

29 October 2023
Thirtieth Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year A



Entrance Antiphon

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

First Reading from the book of Exodus 22:20-26

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

Response: I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:34-40

Communion Antiphon

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

NEXT WEEK

05 NOVEMBER 2023
THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

First:

Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10

Resp Psalm

Ps 130

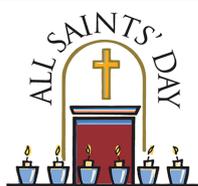
Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13

Gospel:

Matthew 23:1-12

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.



1 November is All Saints day.

2 November is All Souls Day.

On Thursday we will have a morning Mass at 9am and our evening Mass at 7.30pm will be held in the Columbarium. It is an outdoor Mass, so please dress appropriately.

Reflection for all Saints and all Souls Day

A man died and went to the pearly gates. St Peter met him there. 'Before you meet with God,' St Peter said, 'I thought I should tell you that we've looked at your life, and you really didn't do anything particularly good or bad. We're not at all sure what to do with you. Can you tell us anything you did that can help us make a decision?'

The newly arrived soul thought for a moment and replied, 'Yeah, once I was driving along and came upon a woman who was being harassed by a group of bikies. So I pulled over, got out my wheel brace, and went up to the leader of the bikies. He was a big, muscular, hairy guy with tattoos all over his body and a ring pierced through his nose. Well, I tore the nose ring out of his nose, and told him he and his gang had better stop bothering the woman or they would have to deal with me!' 'I'm very impressed', St Peter responded, 'When did this happen?'

About two minutes ago!

All Souls Day has its roots in the sixth century Benedictine tradition of praying to the dead. It was a way of recognising the human bonds which go beyond death. By the tenth century this feast was about praying for the dead, that they might know the merciful love of God.

It is appropriate today for us to think about what a soul is. In an increasingly secular society it's interesting to note that the word 'soul' persists in ordinary conversation. Many non-religious people use this most religious of terms to describe another person. We often hear how others are lonely, distressed, or lost souls. It can be said that someone has a 'beautiful soul' or that a piece of music, a painting or other work of art 'stirred my soul'. We describe mellow jazz as 'soulful' and still alert others to distress by an SOS, 'save our souls'. These uses of the word reinforce St Thomas Aquinas' teaching that the soul makes us human, and sets us apart from other animals.

Nearly all the great religions of the world believe in a soul, or its equivalent – something that survives the annihilation of the body in death. I have come to the opinion that whatever else might characterise the soul, memory is an integral part of it.

I have done several funerals of people who have suffered from Alzheimer's disease. These are rarely very sad occasions because the family invariably says that they 'lost' their loved one months or years before. Why? Because increasingly their loved one couldn't remember anyone or anything. We hold to caring for the body from the womb to the tomb, because we believe that human dignity must always be respected. There are now theories about how even the memories of the circumstances of our conception and birth have a bearing on the way we live our lives. It is also apparent that even when people seem to have lost their memory, or are unconscious, that there is some recognition of some things at a very deep level.

Soul as memory means that when I meet God face to face, I will remember who I am and how I lived, and God will remember me. It's also a comfort for us to think that we will be reunited with those we have loved who have died before us, because we remember each other.

And what is best about a 'remembering soul' is that it is purified. In the old catechism we used to say that heaven was the place where we are perfectly happy with God for eternity. If we think of purgatory as a stage rather than a place, then it's possible to reclaim it as a moment when we see the fullness of God's sacrificial love for us, and recall our sometimes destructive behaviour toward ourselves, others and the world. Purgatory can be a moment where our memory is purified so we can be eternally happy with God in heaven.

So let's remember at this Eucharist all those 'departed souls' we have known and loved over the years, that they might pray for us that we never forget God's saving love and live lives worthy of it.

by Richard Leonard

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	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	
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

Parish Associate:
Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Baby Matthew , Terry Maroun, 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: Sennie Masian, Jose Useche, Rufino Boying Yanga.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Giuseppe Cuomo, Angela Tomarchio, Rozalia Astalosh
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

05 November	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen & Arlene	Gerry, Margaret & Volunteer	Terry & Maree
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana, Sebastian & Elijah	Orly, Fisiilose & Claire	Vu & Nathan
Readers	Loretta & Gerard	Irene & Lee	Kathy & Margaret
Refreshments	Estela & Margaret	Steve, Sarah & Volunteer	
CLOTW		Fev & Asinate	
Flowers	Sr Ines & Katalina	Church Vacuuming	H & C Tamisin
Counters	Richard & Michael	Foyer Cleaning	Wicks family

Our Community Notices: Upcoming Events

2 November at 7.30pm: All Souls Day Mass in the Columbarium

7 November at midday : Melbourne Cup with Friendship Group

12 November: Francisco Palau Appeal

12 November at 1pm: Fashion Fun Clothing Swap fundraising

19 November at 11am: Annual Parish Meeting

26 November: Vinnies Christmas Appeal commences

25 November from 9.30am: Parish Retreat Day

25 November at 4pm: First Reconciliation

30 November at 7.30pm: Parish Ministry Thanksgiving Mass for all those involved in ministry in our parish.

2 December from 9am: Parish working bee.





Bulletin Notices

All Souls Day Annual Mass in the Columbarium. Join us on Thursday 2 November at 7.30pm for our outdoor Mass in memory of your loved ones. The Mass will be held outdoors so dress warmly. A light supper will be served after the Mass. We will have 9am morning Mass on Thursday 2 November for All Souls Day.

Friendship Group will be having their annual Melbourne Cup luncheon on Tuesday 7 November commencing at midday. Join the fun, we will have lunch, cup sweeps, & watch the race on the big screen. Bring a plate to share.

Parish fundraising event; Sunday 12 November at 1pm; Clothing swap and market day with afternoon tea. Recycle and reuse; Bring along some clothes and swap with each other; There will also be a market table for some early Christmas shopping. Afternoon tea and social games. Cost \$20 per person.

Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday 19 November at 10.30am – 2.30pm. How can we as a community show the love of Christ to our neighbourhood and beyond. This meeting will be an opportunity to look back and reflect on the year; look forward and together develop our vision for the future; have your say in the future of our parish. RSVP to 0434705176 for catering purposes.

Parish Advent Retreat on Saturday 25 November commencing at 9.30am after 9am morning Mass. The topic is “The Incarnation; in the perspective of St John of the Cross” presented Fr Christian Marave, Ocar. Registration at the Parish office, cost by donation.

Finding joy in suffering with the help of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity; Presenter: Elizabeth Flynn and Fr. Gerard Moran, OCD “As our Saint became ever more afflicted by the trials of her agonising illness, the writings of the last year of her life are imbued with great joy. In them she shares her secrets so that our own suffering can be like Christ’s: a culmination of love.” November 4, 2023 • 10am - 4pm at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road; **cost** \$30 (Please BYO lunch)

FEARLESS Catholic Online Gathering Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 7:00pm; Join Alpha Catholic teams from across Australia to share your Alpha stories, be renewed in the Spirit and encouraged to continue forward in the Lord’s Great Commission to “Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations” (Matthew 28:19). Register at <https://alpha-org-au.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqcOmpqD8vG9PRZiY4ntg5JEx6Jz1jXCDH#/registration>

El Roi: The God Who Sees Me (Women's Retreat) Carmel House, Varroville | 17-19 November 2023

Prepare for Advent through this women's retreat with the MGL Sisters, as we spend time together listening to God's unique heart of love for each one of us. This retreat is supported by the Catholic Women's Network in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Bookings: trybooking.com/CFBRE (by 3 November)

Contact: Bernadette - mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Summer School of Evangelisation (Sydney): 7-14 January 2024, Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Registrations open 31st October. Register by 30th November to receive early bird rates (concession \$525/adult \$625). More info: contact@summerschool.org.au. Bookings: summerschool.org.au

Australian Young Catholic Women’s Fellowship 2024/2025; This initiative of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry (BCELM) has been offered since 2006 to young women aged 25- 35 years. The Fellowship provides financial sponsorship toward a graduate certificate in theological studies and a supportive community of women and spiritual accompaniment for future leaders. A more detailed outline of Fellowship inclusions and schedule can be found at www.nce.catholic.org.au/womensfellowship Applications close Thursday 16 November.

One Music Festival | Saturday 25 November 2023 | 2pm-9pm A Christian music and arts festival for all ages to be held at Kiama Showground and Pavilion. Organised by local Kiama Churches in partnership with Scripture Union NSW. Live music including Emu Music, Aslandia, MayFair Lane, Seraph Music, Fern Johnston, Thirsty Tree Music, Naomi Grace and more. Creative arts space, Quizworx Kids Show, Food Vans, market stalls, games, messages of hope and all with scenic views. For more information and tickets go to <http://www.onemusicfestival.com>

The Journey, Podcast This Week: Fr James Arblaster says the Gospel doesn’t cancel out the Old Testament but continues its timeless message with two simple Do’s. Mother Hilda has an antidote for our life’s regrets. Plus, Fr Tony Percy and Dr Eammon Mathieson from the Catholic Medical Association of Australia. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

A vocation view; “You turned from idols to serve the living and true God.” Destroy the false gods in your life which prevent you from serving the one true God. (1 Thess. 1:10). If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

FORMED (Free for DoW Parishioners) Join hundreds of other families around the Diocese of Wollongong in nurturing your faith at home, in your own time and at your own pace? FORMED.org is a large Faith Formation Resource library website containing thousands of faith formation documentaries, courses, movies, audio, and books covering all aspects of our Catholic faith. Materials for both adults and children. To register for FORMED:

- Go to www.formed.org
- Click ‘Sign up’ button.
- Click ‘Sign Up as a Parishioner’
- Type ‘Catholic Diocese of Wollongong’ into the box on the left.
- Then click the Diocese’s name and address (38 Harbour St) which will appear

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



HOMILY OF POPE BENEDICT XVI (EXCERPT) 26 October 2008

The Readings today's liturgy offered for our meditation remind us that the fulness of the law, as all of the divine Scriptures, is love. Therefore anyone who believes they have understood the Scriptures, or at least some part of them, without undertaking to build, by means of their intelligence, the twofold love of God and neighbour, in reality proves to be still a long way from having grasped its deeper meaning. But how can we put this commandment into practice, how can we live the love of God and our brothers without a living and intense contact with the Sacred Scriptures? The Second Vatican Council asserts that "access to sacred Scripture ought to be open wide to the Christian faithful" (Dei Verbum, 22), so that persons, encountering the truth, may grow in authentic love. This is a requisite that is indispensable for evangelization today. And since often the encounter with Scriptures is in danger of being not "a fact" of the Church, but informed by subjectivity and arbitrariness, a robust and credible pastoral promotion of the knowledge of Sacred Scripture to announce, celebrate and live the Word in the Christian community becomes indispensable, dialoguing with the cultures of our time, placing ourselves at the service of truth and not of current ideologies, and increasing the dialogue God wishes to have with all men (cf. *ibid*, 21). To this end special care should be given to the preparation of pastors, who are then ready to take whatever action is necessary to spread the biblical movement with appropriate means. Ongoing efforts to give life to the biblical movement among lay people should be encouraged, along with the formation of group leaders, with particular attention being paid to the young. We must also support the effort to allow faith to be known through the Word of God to those who are "far away" as well and especially those who are sincerely seeking the meaning of life.

Many other reflections could be added but I will limit myself to underlining that the privileged place where the Word of God resounds, which edifies the Church, as was said many times in the Synod, is undoubtedly the liturgy. This is where it appears that the Bible is a book of the people and for the people: a heritage, a testament consigned to readers so that the salvation history witnessed in the text becomes concrete in their own lives. There is therefore a vital, reciprocal relationship of belonging between the people and the Book: the Bible remains a living Book with the people its subject who read it. The people cannot exist without the Book, because in it they find their reason for being, their vocation and their identity. This mutual belonging between people and Sacred Scripture is celebrated in every liturgical assembly, which, thanks to the Holy Spirit, listens to Christ, since it is he who speaks when the Scripture is read in the Church and welcomes the Covenant that God renews with his people. Scripture and liturgy converge, therefore, with the single aim of bringing the people to dialogue with the Lord and to obedience to the will of the Lord. The Word issued from the mouth of God and witnessed in the Scriptures returns to him in the form of a prayerful response, a response that is lived, a response that wells up from love (cf. Is 55: 10-11).

Dear brothers and sisters, let us pray that from renewed listening to the Word of God, guided by the action of the Holy Spirit, an authentic renewal in the universal Church and in every Christian community may spring forth... May Mary Most Holy, who offered her life as the "servant of the Lord" (Lk 1: 38), so that everything would happen according to the divine will and who exhorts us to do whatever Jesus would tell us (cf. Jn 2: 5), teach us to recognize in our lives the primacy of the Word that alone can grant us salvation. Amen!



Clothing Drive Fundraiser

NOVEMBER 12TH 1PM - 4PM

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish

Church Hall, Varroville

\$20 entry fee, includes tea, coffee & afternoon snack

Bring along 5 or less quality clothing items & get the chance to swap them for different ones while enjoying an afternoon of games

