

**20 August 2023**  
**TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF  
ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**



**Entrance Antiphon**

Turn your eyes, O God,  
our shield; and look on  
the face of your anointed  
one; one day within your  
courts is better than a  
thousand elsewhere .

**First Reading** from the  
prophet Isaiah 56:1.6-7

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4  
(R.) O God, let all the  
nations praise you!

**Second Reading** from the  
letter St Paul to the Romans  
11:13-15. 29-32

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus preached the Good  
News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were  
sick. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Matthew 15:21-28

**Communion Antiphon**

With the Lord there is  
mercy; in him is  
plentiful redemption .

**NEXT WEEK**

**27 AUGUST 2023**  
**TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

**First Reading:**

Isaiah 22:19-23

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

**Second Reading:**

Romans 11:33-36

**Gospel:**

Matthew 16:13-20

*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.*



**FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCES OF OCEANIA**

The Episcopal Conferences of Australia • New Zealand • The Pacific •  
Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

Federation Secretariat 2023-2027 • GPO Box 368, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia  
W: <https://fcbco.org> • E: [fcbco@catholic.org.au](mailto:fcbco@catholic.org.au)

**Oceania's diverse Church to be represented at Synod of Bishops**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**JULY 7, 2023**

The president of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conference of Oceania says the 10 non-bishop members from the region chosen for the upcoming Synod of Bishops will help amplify the voice of the Catholic population.

Earlier this year, Pope Francis invited each of the seven regions of the world to nominate 20 people who have been involved in local initiatives for the Synod of Bishops for a Synodal Church as possible additions to the Synod's membership.

Pope Francis chose 10 members from each region from the list of nominees, seeking to create a cross-section of the Church in terms of age, sex, vocation and other demographic factors.

"There was no shortage of faithful and qualified people in Oceania who could bring their lived experience to the two sessions of the Synod of Bishops in October this year and October next year," said Bishop Anthony Radazzo, who was elected FCBCO president in February.

"Our Region is one of most diverse in the world, when you consider the 20 or so nations in this corner of the globe. That diversity enriches the Church in Oceania and it will do so at the Synod gatherings in Rome."

The 10 Oceania non-bishop members will join the bishop members from Oceania, chosen by their episcopal conferences, who will participate in the Synod.

The Catholic Church in Oceania has been seeking ways to work more collaboratively to carry out Christ's mission in the region, Bishop Randazzo explained.

The Synod of Bishops process, through its integration into this year's assembly of the FCBCO and now the additional representation at the Synod sessions, has assisted in that effort. "With Pope Francis' leadership and his assistance, we have been invited into the Synod of Bishops at a local, a national and a regional level, and we now move to the international phase," Bishop Randazzo said.

"By working with the episcopal conferences in Oceania and with our Eastern brothers and sisters, we have been able to embrace the idea of "walking together", seeing how the Church in our region can respond to the call for communion, participation and mission."

Five experts and facilitators have also been appointed from Oceania: Bishop Randazzo said the inclusion of the group demonstrates the esteem with which the Synod Secretariat holds theologians and other leading thinkers in the Church in Oceania.

"We are a young Church in comparison to many other parts of the world, but we are a Church of people of many and varied talents, which will now feature more prominently on the global stage," he said.

<https://www.catholic.au/s/article/XVI-Ordinary-General-Assembly-of-the-Synod-of-Bishops>

## 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:** Gladys Bergicourt, Dolores Doyle, Petar Petrinovic, Catherine Crawford, Shirley Chitty,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** William Parsons, Francisco Turingan, Fr Peter Caruana,  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



### Our Community: Rosters

27 August	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Tracey, Richard & Estela	Chris, Margaret & Bianca	Terry & Maree
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Ryan, Amana, Sebastian, Elijah	Orly, Claire & Meliame	Vu & Nathan
<b>Readers</b>	Ryan & Carlos	Tess & Aida	Kathy & Margaret
<b>Refreshments</b>	Josephine & Glenda	Volunteers	
<b>CLOTW</b>		Sarah	
<b>Flowers</b>	Tracey & Richard	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	H & C Tamisin
<b>Counters</b>	Vilma & Jeanette	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Mafi family

### Our Community Notices



**Readers Proclaiming the Word:** Christ is present in the Word proclaimed at Mass. The Readers in our Parish are encouraged to proclaim the Word with all the depth of life in the text. The Readings present the gathered community with the story of our identity; a reminder of who we are and where we come from.

Those who proclaim the Word are invited to study, reflect, and practise their Readings before they come to Mass on Sunday. They are encouraged to use verbal and non-verbal skills to bring out the meaning of the text. To the best of their ability they bring out the colour of the text so that Christ can speak to each one of us with a message for today. To be able to have full, conscious, active participation during the Readings it is necessary that we all actively listen with openness so that Christ present in these Readings may flourish in us.



## Bulletin Notices

# Parish Retreat

Saturday 26 August 2023  
9am-3pm

193 St Andrews Rd Varroville



**Parish Retreat Day on Saturday 26 August:** Parish Retreat Day: Fr Aloysius Rego will present on Saturday 26 August from 9am Mass till 3pm. The topic will be Prayer in the Carmelite Perspective. Please register at the Parish office.

**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.

**How Do I Pray: weekend retreat 25—27 August at the Mt Carmel Priory;** To pray is to converse with God. In these days of quiet, we will reflect on the wonder of this and seek to deepen our experience of prayer. Led by Fr Gerard Moran. Contact bookings@mtcarmel.com.au; 0435857690

**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](mailto:jude.hennessy@dow.org.au). Register: [dow.sh/RF2023](https://dow.sh/RF2023)

**Ordination to the Diaconate Invitation** Bishop Brian Mascord DD will be ordaining to the diaconate, Lawrence Burns and Rodney Mackrill on Saturday 2 September 2023 at 10.30am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral. Light refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the ceremony in the Xavier centre

**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](https://dow.sh/MACampbelltown2023)

**Mary in Scripture:** You are invited to discover the unique role of Our Lady, as the Ark of the Covenant, New Eve, and Queen Mother in this eye opening in-service presented with Mr Daniel Saliba (CCD Wollongong) revealing the deep theological connections between Mary and her ancient biblical types. Whether you are a catechist, or someone seeking to deepen their understanding of Mary's role in salvation history, this short in-service will provide invaluable insights into the profound symbolism and theological depth of Catholic teaching on Mary. Campbelltown - Monday 18th September: 9:30am - 12:00pm; Level 1, Micah House; 35a Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown; To register for the Campbelltown seminar, please visit <https://dow.sh/marybiblectown>

**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 email [cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com](mailto:cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com) or ring Geraldine Dayball on 0421 329 365.

**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](mailto:jude.hennessy@dow.org.au)

**Marriage Enrichment Weekend** An opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 27-29 October 2023 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.

**The Journey, Weekly Podcast;** Fr Dominic Murphy tells how you can change God's mind. Mother Hilda says as truly as water is necessary for fish, just as truly the life of God is necessary for you and I. Plus, Fr Tony Percy's 200 Word reflection and Pete Gilmore is listening to silence. The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au).

**Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese:** Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at [dow.sh/stayingconnected](https://dow.sh/stayingconnected) or visit [dow.sh/weeklybulletin](https://dow.sh/weeklybulletin) to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes weekly.



## Holy Gospel according to Matthew 15:21-28

*Woman, you have great faith.*

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.



The Gospel of the Lord.

### SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Pope Francis

This Sunday's Gospel (see Mt 15:21-28) describes the meeting between Jesus and the Canaanite woman. Jesus is to the north of Galilee, in foreign territory. The woman was not Jewish, she was Canaanite. Jesus is there to spend some time with His disciples away from the crowds, from the crowds whose numbers are always growing. And behold, a woman approached Him seeking help for her sick daughter: "Have mercy on me, Lord!" (v. 22). It is the cry that is born out of a life marked by suffering, from the sense of the helplessness of a mamma who sees her daughter tormented by evil who cannot be healed; she cannot heal her. Jesus initially ignores her, but this mother insists; she insists, even when the Master says to the disciples that His mission is directed only to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (v. 24) and not to the pagans. She continues to beg Him, and at that point, He puts her to the test, citing a proverb. It's a bit...this seems almost a bit cruel, but she puts her to the test: "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs" (v. 26). And right away, the woman, quick, anguished, responds: "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table" (v. 27).

And with these words, that mother shows that she has perceived the goodness of the Most High God present in Jesus who is open to any of His creatures necessities. And this wisdom, filled with trust, touches Jesus's heart and provokes words of admiration: "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish" (v. 28). What type of faith is great? Great faith is that which brings its own story, marked even by wounds, and brings it to the Lord's feet asking Him to heal them, to give them meaning.

Each one of us has our own story and it is not always a story "of export", it is not always a clean story... Many times it is a difficult story, with a lot of pain, many misfortunes and many sins. What do I do with my story? Do I hide it? No! We must bring it before the Lord. "Lord, if You will it, you can heal me!" This is what this woman teaches us, this wonderful mother: the courage to bring our own painful story before God, before Jesus, to touch God's tenderness, Jesus's tenderness. Let's try this story, this prayer: let each one of us think of his or her own story. There are always ugly things in a story, always. Let us go to Jesus, knock on Jesus's heart and say to Him: "Lord, if You will it, you can heal me!" And we can do this if we always have the face of Jesus before us, if we understand what Christ's heart is like, what Jesus's heart is like: a heart that feels compassion, that bears our pains, that bears our sins, our mistakes, our failures. But it is a heart that love us like that, as we are, without make-up: He loves us like that. "Lord, if You will it, you can heal me!" This is why it is necessary to understand Jesus, to be familiar with Jesus. I always go back to the advice that I give you: always carry a small pocket-size Gospel and read a passage every day. There you will find Jesus as He is, as He presents Himself; you will find Jesus who loves us, who loves us a lot, who tremendously wants our well-being. Let us remember the prayer: "Lord, if You will it, you can heal me!" A beautiful prayer. Carry the Gospel: in your purse, in your pocket and even on your mobile phone, to look at. May the Lord help us, all of us, to pray this beautiful prayer, that a pagan woman teaches us: not a Christian woman, not a Jewish woman, a pagan woman.

May the Virgin Mary intercede with her prayer so that the joy of faith might grow in every baptized person as well as the desire to communicate it through a consistent witness of life, that she give us the courage to approach Jesus and to say to Him: "Lord, if You will it, you can heal me!"

