

11 June 2023
**THE MOST HOLY BODY
AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**
YEAR A



Entrance Antiphon

He fed them with the finest
wheat and satisfied them
with honey from the rock.

First Reading from the book
of Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16

Responsorial Psalm

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

Response:

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

Second Reading from the
first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians 10:16-17

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from
heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will
live for ever. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
John 6:51-58

Communion Antiphon

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

NEXT WEEK 18 JUNE 2023
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary
First Reading: Ex 19:2-6
Resp Ps: Ps 99:2-3. 5. R. v.3
Second Reading: Rom 5:6-11
Gospel: Mt 9:36 – 10:8

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.

We offer congratulations and blessings to the 23 children
receiving the body of Christ for the first time today.
Welcome to all the visitors to our parish today.

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST: The Maternal Jesus

I don't know whether you recall some controversy a little while ago about mothers breastfeeding in public. I once saw a young mother discreetly breastfeeding her baby during Mass, and thought ...

'What a wonderful thing!' There could not be a better illustration, a better acting out of what Jesus says in today's Gospel: 'The one who eats me will live.'

For that is what the mother is offering as a gift to her infant: 'Come, I offer my body to nourish you to give you life. Eat of me.' Of course, even mothers who find they cannot breastfeed offer the same gift for nine months as the baby draws its life from the mother's body in the womb.

This is a good analogy for what Our Lord was teaching in today's Gospel. Jesus offers his body to nourish us in a way which shares his life with us: he gives us His Body to eat.

I also thought of an article written by a young mother. 'The whole messy anarchy of newborns is inextricably linked to their miraculousness. These tiny missives from eternity come swaddled in equal parts love and grace and sick. Caring for a newborn I am astonished we ever let ourselves be tricked into a false reverence for transcendence: here at the foundation of all our lives is a deeply immanent experience of the sacred. Where then is the boundary between the holy and profane?'

The boundary between the holy and the profane. This is also a question with Holy Communion: bread and wine, body and blood of Christ. Not a molecule of the bread or wine changes. The 'bread of life' remains bread in appearance, the 'spiritual drink' remains wine in appearance.

But the underlying reality changes. What is really present is the risen Lord Jesus Christ whose glorified body is able to be present wherever the sacrament is celebrated. As St Pope John Paul II so wonderfully said: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

And so the promise of today's Gospel can be fulfilled: 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them.' Notice once again the very maternal language. The risen Lord truly abides in us, we truly abide in the risen Lord. This is as intimate as the baby dwelling in the womb of its mother.

Perhaps mothers are best placed to understand this. The Saviour of the World, the Lord of the Universe, dwells in my body and I dwell in His glorified body. What a union. What a communion. What a Holy communion!

And moreover, it is a Holy communion which is both a present reality and a foretaste and promise about our place in God's future: 'The one who eats this bread will live forever.' So, after Holy Communion, we can say and pray with St Thomas Aquinas a true Eucharistic prayer of thanksgiving:

'Oh Sacred Banquet in which Christ is received and a pledge of future glory is given to us.' (Repeat)

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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 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: Carmel Pillai, Antonio Azevedo, Luke Stephenson, Roy Ward, Phyllis Cooper.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Lyn, Frazer Toweel, Raymond Potter, Ivan Srebrenovic,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

18 June	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Tracey, Richard & Estela	Gabriel, Ofa & Volunteer	Terry & Maree
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana & Elijah	Orly, Luisa & Carlos	Frank
Readers	Suzanne & Margaret	Allan & Laura	Kathy & Margaret
Refreshments	Emmarie, Suzanne & Berna	Nelia, Anita & Tina	
CLOTW		Sarah & Asinate	
Flowers	Vai & Jacinta	Church Vacuuming	H & C Tamisin
Counters	Richard & Michael	Foyer Cleaning	Tess

Our Community

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.

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.

Meditation Workshop with our Carmelite Missionary Sisters on Frid 16 June at 7.30pm. You can register by calling 0468 462 814

Bible study and discussion group will be commencing in our meeting room every Monday morning after the 9.am Mass. Bring your bible and contact Nellie for more information



Bulletin Notices

Vinnies Clothing Collection Day in Campbelltown: Due to recent floods our regional stores are struggling for donations to support the Vinnies stores this winter. If you have good clothing that you don't wear anymore, and it is something you would give to a friend to wear, why not give it to Vinnies to help those in need. **On Saturday 24 June, from 8am—1pm, take your items to Campbelltown City Council Community Recycling Centre on Hephher Road, Campbelltown**

The Journey, 10 June 2023 – Weekly Podcast This Week: Mons. Graham Schmitzer's Gospel reflection on Corpus Christi and the new covenant. Mother Hilda is seeing patterns in everything around her. Plus, Fr Mike Delaney, Trish McCarthy and Fr Dave Callaghan. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

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.

Carmelite Retreat Program: July 1, 2023 • 10am - 4pm.
"Remain in Me, pray in Me" (St. Elizabeth of the Trinity)
We will explore through St. Elizabeth's writings, our search for the hidden God and remaining in His presence in the events of our daily life. Presented by Matthew Delasey, OCDS
<https://mtcarmel.com.au/carmelite-retreat-program>
Go to the website and click on any retreat to learn more about it and to register.

Address: **247 St Andrews Road, Varroville NSW**
Contact: bookings@mtcarmel.com.au / **0435 857 690**
Reception Hours: Monday – Friday: 9am – 5pm
WHERE: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville; **COST:** \$30 (Please BYO lunch)

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/>

A vocation view - The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (6/11/23) "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." Even before the beginning of your life, God has set out a plan for your ultimate happiness. Have courage to embrace that plan. (Jeremiah 1:4) If you want to talk about your

discernment, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

Sydney iSTAND Weekend Against the Tide 2023 Friday 30 June 5.30pm – Sunday 2 July 1pm; Mount Carmel House 365 St Andrews Rd Varroville; Cost: \$150 registration (inclusive of all food and activities); Contact: Antoinette Collins 0428 771 744; Registration: ytm.com.au/istandevents

NSW Catholic Charismatic Renewal "Fan into Flame" Formation Day Saturday, 17 June 2023, Sacred Heart Church, Marian Hall, Pymble; Speakers: Joe and Julie Chircop and a ministry team from Servants of Jesus Community.
Topic 1: The Importance of Bringing the Baptism in the Holy Spirit to Others; Topic 2: Releasing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit/ Workshops. For registration : email@ccrnsw.org

Men's Rosary Group – an Invitation to all Men; Men from the Parish of Rosemeadow invite other men from around the Diocese to join with them on the last Tuesday of the Month to pray the Rosary, commencing at 7pm in Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rosemeadow. Such men's groups are, at this time, springing up around the world to honour Our Lady and to pray for the Church and the World. Mass is celebrated at 6:30pm on Tuesday evening's and you are welcome to also attend this prior to the Rosary if you wish. For more information, please contact David at djbarrett85@gmail.com or phone: 0410 487 630.

Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours; Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development. Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567. WEB: www.palms.org.au Palms Australia

Caritas Turkey is 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 the disaster. Visit <https://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. Or contact Kerrie Hennessy wollongongcaritas@gmail.com

St Padre Pio Retreat Day at St Columbkille's Parish Centre and Church 3:00pm to 7:00pm Saturday 9 September 2023; Fr Patrick Vaughan is hosting a retreat afternoon where people can come together for prayer and fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join. During this retreat, a video on St Padre Pio will be shown. After the video, there will be an afternoon tea before moving on to devotions in the Church. Participants will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Anointing and Reconciliation before attending the Vigil Mass with the Corrimal parish community.

Holy Gospel according to John 6:51-58

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink .

Jesus said to the Jews: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Homily by Pope Francis

(18 June 2017)

Today, to each of us, the word of God says, Remember! Remembrance of the Lord's deeds guided and strengthened his people's journey through the desert; remembering all that the Lord has done for us is the foundation of our own personal history of salvation. Remembrance is essential for faith, as water is for a plant. A plant without water cannot stay alive and bear fruit. Nor can faith, unless it drinks deeply of the memory of all that the Lord has done for us. "Remember Jesus Christ".

Remember. Memory is important, because it allows us to dwell in love, to be mind-ful, never forgetting who it is who loves us and whom we are called to love in return. Yet nowadays, this singular ability that the Lord has given us is considerably weakened. Amid so much frantic activity, many people and events seem to pass in a whirl. We quickly turn the page, looking for novelty while unable to retain memories. Leaving our memories behind and living only for the moment, we risk remaining ever on the surface of things, constantly in flux, without going deeper, without the broader vision that reminds us who we are and where we are going. In this way, our life grows fragmented, and dulled within.

Yet today's Solemnity reminds us that in our fragmented lives, the Lord comes to meet us with a loving "fragility", which is the Eucharist. In the Bread of Life, the Lord comes to us, making himself a humble meal that lovingly heals our memory, wounded by life's frantic pace of life. The Eucharist is the memorial of God's love. There, "[Christ's] sufferings are remembered" (II Vespers, antiphon for the Magnificat) and we recall God's love for us, which gives us strength and support on our journey. This is why the Eucharistic commemoration does us so much good: it is not an abstract, cold and superficial memory, but a living remembrance that comforts us with God's love. A memory that is both recollection and imitation. The Eucharist is flavoured with Jesus' words and deeds, the taste of his Passion, the fragrance of his Spirit. When we receive it, our hearts are overcome with the certainty of Jesus' love. In saying this, I think in particular of you boys and girls, who recently received First Holy Communion, and are here today in great numbers.

The Eucharist gives us a grateful memory, because it makes us see that we are the Father's children, whom he loves and nourishes. It gives us a free memory, because Jesus' love and forgiveness heal the wounds of the past, soothe our remembrance of wrongs experienced and inflicted. It gives us a patient memory, because amid all our troubles we know that the Spirit of Jesus remains in us. The Eucharist encourages us: even on the roughest road, we are not alone; the Lord does not forget us and whenever we turn to him, he restores us with his love.



FEAST DAY UPDATE: What is a Novena?

In our parish we are coming together each day for a Novena of Masses at 7:30pm from Friday 7th July until the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Mass on Sunday 16th July at 10am.

If you're also wondering, what does the word "novena" mean, the word "novena" comes from the Latin word for nine. Traditionally, there are nine days of prayer in a Catholic novena. Why nine days specifically? The Bible has the answer. Crack open the Acts of the Apostles. It begins when Our Lord ascended into Heaven. After the disciples watched him depart and were caught staring at the sky by an angel who asked the world's most obvious question: "Why are you looking up?" they all gathered in the upper room to pray.

"All these were persevering with one mind in prayer with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren." (Act 1:14) They remained there together until finally, on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came. He filled them with grace and hope and courage. They were literally on fire—so much so that, that very day they converted 3,000 souls to Christianity. Ever since then, this great feast is celebrated as the birthday of the Church.

That, my friends, was the first novena. There are nine days between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday. This has served as a model for all future novenas. At the heart of it is persevering trust. You bring your trials and struggles to God, petition Him with all your heart, and wait for the Holy Spirit.

When you receive the answer to your prayers, you thank God. You should celebrate!