

23 July 2023
**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**



Entrance Antiphon

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with
willing heart, and praise your
name, O Lord, for it is good .

First Reading from the book
of Wisdom 12:13.16-19

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

Response:

Lord, you are good and
forgiving.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Romans 8:26-27

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord
of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little
ones the mysteries of the
kingdom
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 13:24-43

Communion Antiphon

Taste and see that the Lord is
good; blessed the man who
seeks refuge in him.

NEXT WEEK 30 July 2023
**17th Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year A**

1st Read: 1 Kings 3:5.7-12

Resp Ps: 118:57. 72. 76-77.
127-130. R. v.97

2nd Reading: Rom 8:28-30

Gospel: Mt 11:25

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.



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2023

“His mercy is from age to age.”

LUKE 1:50

In celebrating its third edition, the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly proves to be a regular event in the life of our church communities and takes on new meanings.

Caring for grandparents and the elderly, in fact, is not only a duty of gratitude and affection, but a necessity for building a more humane and fraternal society. The Holy Father invites us to recognize their value in transmitting faith and hope to the new generations and to do so in a way that is not a one-time event, rather a permanent one. That is, it is not a matter of celebrating our elderly loved ones once a year, but of making them feel as an integral part of our Christian family and our common history. After all, in many places in the world they are the point of reference for communities and the keepers of memories. Within our communities, therefore, a change of mentality is necessary, overcoming those prejudices that make the elderly appear as passive and useless people and getting used to a pastoral care marked by reciprocity and sharing.

The third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will be celebrated on July 23, 2023, will have the theme, “His mercy is from age to age” (Lk 1: 50). This verse reminds us that God’s mercy is manifested in history through the testimonies of those who have experienced it and passed it on to their children and grandchildren.

Grandparents and the elderly are called to carry this mercy, to tell through words and life how God has been faithful to His promises and how He continues to love His people. They are also called to receive God’s mercy, and to allow themselves to be comforted by His fatherly love that never abandons them. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is an occasion to once again express with joy that the Church wants to celebrate together with those whom the Lord — as the Bible says — has given “a full life”.

This year’s *Day* is characterized by its close connection with the World Youth Day, which will be held in Lisbon from 1 to 6 August. This relationship is evident in Pope Francis’ message to elders, inviting them to pray for and bless the youth who will participate in the WYD, and to young people, urging them to visit and listen to the grandparents and the elderly in their community. The Pope stressed that between the two generations there is a communion of life and faith, a mutual giving and gratitude, a witness of hope and charity.

Pope Francis’ message for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly can be downloaded at <https://www.dow.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Messaggio-GMNA-23-ENG.pdf>.

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

30 July	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Suzanne, Russell & Berna	Nelia, Laura & volunteer	Beatrix & Stuart
Altar Servers	Berna, Ralph, Christian & Kenneth	Orly, Luisa Carlos	Vu & Nathan
Readers	Loretta & Gerard	Children’s mass	Sheenalyn & Leah
Refreshments	Suzanne & Myra	Ofa & Charlotte	
CLOTW		Children’s mass	
Flowers	Maria & Estela	Church Vacuuming	Loretta & Gerard
Counters	Christine & Cira	Foyer Cleaning	Tess

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

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

ALPHA COME AND SEE NIGHT

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



Bulletin Notices

Vinnie's Sleepout: Please join our Sleepout or give now to help us reach our fundraising goal which will assist Vinnies provide support for those in our community who need it the most. We are calling for local businesses and community members to come together in solidarity and give up one night in a warm, comfortable bed to help raise funds and awareness about homelessness and disadvantage in our very own back yard. Date: Saturday 29th July from 6pm

Venue: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Parish, Varroville
Event Coordinator: Gabriel Mafi | kapelieli.mafi@gmail.com

What to Bring: Sleeping bag, pillow, a water bottle, wear warm clothing, and a blanket if you feel the cold!



The Church Celebrates World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 22-23 July 2023 With the theme, His Mercy is from Age to Age Pope Francis invites all parishes and dioceses to celebrate this Day. Make sure you pick up a prayer card for your family and access other resources from dow.sh/gpe including; 1. Introduction to World Day for Grandparents and the elderly 2. The Pope's message 3. CatholicCare links catholiccare.dow.org.au 4. Information about the Diocesan Committee for the aged Committee for the Aged.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, Our Fiesta last Sunday was a joyful celebration of Our parish and Our Carmelite community. The church at 10am was full and overflowing. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Brian and our Carmelite Friars. The music was led by Our Varroville Gospel Choir. The Mass completed the Novena of Masses offered to Our Lady each night since 7 July. Our Lady was then carried in a procession throughout our grounds accompanied by hymns to the stage area. We all enjoyed a lovely multicultural lunch prepared and served by our own parishioners and concert till the heavens opened and a shower of rain put an end to our festivities. Our day was enlivened by the students of Mount Carmel Catholic College who performed in the concert and painted the faces of the children. Also our local NSW RFS brought the fire truck along. The Cash Raffle was drawn. Congratulations to the lucky winners: First Prize: J Enego
Second Prize: F Lopresti
Third Prize: I Garcia
Our Fundraising Team thank you all for supporting the raffle this year. The raffle has raised \$8090 and the funds will be saved for our parish renovation project.

2023 Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass. If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, we invite you to the celebration of Significant Marriage Anniversaries, to be celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on Sunday 17 September 2023 at 2pm at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre Conference Room. Please register online at dow.sh/ma23 or contact Helen Bennett at the Office of the Bishop at 4222 2403, or via email helen.bennett@dow.org.au by no later than Friday 4 August.

A women's opportunity to experience a Cursillo three-day weekend A Cursillo weekend will be held at Carmel House, Varroville from Thursday evening 5 October to Sunday afternoon 8 October 2023. To view brochure and find out more, please scan the QR code, click the link, email cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com or ring Geraldine Dayball on 0421 329 365.

Micah House Resource Centre Campbelltown All of the faithful, especially in the Macarthur Region, are invited to visit the CCD & Evangelisation Resource Centre and enjoy a cuppa and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and some fellowship. Exciting News! The Shop is Now Open, with books, gifts, and cards for many occasions, particularly sacraments. We also have expanded the Resource Library, with a wider selection of materials that anyone from parishes can borrow for personal faith development. The Centre is open from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday, at 35a Cordeaux St, Campbelltown (Entry from the Rear). Please contact Cindy Oliver at cindy.oliver@dow.org.au or call 4640 8550 for any inquiries. We eagerly look forward to seeing you!

MenALIVE Macarthur Regional Weekend, 9-10 September, Micah House, Campbelltown. Cost \$70 per person (\$50 concession) Come along to our menALIVE weekend and be impacted by an encounter with the Gospel in the presence of other good men seeking to be renewed in faith and life. So many men have had their faith transformed and renewed by the experience of menALIVE, and this is an opportunity for men who have attended a menALIVE regional weekend in the past, and men who haven't, to come together to affirm the words of St Irenaeus all over again: "God is glorified when men are fully alive!" Register: dow.sh/MACampbelltown2023. Raising Fathers: Fathering from the Front Line Speaker: Robert Falzon Monday 28 August 2023 Level 1, Micah House Resource Centre 7:00pm-8:30pm Cost: Free Join other dads and father figures for this special evening event as Robert Falzon unpacks practical advice and shares stories that are powerfully important, impacting, informative and instructional for fathering in today's world. RSVP by 27 August. Enquiries: jude.hennessy@dow.org.au Register: dow.sh/RF2023.

Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community | Fire Weekend Friday 28 – Sunday 30 July 2023 at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre Varroville Fire Weekends are for young adults aged 18 -35 who want to grow deeper in their relationship with God. It's also a great way to meet and make friends! The event will include activities such as talks, personal sharings, dramas, recreation time, sport, prayer, good food, live music, reconciliation, and Mass. Cost: \$200 inclusive of all food and activities Register here: form.jotform.com/231340929360857 Any enquiries contact: Joe Pullella 0401 319 532.

Overshadowed: Filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit, 6pm Friday 18 - 2pm Sunday 20 August 2023 Join the Missionaries of God's Love Sisters on a weekend retreat exploring what happens when we say yes to the Holy Spirit. Experience the lifechanging power of deepening in God's love, surrendering to Jesus and living under the grace of the Holy Spirit. Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW Bookings: trybooking.com/CFBQX (by 11 August) Contact: Katherine - mglisisters.sydney@gmail.com.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:24-43

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"



He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA

‘ In the passage from the Book of Wisdom, the author lists several forceful divine characteristics and then seems to temper them with traits that could be considered their opposites. First he brings divine care and condemnation together (v.13). The principal theme of this verse is an acknowledgment of the total and exclusive providence of God. Next, God's might is assuaged by leniency. Actually it is because God is so powerful that God can decide to be lenient. God's manner of dealing with the people of Israel becomes a lesson to be learned by them. They are exhorted to pattern their treatment of others after their God's treatment of them.

Parts of an individual lament are singled out for the psalm response: a prayer to be heard by God (vv.5-6); expressions of praise (vv. 9-10); and a plea for mercy (vv. 15-16). The structure of the first section is the same as that of the third: God is extolled in the first verse (vv.5, 15); presuming on the attributes expressed there, the psalmist makes a fervent plea (vv. 6, 16). Covenant language appears throughout these verses. God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger and filled with lovingkindness. The excellence of the God of Israel is then extolled. It is no wonder that all nations praise the name of the God of Israel.

Paul provides a bold and moving explanation of prayer to God. He first acknowledges human weakness which prevents people from knowing how to pray as they ought. Paul refers to weak human beings committed to Jesus as holy ones, saints. Such a reference itself shows that Paul maintains that human weakness is not an obstacle to holiness. The Spirit does more than merely offer aid. Rather, the Spirit identifies with this weakness, takes it on, and thus comes to our assistance, acting as intermediary between God and humankind. God has a purpose, and though we do not know what that purpose is, the enabling Spirit of God moves us toward it.

Once again the gospel shows us Jesus as a wisdom teacher, using parables to illustrate aspects of the growth of the kingdom of heaven. The field sown with weeds illustrates the fact that, despite all of the dedicated work that goes into the establishment of the kingdom of God, there will not be a perfect yield. The parables of the mustard seed; and the yeast in the dough both address the unimpressive beginnings of the kingdom of heaven, its gradual and imperceptible growth, and the extraordinary yield that it will ultimately produce. The fate of the righteous is reminiscent of a passage found in the Book of Daniel (12:3). Their radiance will be like that of the cosmic bodies.