

03 December 2023
1st Sunday of Advent Year B



Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul,
O my God. In you, I have
trusted; let me not be put
to shame. Nor let my
enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in
you be put to shame .

First Reading from the
prophet Isaiah
63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

Response: Lord, make us
turn to you, let us see your
face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading from the
first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy
and love, and grant us your
salvation. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Mark 13:33-37

Communion Antiphon
The Lord will bestow his
bounty, and our earth
shall yield its increase.

Next Week
**SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT YEAR B**
First: Is 40:1-5. 9-11
Resp: Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8
Second: 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

*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.*



Catholic SRE
Diocese of Wollongong

This weekend in our parish we are celebrating Catechist Sunday.

Catechists are parishioners from all walks of life who teach Special Religious Education (SRE) to Catholic kids in our State Schools. The children in Catholic SRE learn of God's great love for them, among other essential messages of our Catholic faith. With more volunteer SRE teachers and helpers, we could reach more children across the Parish.

Our mission is to provide catholic students and their families with Special Religious Education that is centred around an encounter with Jesus through prayer, Christian moral and ethical teaching, rich religious tradition and practice, and a holistic approach to life and faith.

We begin with the understanding that we were created by a loving God who calls us to fullness of life. In Catholic SRE, children are encouraged to see them-selves as God sees them-inherently good, full of potential and capable of being a force for good in our world.

Catholic SRE teachers have been trained to teach with sensitivity to the needs of the children in their class and in the use of the approved curriculum, Christ Our Light and Life. Catholic SRE teachers teach children to pray and talk to Jesus.

Encouraging children and young people to develop a relationship with Jesus is a key part of Catholic SRE. The framework to help children make good choices is based on the teachings of Jesus, stories from Christian scripture and prayer.

Catholic SRE teachers liaise with our Parish to ensure the children and their families are aware of Sacramental programs being offered. Catholic SRE includes lessons to assist preparation for the Sacraments.

Can you give an hour of your time a week to teach or help out in a classroom?

Please speak to our Parish Priest/Catechist Coordinator if you would like to get involved.

Christmas Mass & Reconciliation times



Parish Reconciliation Service: Friday 22 Dec at 7.30pm
Reconciliation is available every Saturday at 11am.

Sunday 24 December is the 4th Sunday of Advent;
Mass will be at 6pm vigil on Saturday and
9.30am on Sunday morning.
There will not be a 5pm Sunday Mass this day.

Christmas Pageant and Christmas Vigil Mass
As Sunday 24 December is also Christmas Eve the
Christmas Pageant will start at 6pm and the
Christmas Vigil Mass will start at 7pm.

Christmas midnight Mass

Christmas morning Mass will commence at 9am.
There will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

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 and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and 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 December 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 and homebound: Baby Matthew , Terry Maroun, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda and John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and 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 and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Sennie Masian, Jose Useche, Rufino Boying Yanga. Michael Camilleri

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Lily Pereira, Mary Bergstedt, Giuseppe Cuomo,
All our loved ones listed on the tree of remembrance during the month of November. All the souls in purgatory.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

10 December	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Suzanne, Russell & Berna	Gabriel, Ofa & Jeanne	Terry & Maree
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana & Elijah	Orly, Claire & Meliame	Vu
Readers	Candice & Eliarna	Irene & Lee	Kathy & Margaret
Refreshments	Beatrix & Madonna	Karen, Katalina & Tess	
CLOTW		Sarah & Janny	
Flowers	Lorraine & Effie	Church Vacuuming	Hermi & Charity
Counters	Margaret & Volunteer	Foyer Cleaning	Suzanne & Beatrix

Our Community Notices: Upcoming Events

The new rosters have been sent out via email: Thank you to everyone who has committed to the next 6 months. Please note there are quite a few spaces available for anyone wishing to join a ministry and commit to serving our parish in ministry.

Friendship Group meets on 5 December at 9.30am for the Christmas morning tea. Please bring a plate to share and a Kris Kringle gift

Vinnies Christmas tree is in the foyer. Please take a tag off the tree and return the item next week.
The Piety store is currently selling 2024 Columban calendars for \$10 and packets of Christmas cards, plus many nice religious gifts for Christmas and special occasions.



Bulletin Notices

RCIA helpers needed: Appeal for parishioners willing to assist in supporting adults and children new to the Catholic faith in our parish. There are many small ways that you can make a difference. To have a conversation about this contact Diane Redmayne RCIA coordinator via the parish office or leave your contact details with Sr Jill.

Church Renovations: Construction of Alterations and Additions to our Church building have been approved and construction will commence early in 2024. Watch this space for updates.

Thank you from fundraising Committee. Throughout the year we have had quite a few events, the raffle and 3 bunnings BBQ. There is another bunnings BBQ on 17 December.

Helpers are invited to join in. Our fundraising committee welcomes new members and fresh ideas for next year.

Holy Family Fellowship Prayer Group We gather at, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Varroville, on the 4th Saturday every month after the Vigil Mass. We have a short time of Praise and Worship followed by a time of fellowship and sharing of a light meal. Contact : Ryan - Mob:0430 404 575.

St Patricks College Registrations are open now! Don't miss your opportunity to register today. We invite you to join us to celebrate our College Open Day on 24 February 2024. We look forward to sharing with the community our stunning College campus and why we are specialists in girls' education. Have you considered St Patrick's College for Girls for your daughter?

Legion of Mary Our Lady Queen of Peace, Campbelltown Curia is holding the Annual General Reunion celebrating the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on **Friday 8 December** at St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 25 Cordeaux St Campbelltown from **7pm for Legion Prayers and 7.30pm for Holy Mass**. Get together after Mass in the parish hall. All are welcome.

Christmas Pageant preparation; Please check on the parish calendar on our website for pageant preparation times during December or call the parish office for more information about how to join in.

On The Journey This Week: Joshua Whitehead says that we're invited to have a four-fold response this Advent to cooperate and make sense of what God gives us. Mother Hilda says we'll love Jesus to mount a crown with our thumbprints all over it on our head. Plus, Fr Tony Percy and some special extra Advent reflections. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413. An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs. 'This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are

working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict.' With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict.

Summer School of Evangelisation (Sydney): 7-14 January
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 and 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

Position Vacant | Program Coordinator at Arete Centre
As the Program Coordinator at the Arete Centre, you will play a pivotal role in ensuring the efficient operation of our organisation. This position is part-time, with a commitment of one day a week. The Program Coordinator will be responsible for fostering a positive and professional student journey. They will coordinate four Intensive Retreats each year and serve as the primary point of contact for students. Additionally, they will oversee the coordination and management of Student Mentor groups, upkeep of student database, and be responsible for all associated administrative tasks. To apply, please submit your resume and cover letter to the Laura Neeson: office@aretecentre.org. Please specify "Program Coordinator" in the subject line. Applications for this Position close Wednesday 6 December.

Diocesan Youth Ministry Leader - Catholic Diocese of Wollongong: Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Youth Ministry Leader in the Diocese of Wollongong. Applications close on Tuesday, 12 December 2023. For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/ or for enquiries contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au

A New Vision for Parishes: Bishop Mascord has supplied multiple copies of Come and See Go and Make - A vision for Parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong for distribution amongst the faithful. Further to this, • A short introductory video message from Bishop Mascord may be viewed/ downloaded at <http://dow.sh/CSGMvision>
Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes resources may be found at h.tlw.dow.sh/CSGMresources

CatholicCare are currently looking for Community Support Workers. Becoming a CatholicCare Community Support Worker will give you a career that you love, whilst providing a valuable connection to people living with a disability or the aged in our Diocese. If you want to find out more about becoming a Community Support Worker go to catholiccare.dow.org.au/get-involved/careers/or call 4227 1122.

Holy Gospel according to Mark 13:33-37

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come .

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.

And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.



HOMILY by POPE FRANCIS 30 November 2018 (excerpt)

Today on the First Sunday of Advent, we enter that four-week Season with which a new liturgical year begins and that immediately prepares us for the Feast of Christmas, the memorial of the Incarnation of Christ in history. Yet, the spiritual message of Advent is more profound and already orients us to the glorious return of the Lord at the end of our history. Adventus is the Latin word that could be translated by "arrival", "coming" or "presence". In the language of the ancient world it was a technical term that indicated the arrival of an official, and especially the visit of kings or emperors to the provinces, but it could also be used for the appearance of a divinity, which emerged from its hidden dwelling-place and thus manifested its divine power; its presence was solemnly celebrated with worship.

By using this term, "Advent", Christians wanted to express the special relationship that bound them to the Crucified and Risen Christ. He is a King who, having entered this poor province called earth, made us the gift of his visit and after his Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven desired in any case to stay with us; we perceive his mysterious presence in the liturgical assembly. Indeed, in celebrating the Eucharist, we proclaim that he did not withdraw from the world, that he did not leave us alone and, even though we cannot see and touch him as with material and tangible realities, he is in any case with us and among us. Indeed, he is in us, because he can attract to himself and communicate his life to every believer who opens his/her heart to him. Thus, Advent means commemorating the first coming of the Lord in the flesh, with his definitive return already in mind, and, at the same time, it means recognizing that Christ present in our midst makes himself our travelling companion in the life of the Church who celebrates his mystery. This knowledge, dear brothers and sisters, nourished by listening to the Word of God, must help us to see the world with different eyes, to interpret the individual events of life and history as words that God addresses to us, as signs of his love that assure us of his closeness in every situation; this awareness, in particular, should prepare us to welcome him when "he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end", as in a little while we shall repeat in the Creed. In this perspective, Advent becomes for all Christians a time of expectation and hope, a privileged time for listening and reflection, as long as we let ourselves be guided by the liturgy, which invites us to advance to meet the Lord who comes.

"Come, Lord Jesus": dear friends, this ardent invocation of the Christian community of the early days must also become our constant aspiration, the aspiration of the Church in every epoch, which longs for and prepares herself for the encounter with her Lord. Come today, Lord; enlighten us, give us peace, help us triumph over violence. Come Lord, we pray precisely in these weeks: "Lord... let us see your face and will shall be saved" (Ps 80[79]: 3), we have just prayed with the words of the Responsorial Psalm. And the Prophet Isaiah revealed to us in the First Reading that the Face of Our Saviour is that of a tender and merciful father who cares for us in all circumstances because we are the work of his hands: "You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name" (63: 16). Our God is a father prepared to forgive repentant sinners and to welcome those who trust in his mercy (cf. Is 64: 4). We had drifted away from him because of sin, falling under the dominion of death, but he took pity on us and, on his own initiative, without any merit on our part, decided to meet our needs, sending his only Son as our Redeemer. As we face such a great mystery of love, our thanksgiving rises spontaneously and our invocation becomes more trusting: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, today, in our time, in every part of the world, let us feel your presence and grant us your salvation (cf. Gospel acclamation).

