

04 June 2023
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
YEAR A



Entrance Antiphon

Blest be God the Father,
and the Only Begotten Son
of God, and also the Holy
Spirit, for he has shown us
his merciful love.

First Reading from the book
of Exodus 34:4-6. 8-9

Responsorial Psalm

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

Response:

Glory and praise for ever!

Second Reading from the
second letter of St Paul to
the Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit: to God
who is, who was, and who is
to come. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
John 3:16-18

Communion Antiphon

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

NEXT WEEK

11 JUNE 2023

**THE MOST HOLY BODY AND
BLOOD OF CHRIST YEAR A**

First Reading:

Dt 8:2-3. 14-16

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 147:12-15. 19-20. R. v.12

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 10:16-17

Gospel: Jn 6:51-58

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.

‘God loved the world so much he gave his only Son.’

Mary Coloe PBVM

As a child I learnt about the Trinity in terms of three persons in one God – a short summary of a very complex history of debate about God, Jesus and Spirit. John’s Gospel says this with much greater simplicity in the one word ‘love’. Too often the language of ‘trinity’ begins to sound mathematical: three in one, one in three. Trinity is a way of trying to put words on an unfathomable mystery of the inner life of God. A life we could never have imagined, except it was first experienced. Within Judaism, there were a number of ways of naming the Holy One – Elohim, the generic term for God; YHWH the personal name and experience of God in Israel. The ancient writers of Israel constantly struggled to name the paradox of a God who was utterly transcendent, and yet a God who was present to them. To maintain the sense of God’s transcendence, when they spoke of the immanent experience of God various groups used different words. The Prophets said, ‘The Word of the Lord came to me,’ and ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me’. The wisdom teachers spoke of Holy Wisdom being present in the order and elegance of the natural world as well as in human history. Later the rabbis used an Aramaic word ‘Shekinah’ as a way of speaking of the presence of God within the cosmos. The life of Jesus of Nazareth and his ongoing risen life within the Christian community stretched the theological concepts and language of Israel to find a new way of naming God. Trinity is the distinctively Christian way of naming our experience of God as a communion of life and love.

The very nature of God is to love – to reach out to another in relationship. In this conversation with Nicodemus Jesus describes why he has come into the world (Greek: *kosmos*); for love of this extraordinary cosmos God gave us a most precious gift in Jesus. John’s Gospel makes the promise that those who receive this gift in faith will become children of God (John 1:12) which is this Gospel’s way of describing salvation. This means of course that you and I are invited to be drawn into the very heart of God, to be drawn into the Trinity as part of God’s own household.

Earlier in the conversation Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about being born again in water and Spirit – a phrase Nicodemus could not understand. The Johannine community understood that with the gift of the Spirit they were in a sense reborn into a new quality of life. John calls this eternity life, which is a way of naming the life God lives in eternity. I use the translation ‘eternity’ life, rather than ‘eternal’ life to convey the concept that we are reborn not into ordinary human life that goes on forever, but into a new way of existence. We are born into the family of God, able to call God ‘Father’ and each other sisters and brothers. In the first reading, this is what Moses begs for when he asks, ‘adopt us as your heritage’. If you want a living example of the Trinity look at a family where children participate in the life and love of their parents.

Today, as we celebrate the feast of the Trinity, we are not celebrating an esoteric doctrine from the past; we are celebrating One who is a dynamic relationship inviting us to be participants in this dynamism.



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
 Website: 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: 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

11 June	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Suzanne, Russell & Berna	Sarah, Violet & Martin	Geoff & Margaret
Altar Servers	Michelle, Austin & Christian	Orly, Fisiilose & Claire	Vu
Readers	Loretta & Gerard	Gabriel & Ofa	Gloria & Fev
Refreshments	Tracey & Richard	Karen, Katalina & Tess	
CLOTW			
Flowers	Tracey & Richard	Church Vacuuming	Tess
Counters	Christine, Cira & Jacinta	Foyer Cleaning	Estela & Allan

Our Community

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.

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

First Holy Communion will be next weekend at all the Masses

Please keep the children who are receiving their First Holy Communion and their families in your prayers this week.

Feast Day Meeting on Monday 5 June at 7.30pm.

Friendship Group is on Tuesday 6 June at 9.30am.

Come along after Mass for morning tea with the liveliest group in our parish.

New rosters are available; The new rosters have been emailed out and are available on our website. 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.

Meditation Workshop with our Carmelite Missionary Sisters on Friday 16 June at 7.30pm.

You can register by calling 0468 462 814

Position Vacant: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre (247 St Andrews Rd, Varroville), is a busy and growing hospitality business on the doorstep of the Parish. A position has recently opened up on the kitchen team for a new staff member. We are interested in either experienced cooks/chefs or parishioners who are interested in cooking and would be willing to be trained for the position. Mt Carmel Retreat Centre offers a supportive work environment and is also very child friendly. If you are interested please text or call the Manager (John Ransom) on 0435 857 690.

Petition to Save Calvary Hospital: Bishop Mascord encourages you to sign the petition and write to the Prime Minister in order to Save Calvary Hospital in Canberra, which the ACT Government is seeking to forcibly acquire, ignoring their own legislative processes. This is an issue that while impacting a faith institution on this occasion, sets a terrible precedent for the whole federation, including potentially for schools. Share this request to urgently act with your family and friends, to let the ACT and Federal governments know that we want our Catholic hospitals to stay Catholic. Urgently write to the Prime Minister <https://www.pm.gov.au/contact> - your-pm to seek his intervention to stop this from occurring. Please sign the petition <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/petition-to-save-calvary-hospital-bruce/>

CatholicCare Fostering Futures team are urgently looking for a forever home for two siblings, Liam* and Sofia* aged 10 & 8 years. Liam is an outgoing & active boy who loves to joke around and makes friends easily. He enjoys playing with Lego, fishing, being outdoors, riding his bike, watching movies, drawing and colouring in. His sister Sofia is a resilient, confident and kind young girl who loves playing with her friends, riding her bike, gymnastics and writing stories. Liam and Sofia are looking for a forever home with carers who are kind, loving and patient and who can give them safety, family and a sense of belonging. You can find out more by calling 0418 783 956, email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or go to <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au> more information. *names have been changed for privacy.

UOW Catholic Society Winter Retreat St Mary Star of the Sea,

Gerrington 9:00am-4:00pm Saturday 10 June 2023 | Cost \$10.

Are you aged 18-35 and keen to refresh your faith? UOW Catholic Society invites you to come along for our Winter Day-Retreat! It's a day for you to take some time out of the busy schedule, to be still, and refresh your relationship with God. There will be some short talks, opportunities for personal prayer (or study if you need to). Mass, Reconciliation, spiritual conversation, and adoration will be available, and light lunch provided. RSVP: 5 June 2023 UOW Catholic Society Winter Retreat Sign-Up

The Journey Podcast this Week: Fr Daniel McCaughan on ways to contemplate the mystery of the Trinity. Mother Hilda tells how to invite God into your darkness. SPECIAL INTERVIEW Fr Tony Percy explains the reasons behind the Calvary Hospital Canberra petition. The Journey podcast is available at www.jcr.org.au.

A vocation view - The Most Holy Trinity "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." God's love is powerful and all consuming, responding to this Love leads to a life-changing encounter! (John 3:16). If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

Do you want to work for the mission of the Church by helping people ensure that our Diocese is a safe place for people to encounter Christ? Do you want to be a bearer of Christ's love by ensuring that our Diocese is a place where people who have been hurt can feel safe and heard? If you answered yes to these questions, you may be interested in joining the Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding (OPSS). OPSS is looking for an organised and articulate professional to join the team as a Safeguarding (Project Support) Officer. The successful applicant will represent and support OPSS in carrying out the education, compliance and survivor engagement projects in the Diocese. The Safeguarding (Project Support) Officer will be part of a team that assists the agencies and ministries in the Diocese to safely carry out the evangelising mission of making Jesus known and loved in the Illawarra, Macarthur, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands. "let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth" - 1 John 3:18; If you are interested in finding out more about this position, please email safeguarding@dow.org.au and the Application Pack will be emailed to you.

Compass: Catholic Family Camping Weekends for 2023; 27-29 October 2023 (Save the Date); Guntawang Catholic Youth Centre, Sheehys Creek Road, Oakdale (15 minutes from Picton). Stay in your tent, camper or van – with dorm accommodation also an option. The weekend is designed to unite families of every age, including couples with or without children, single parents with their children, and grandparents, all to celebrate the incredible gift of family life. We will be nurtured by each other's company and emboldened as families to witness to living life to the full in our world, a key hope articulated by Pope Francis for families. There will be shared meals, games, music, prayer, and Sunday Mass led by Bishop Brian Mascord.

Holy Gospel according to John 3:16-18

God sent his Son to save the world through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

‘God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son.’
The Gospel of the Lord!



Homily by Pope Benedict

(11 June 2017)

The Bible readings for this Sunday, feast of the Most Holy Trinity, helps us to enter into the identity of God. The second reading presents the departing words that Saint Paul bids to the community of Corinth: “the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you” (2 Cor 13:13). This — as we say — “blessing” of the Apostle is the fruit of his personal experience with God’s love, that love which the Risen Christ revealed to him, which transformed his life and “impelled” him to take the Gospel to the peoples. Beginning from his experience of grace, Paul could exhort Christians with these words: “... rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another”. The Christian community, even with all its human limitations, can become a reflection of the communion of the Trinity, of its kindness, of its beauty. But this — just as Paul himself testifies — necessarily passes through the experience of God’s mercy, of his forgiveness.

It is what happens to the Hebrews in the Exodus journey. When the people break the covenant, God presents himself to Moses in the cloud in order to renew that pact, proclaiming his own name and its meaning. Thus he says: “the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity” (Ex 34:6). This name implies that God is not distant and closed within himself, but is Life which seeks to be communicated, is openness, is Love which redeems man of his infidelity. God is “merciful”, “gracious” and “rich in charity” because he offers himself to us so as to fill the gap of our limitations and our shortcomings, to forgive our mistakes, to lead us back to the path of justice and truth. This revelation of God is fulfilled in the New Testament thanks to the Word of Christ and to his mission of salvation. Jesus made manifest the face of God, in substance One and in persons Triune; God is all and only Love, in a subsistent relationship that creates, redeems and sanctifies all: Father and Son and Holy Spirit.

Today’s Gospel “sets the stage” for Nicodemus, who, while playing an important role in the religious and civil community of the time, has not ceased seeking God. He did not think: “I have arrived”; he did not cease seeking God; and now he has perceived the echo of His voice in Jesus.

In the night time dialogue with the Nazarene, Nicodemus finally understood that he had already been sought and awaited by God, that he was personally loved by Him. God always seeks us first, awaits us first, loves us first. He is like the flower of the almond tree; thus says the Prophet: “It blooms first” (cf. Jer 1:11-12). In fact Jesus speaks to him in this way: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (Jn 3:16).

What is this eternal life? It is the immeasurable and freely given love of the Father which Jesus gave on the Cross, offering his life for our salvation. And this love with the action of the Holy Spirit has shined a new light on the earth and into every human heart that welcomes him; a light that reveals the dark corners, the hardships that impede us from bearing the good fruits of charity and of mercy.

May the Virgin Mary help us to enter ever deeper, with our whole being, into the Trinitary Communion, so as to live and witness to the love that gives meaning to our existence.



FEAST DAY UPDATE: 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.