

25 June 2023
TWELFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



Entrance Antiphon

The Lord is the strength of
his people, a saving refuge
for the one he has anointed.
Save your people, Lord, and
bless your heritage, and
govern them for ever.

First Reading from the
prophet Jeremiah 20:10-13

Responsorial Psalm

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

Response:

Lord, in your great love,
answer me.

Second Reading from the
first letter of St Paul to the
Romans 5:12-15

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear
witness to me, says the Lord,
and you also will be my
witnesses Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 10:26-33

Communion Antiphon

The eyes of all look to you,
Lord, and you give them
their food in due season .

NEXT WEEK 2 July 2023

13th Sunday in Ordinary

1st Read: 2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16

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

2nd Reading: Rom 6:3-4. 8-11

Gospel: Mt 10:37-42

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.

Explore Faith, Life and Meaning at Alpha

Alpha has been running in our parish for quite a few years and our parishioners who attended have enjoyed the opportunity to renew their own catholic faith, connect with fellow parishioners and welcome people who may be disconnected from the church or who may be enquiring about joining the catholic faith.

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore life, faith and meaning.

The Alpha talks are designed to engage people from all walks of life and inspire conversation. They explore the big issues of life and faith and unpack the basics of Christian belief, addressing questions like "Who is Jesus?", "Why and how do I pray?" and "How does God guide us?"

One of the most important parts of any Alpha is the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and discuss in a small group. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say (seriously). It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

Alpha is run by every major denomination in Australia. Why? Because it works.

'I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them.

... The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realise that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.'
Pope Francis - *Evangelii Gaudium* #3

Alpha is a kerygmatic resource for parish and community renewal

Alpha introduces people to the first proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ, otherwise known as the Kerygma: 'Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you, and now he is living at your side to enlighten, strengthen and free you.' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 164)

Alpha invites people to respond to the good news through a decision to follow Jesus. Parishes around the world have seen significant growth in numbers and a new enthusiasm for mission. New members of the parish, having come to faith during Alpha, frequently join parish activities and bring the freshness and joy of their encounter with Christ into the life of the parish.

Alpha develops missionary disciples

Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus.' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 120)

Alpha engages lay people in the life and mission of the Church. With the blessing of the parish priest, a core team takes ownership and hosts Alpha in the parish. These parishioners are equipped to proclaim the good news in a simple and effective way. Often guests who have experienced Alpha go on to become effective and confident evangelizers themselves as they share the impact that their encounter and relationship with Jesus has had on their lives.

Alpha equips parishes to go out and to reach those who are outside the Church

Alpha is a tool that helps parishes develop into 'communities of missionary disciples', fostering a renewal for the Christian community that desires to be transformed by evangelization. It offers a simple and attractive invitation to those outside the Church to come and ask life's big questions.

An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first, and therefore we can...go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast.' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 24)



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: Damien Champion, Maurice Spillane, Joseph Farrell, Benito Cossettini, Dolores Olivarez, Raymond Potter. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



Our Community: Rosters

2 July	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Myra, Paul & Lori	Gerry, Margaret & Volunteer	Patricia & Volunteer
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Eliana & Abigail	Orly, Fisiilose & Claire	Vu
Readers	Bevina & Amana	Irene & Lee	Evangeline & Kavya
Refreshments	Beatrix & Madonna	Steve, Sarah & Volunteer	
CLOTW			
Flowers	Lorraine & Effie	Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family
Counters	George & Wendy	Foyer Cleaning	Feiloakitohi Family

Our Community

Alpha Come and See Night

August 1 at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall

Who Will You Invite?

This is your chance to invite family, friends and neighbours to experience an Alpha session. For further information go to the Alpha page on our parish website. www.varroville.dow.org.au/alpha/

EXPLORE

*Faith, Life and
Meaning*

**ALPHA COME
AND SEE NIGHT**

Tuesday August 1 @ 7:00pm
Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Alpha

- ✓ Share a meal
- ✓ Watch a film
- ✓ Have a chat
- ✓ Bring a friend!



Bulletin Notices



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

Fiesta Meeting is on Monday 3 July 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:

- ◆ 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 helper
- ◆ Performing in the concert
- ◆ Taking an active part in a Novena Mass
- ◆ Delivery of flyers in our local area
- ◆ Sunday afternoon pack down

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 held in our meeting room every Monday morning after the 9am Mass. Bring your bible and contact the parish office for more information.

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.**

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)

Benedictine Abbey | Help Needed Working Bee We currently have a great deal of pruning and clearing to be done and so are getting two working bees together on When: Saturday 29 July and Saturday 5 August between 9 am and 4pm (come as you are able). What to bring: Your own tools, chain saws, we could use a Ute, anything you have. If you do not have any of these just come anyway, there is plenty of clearing and shrub removal to be done. Contact: Please ring VINCE 0488 360 110 for details and to register your name and date and time of availability. Tea, coffee, scones etc. will all be provided. Furthermore, you will have a special place in the grateful prayer of the Benedictine Nuns.

On The Journey This Week: Fr William Chow says that the point of Jesus' parable is don't worry about the body being killed, it is more serious if our soul were to be killed. Mother Hilda says God wants to recycle the junk baggage in our life. Plus, Byron & Francine Pirola, Trish McCarthy, and Deacon Josh Clayton. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

'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.

Mystery & Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration 28 – 30 September 2023, Brisbane. The Australian Pastoral Musicians Network and the National Liturgical Council are delighted to announce a combined Liturgy and Music Conference. Early Bird Registrations are now Open: For all enquiries contact liturgy@liturgybrisbane.net.au Register click here or visit the Diocesan Website Events page

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 10:26-33

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Homily by Pope Francis (21 June 2020)

In this Sunday's Gospel (cf. Mt 10:26-33) the invitation that Jesus addresses to His disciples resonates: to have no fear, to be strong and confident in the face of life's challenges, as he forewarns them of the adversities that await them. Today's passage is part of the missionary discourse, with which the Teacher prepares the Apostles for their first experience of proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Jesus persistently exhorts them to "have no fear". Fear is one of the most terrible enemies of our Christian life. Jesus exhorts: "have no fear", "fear not". And Jesus describes three tangible situations that they will find themselves facing.

First and foremost the hostility of those who would like to stifle the Word of God, by sugar-coating it, watering it down, or by silencing those who proclaim it. In this case, Jesus encourages the Apostles to spread the message of salvation that He has entrusted to them. For the moment, He has transmitted it cautiously, somewhat covertly, among the small group of disciples. But they will utter his Gospel "in the light", that is, openly; and will proclaim it "upon the housetops" — as Jesus says — that is, publicly.

The second difficulty that Christ's missionaries will encounter is the physical threat against them, that is, direct persecution of them personally, to the point of being killed. This prophesy by Jesus is realized in every age: it is a painful reality, but it attests to the faithfulness of witnesses. How many Christians are persecuted even today throughout the world! They suffer for the Gospel with love, they are martyrs of our days. And we can say with confidence that they are more numerous than those of the earliest times: so many martyrs, just for the fact of being Christians. Jesus advises these disciples of yesterday and today who suffer persecution: "do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul" (v. 28). We should not allow ourselves to be frightened by those who seek to extinguish evangelizing power with arrogance and violence. Indeed, they can do nothing against the soul, that is, against communion with God: no one can take this away from disciples, because it is a gift from God. The only fear that a disciple should have is that of losing this divine gift, closeness, friendship with God, giving up living according to the Gospel, thereby acquiring moral death, which is the effect of sin.

Jesus indicates as the third type of test that the Apostles will have to face, the sensation, which some may feel, that God himself has abandoned them, remaining distant and silent. Here too, Jesus exhorts them not to fear, because even while experiencing these and other pitfalls, the life of disciples lies firmly in the hands of God who loves us and looks after us. They are like three temptations: to sugar-coat the Gospel, to water it down; second: persecution; and third: the feeling that God has left us alone. Even Jesus suffered this trial in the Garden of Olives and on the Cross: "Father, why have you forsaken me?", Jesus asks. At times one feels this spiritual barrenness; we must not fear it. The Father takes care of us, because our value is great in His eyes. What matters is frankness, the courage of our witness, our witness of faith: "recognizing Jesus before men" and going forth doing good.

May Mary Most Holy, model of trust and abandonment in God in the hour of adversity and danger, help us never to surrender to despair, but rather always to entrust ourselves to Him and to his grace, because God's grace is ever more powerful than evil.

A yellow poster for a 'Fiesta' event. At the top, it says 'Our Lady of Mount Carmel' in a simple font. Below that, 'Fiesta' is written in a large, elegant script. To the right of 'Fiesta' is a small red banner that says 'FREE EVENT'. Below 'Fiesta', it says 'SUNDAY JULY 16 2023' and 'FROM 10AM'. The address '193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville' is listed. There is a small image of a statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. At the bottom, it says 'Join us for 10AM MASS, followed by FIESTA CELEBRATIONS with international food stalls, children's activities, outdoor concert, major raffle draw & MORE!'. There is also a small logo for 'Our Lady of Mount Carmel' and a phone number '(02) 9403 7873'. The website 'https://www.varroville.dow.org.au/' is listed. At the bottom right, there is a Facebook icon and the text '@Olmc Mount Carmel'.