

18 June 2023
**ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**



Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, hear my voice, for
I have called to you; be my
help. Do not abandon or
forsake me, O God, my
Saviour!

First Reading from the book
of Exodus 19:2-6

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 99:2-3. 5. R. v.3

Response:

We are his people:
the sheep of his flock .

Second Reading from the
first letter of St Paul to the
Romans 5:6-11

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near;
repent and believe the Good
News! Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 9:36 – 10:8

Communion Antiphon

There is one thing I ask of
the Lord, only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the
Lord all the days of my life .

NEXT WEEK 25 JUNE 2023

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary

1st Reading: Jer 20:10-13

Resp Ps:68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-
35. R. v.14

2nd Reading: Rom 5:12-15

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.

**This weekend, 17–18 June 2023, our Diocese celebrates
The patronal feast of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

As we celebrate the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the whole Diocese of Wollongong looks to Mary, the Mother of the Church. Thanks to the Marian shrines and churches around the diocese dedicated to the Mother of God, devotion to Mary should be very strong and widespread among the people in our local Church.

May we continue to contemplate the Virgin Mary, who pondered in her heart the mystery of Christ. We know that Mary is present as a mother to us and so shares in the many complicated problems which today beset the lives of individuals, families, parishes, schools and communities. We know that Mary has a heart for the Christian people in our constant struggle between good and evil, to ensure that we do not fall, or, if we have fallen, that we rise again.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is an image of the Church which, nourished by hope, acknowledges the saving and merciful action of God, in whose light our diocese reads our own journey and all of history. Mary helps us to interpret all that happens to us in the light of Jesus her Son. As a new creation moulded by the Holy Spirit, Mary causes the virtue of hope to grow within us.

To the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of hope and of consolation, we confidently lift up our prayer: to Mary we entrust the future of the Diocese of Wollongong.

Prayer for the Diocesan Feast Day

Mother of the Redeemer, in this diocese dedicated to your
Immaculate Heart, with great joy we call you blessed.

In order to carry out his providential plan of salvation,
God the Father chose you before the creation of the world.
You believed in his love and obeyed his word.

The Son of God desired you for his mother
when he became man to save the human race.

You received him with ready obedience and undivided heart.
The Holy Spirit loved you as his mystical spouse and he filled you
with singular gifts.

You allowed yourself to be led by his hidden and powerful action.

On this feast we entrust to you the diocese which acknowledges you
and invokes you under the title of your Immaculate Heart.

On earth you preceded the Church in the pilgrimage of faith:
guide us as we walk in your footsteps, comfort us in our difficulties and trials,
help us to reach God.

To you, Mother of the Church, we confidently entrust our bishop,
our priests and religious, our families, ourselves.

Give us the light of true wisdom, a wisdom to be found only in your Son as you told
us at Cana: "Do whatever he tells us."

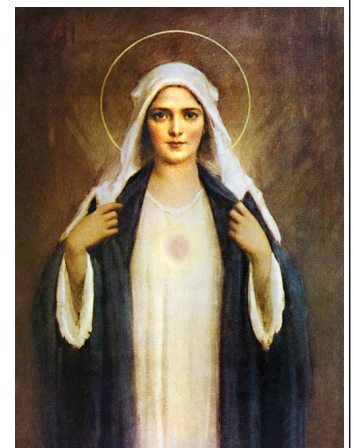
Enable us all to meet him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Sustain us, O Virgin Mary, on our journey of faith,
and obtain for us the grace of eternal salvation.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother of God and our mother, Mary!

To be followed by three Hail Marys and the invocation:

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.



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 of each month 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: Ronald Allen, Terrence Royal Frantz, Carmel Pillai, Antonio Azevedo, Luke Stephenson,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Benito Cossetini, Dolores Olivarez, Raymond Potter, Ivan Srebrenovic, Jennifer Bishop, *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



Our Community: Rosters

25 June	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen & Arlene	Chris, Margaret & Bianca	Beatrix & Stuart
Altar Servers	Berna, Ralph & Kenneth	Orly, Claire & Meliame	Robert
Readers	Richard & Tracey	Tess & Aida	Sheenalyn & Leah
Refreshments	Suzanne & Myra	Volunteers	
CLOTW		Lee & Samantha	
Flowers	Maria & Estela	Church Vacuuming	Loretta & Gerard
Counters	Louise & Lina	Foyer Cleaning	Suzanne & Beatrix

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.

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 the parish office for more information.

Divine Mercy Devotion is at 3pm today, (Sunday) in our church.

State of Origin Game is on Wednesday 21 June from 7.30pm in our meeting room. BYO drinks & snacks.



Bulletin Notices



Save the Date
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Annual Fiesta
Sunday 16 July from 10am.

Fiesta Meeting is on Monday 19 June at 7.30pm in our meeting room. It is really important for all stall coordinators to attend the meeting. We are appealing this weekend for all our volunteers to submit a commitment form. The areas where you can volunteer are:

- ◆ Working Bee on 24 June from 8am
- ◆ Saturday set up on 15 July from 8am
- ◆ Sunday morning set up from 8.30am
- ◆ Traffic Marshalls & parking
- ◆ Procession: carrying the statue
- ◆ Food stall helper & donating a tray of food
- ◆ Information stall helper
- ◆ Children's activities
- ◆ Performing in the concert
- ◆ Taking an active part in a Novena Mass
- ◆ Delivery of flyers in our local area
- ◆ Sunday afternoon pack down

Working Bee will be held next Saturday 24 June from 8am.

All hands are needed to help prepare our grounds and church for the Fiesta. If you can't attend on Saturday and are willing to help out at another time please call the parish office.

Sacramental Parent Formation Meeting is on Saturday 24 June at 4.30pm. All parents of children wishing to make the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year must attend this meeting. Registrations are currently being accepted for all Sacraments. Adults and children above year 6 who have not completed their Sacraments of Initiation are encouraged to contact the Parish office for more information and assistance.

Planned Giving Envelopes are available in the foyer this weekend; Please consider joining the planned giving in our parish. There are 2 ways of contributing to planned giving, either by taking a set of envelopes and returning them each week or electronically. This is our preferred method. 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.**

On The Journey Podcast This Week: Fr Benedict Mackenzie FSF says that we are all called to be Jesus' labourers, to be shepherds to the lost sheep. Mother Hilda tells how to console God's heart, and Jude Hennessy interviews Fr Tony Percy about his book: Australia: What Went Right, What Went Wrong. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

A vocation view The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few, so ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest. (Mt 9:37-38). If you want to talk about your

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

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, Ctown**

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: ymt.com.au/istandevents

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 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)

'Made for Mission' Divine Renovation Australasia in partnership with Alpha Australia are running a 'Made for Mission' event open to all Catholic Clergy and parish leaders within the Diocese of Wollongong. Registration is free and the workshop will be held at All Saints Parish, Shellharbour, Sat Jul 1, 9am-3pm. Further details of the event and the registration link can be found at <https://divinerenovation.tfaforms.net/f/made-for-mission>

For more information contact peter.gilmore@dow.org.au

St Paul of Tarsus Retreat Day at St Columbkille's Parish Centre and Church, Corrimal 3:00pm to 7:00pm Saturday 1 July 2023; Topic: St Paul of Tarsus; 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 Paul of Tarsus 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.

Campbelltown Catholic Club's 57th Annual Communion Mass & Luncheon on Sunday 30 July 2023.

Mass will be concelebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord DD and Fr John Ho PP at **10:30am** at **St John the Evangelist Catholic Church**, 35 Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown.

At the conclusion of the Mass a luncheon will be served at The CUBE, Campbelltown Catholic Club at 12:30pm. Tickets will be available to purchase for \$25 each from Monday 19 June 2023 at Campbelltown Catholic Club reception.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 9:36 – 10:8

He summoned his twelve disciples, and sent them out.

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'



Homily by Richard Leonard

Damian told me that his life changed when his sister was involved in a car accident that left her with brain injuries. As tragic as this terrible event was for his sister, Damian told me that it was a defining moment for him as well because it enabled him to work out what truly matters, what he took for granted, what he hoped for and whether he could hold on to faith in the face of tragedy.

Damian said that one of the things he learnt in the experience was what not to say to people in grief and shock. He reported that the nicest people said some of the worst things to him and his family. 'It's all God's will and now you just have to accept it.' 'God only gives the biggest crosses to those who can bear it.' 'God was clearly trying to teach you all a lesson and we'll only find out in heaven what she did to deserve this.' He said he wanted to scream. Some of his family have not been back to church since the accident.

The most helpful comment, however, the one that gave Damian and his family the greatest consolation, was, 'I can only imagine what it would be like if it were my sister.' The people who made this comment weren't trying to find an answer for him in his shock and grief; they were trying to struggle with him in his pain and questioning and understand what it might be like.

This response has a name. It's called compassion and it is what today's readings are all about. The Lord claims the Israelites as his treasured possession out of compassion. Saint Paul reminds us that God sent his Son to save us from our own destructiveness because he had compassion on us in our sinfulness. And when Jesus saw the crowds he had compassion for their diseases, sufferings and lack of leadership and he did something about it.

We are called to see the crowds of our own day and be moved with compassion. Compassion asks us to imagine what it's like to be a refugee, homeless, a victim of domestic violence, HIV positive, disabled, substance addicted, a single parent or unemployed. We may not be able to answer these people's suffering or perhaps for some reason we should not be the ones to respond to their suffering. In either event, what we should do is secondary to how we feel with them. And often the people we find it hardest to be compassionate toward are the ones to whom we are closest. We often expect so much of our wife or husband, children, friends and parents that we allow the poor to lay a greater claim on our compassion before those we love.

We don't have to be stingy with compassion; there will always be enough to go around. By virtue of our baptism and our coming to this Mass, however, we should be well known for being very compassionate, even foolishly so.

For Jesus doesn't teach us today to solve all the world's problems, just that we have to have the right attitude toward our brothers and sisters, imagining what it's like for them and treating them in the way we would want to be treated. In the ministry of compassion we are all labourers sent out to harvest love in Christ's name; all of us are commissioned to confront evil and offer goodness in its place. And all of us are called, like the Apostles, to go to every lost sheep, especially the one who may be under our own roof, and offer healing and peace.

No one said following Jesus in this way was easy. Nearly every name read out in today's Gospel died a martyr for our faith. May the way we live be worthy of their example.

So this week when we catch ourselves jumping to an immediate condemnation of someone, let's stop and pray for the gift of compassion. That we might ask, 'What must life be like for you?' At that point, our understanding will be touching the Divine.