

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



Entrance Antiphon
God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who
dwell in his house; he
himself gives might and
strength to his people.

First Reading from the first
book of Kings 12:13.16-19

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

Response:
Lord, I love your commands.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Romans 8:28-30

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 13:44-52

Communion Antiphon
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his
benefits.

NEXT WEEK
06 August 2023
**THE TRANSFIGURATION
OF THE LORD**

1st Reading: Dan 7:9-10. 13-14
Resp: 96:1-2. 5-6. 9. R. vv.1. 9
2nd Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19
Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

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*

**ALPHA COME
AND SEE NIGHT**

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

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

Alpha Come and See Night

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions where guests are able to explore life, faith and meaning. This is your chance to invite family, friends and neighbours to experience an Alpha session.

Come along to our *Alpha Come and See Night* to celebrate the launch of Alpha for this year. This is a chance for you to invite your friends and family to come and see what Alpha is all about. Enjoy a meal together, watch a film and have a chat.

Register via the [Alpha Registration Page](#) or at the Parish Office Ph: (02) 9603 7373
M: 0434 705 176



Vinnies Winter Appeal and Sleepout

It's not too late to sponsor those who took part in the sleepout this weekend.

You can sponsor online at: <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepouts/our-lady-of-mount-carmel-catholic-parish-varroville-nsw?tab=donations>

The Funeral for Shirley Chitty will be held at 11am on Thursday 3 August.

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” Girle 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: Shirley Chitty, Terrence Royal Frantz, Luke Stephenson,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Anne La Spina

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

06 August	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Myra, Paul & Lori	Gerry, Margaret & volunteer	Patricia & volunteer
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Eliana & Abigail	Orly, Claire & Meliame	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Suzanne & Margaret	Irene & Lee	Evangeline & Kavya
Refreshments	Beatrix & Madonna	Steve, Sarah & volunteer	
CLOTW		Rebecca & Fev	
Flowers	Lorraine & Effie	Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family
Counters	Louise & Lina	Foyer Cleaning	Feiloakitohi Family

Our Community



FIESTA thank you.

Next weekend at all Masses, we will acknowledge all the volunteers who helped make the Fiesta such an outstanding successful day. Many people came to prepare the grounds and equipment in advance and on the day many people prepared meals and worked on the stalls.

The final meeting of the Fiesta Committee will be held on Monday 7 August at 7.30pm.



Bulletin Notices



Childrens Ministry Get together: All children aged 7+ years are invited on Sunday 27 August from 3—5pm for Children's activities in the parish meeting room. The group will continue to meet on the 4th Sunday of each month. Children's choir will meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7.30pm. For more information call the parish office.

Parish Retreat Day: Fr Aloysius Rego will present on Saturday 27 August from 9am Mass till 3pm. The topic will be Prayer in the Carmelite Perspective. Please register at the Parish office.

Confirmation preparation sessions will commence on Saturday 12 August. Registration is essential at the parish office.

Bible Study Course: Commencing on Thursday 17 August for 7 weeks; The Gospel of John presented on DVD by a Passionist Priest. Printed Materials will be provided. For further info and to register call the parish office. All are welcome.

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

2023.Growing Good Men Father and Teenage Son Weekend Experience 20–22 October 2023 Cataract Scout Camp Appin. One of the most important influences in the lives of men is the relationship they had with their father or significant father figure. The encouragement and affirmation that this relationship could, and should, provide, is a key ingredient for

how young men view themselves and embrace their faith and gifts as they take their place in the world. Don't miss this life-changing father and son weekend! Spots are limited to just 25 fathers with their sons aged between 12–and 16 years. This is a unique opportunity for dads and their sons to embark on a quest of discovery with Robert Falzon and the team from menALIVE. Register online <https://www.dow.org.au/events/menalive-growing-good-men-weekend/> or contact Jude Hennessy on 42222407 jude.hennessy@dow.org.au.

Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program 2024

Applications for our Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program 2024 are now officially open! If you have a strong desire to deepen your faith, acquire practical leadership skills, theological knowledge, and spiritual formation to effectively serve Christ in today's Church, then our program is specifically designed for you. Please note that spaces for our Foundations of Missionary Leadership program for 2024 are limited and expected to fill quickly. Don't hesitate, take action now to ensure your place! Find out more: <https://www.aretecentre.org/>

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 life-changing 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

Made for More than this - Arete Centre for Missionary

Leadership OPEN NIGHT! Join Fr Chris Ryan MGL and an exciting panel of guests including Fr Rob Galea, Fr Simon Lobo, Co-author of Preaching on Purpose and Parish Priest at St Benedict, Halifax, and others, for a wide-ranging conversation about the powerful role lay people can play in the Church's Mission. Guests can also find out more about the Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program and how they can enrol for 2024. The Open night takes place on Thursday 17 August 2023 at 7.30 pm. Register at www.aretecentre.org for this free event. 2023

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; RSVP by 27 August. Enquiries: jude.hennessy@dow.org.au. Register: dow.sh/RF2023

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:44-52

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Greg Sunter

The twin parables of today's gospel – the treasure in the field and the pearl of great value – reveal a paradoxical truth about the kingdom of Heaven. Throughout the gospels, Jesus presents the kingdom as 'now but not yet'; as 'present but future'. This paradox is captured in these twin parables. In both cases, the kingdom is likened to something of great value that is discovered but cannot be immediately grasped. In both parables, the finder must go away and sell everything so that they can eventually come to possess the treasure they have discovered.

By comparing this experience with the kingdom of Heaven, Jesus suggests that most of us can only ever catch glimpses of what it means to live in the kingdom. For most of us, only in the future reality of heaven will we ever fully come to understand the kingdom. However, those glimpses that we catch – those moments of inspiration and connection with God and with one another – are like the treasures of the parables. They are enough to inspire us to do what it takes to make sure that we will one day enter into that kingdom reality.

The third parable of this gospel passage reveals yet another truth about the kingdom. The dragnet thrown into the sea is like the message of Jesus – it is flung far and wide and does not discriminate about where it falls or on whom it falls. This parable rounds out the chapter that began with the parable of the sower and the image of casting the net is a neat parallel to the indiscriminate casting of seed. It is not up to the one who casts the net, the seed or the Word. Rather it is up to each individual to determine how they will respond to receiving the Word.

Gospel Focus – The Kingdom is like...

Throughout the gospels, Jesus consistently uses the figures of speech of simile and metaphor to describe the kingdom. He never directly describes the kingdom. It is always described as being like some situation or person or as if... This figurative use of language means that we have no single clear picture of what the kingdom is like but we do have a multitude of metaphors and descriptions. This style of description adds to the paradoxical nature of the kingdom – it is like many things yet we don't really know what it is like at all.

Scriptural context – Matthew Ch 13

Over the last few weeks we have now heard Matthew Chapter 13 almost in its entirety. We heard first the parable of the sower then last week three short parables about weeds amongst the wheat, the mustard seed growing into a great tree and leaven in the flour. Finally, today we have had these additional pithy parables. The entire chapter seeks to paint metaphoric images of the kingdom. Woven through these images is a suggestion that the kingdom is open to all – all are presented with the invitation – but not everyone will accept that invitation or respond to it in the same way.

Have you thought? Interpretation

In today's passage the gospel writer appears to describe himself: 'every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.' It is a fantastic description of what it means to be an interpreter of the gospel. To interpret scripture, one must draw on what is old; applying understandings of the text in its original context and its original audience. But one must also draw on what is new; making connections between that original setting and the context in which it is being read today.