glad. Therefore let us pray: Lord, show yourself! Make us the gift of your presence and we shall have the most beautiful gift: your joy. Amen!