

12 November 2023
**Thirty Second Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year A**



Entrance Antiphon

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

First Reading from the book of Wisdom 6:12-16

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2

Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God .

Second Reading first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:1-13

Communion Antiphon

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

NEXT WEEK

19 NOVEMBER 2023
**THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

First:

Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

Resp Psalm

Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1

Second Reading

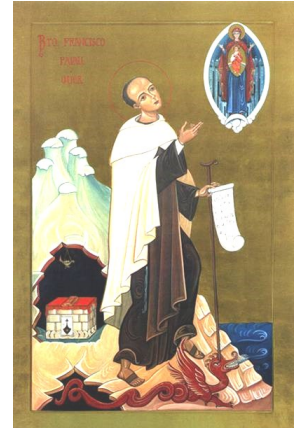
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

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.

Celebrating the Life and Mission of Blessed Francisco Palau Founder of the Carmelite Missionaries

Blessed Francisco Palau y Quer, was a Catalan Discalced Carmelite friar and priest. Growing up in the chaos of the Peninsular War in Spain, he followed both the life of a hermit and of a missionary preacher in the rural regions of Catalonia. He founded the School of Virtue – which was a model of catechetical teaching for adults – in Barcelona. In 1860 he founded a mixed Congregation of Third Order of Discalced Carmelites, including both Brothers and Sisters, in the Balearic Islands. The legacy of this foundation is carried on by two religious congregations of women who serve throughout the world.



FFPFI? What could this stand for?

FFPFI is the acronym of FR. FRANCISCO PALAU FOUNDATION INCORPORATED. It was founded by the Carmelite Missionaries in the Philippines on 8 September 2011 with the goal of uplifting the economic, educational, moral and spiritual situation of our more challenged brothers and sisters in our country. It envisions a society of transformed and self-empowered individuals living in communion with love of God and neighbour enjoying their dignity as human beings.

As to the mission of this foundation, it endeavours to create programs geared toward the integral formation of the poorest of the poor that will enable them to improve their way of life. It will adopt innovations that inspire beneficiaries to become themselves agents of communion and transformation in their respective milieu. It means that those people who have been helped by this foundation are greatly encouraged to pay the assistance forward by extending their helping hands to many others who are also in great need.

To become “CHANNELS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE” captures the whole vision and mission of this foundation. The specific means by which this foundation expresses itself in assisting our needy brothers and sisters are all found in their established objectives, as follows:

- ◆ FEEDING PROGRAM
- ◆ EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP
- ◆ HELP VICTIMS OF NATURAL CALAMITIES
- ◆ INCOME GENERATING PROJECT FOR THE POOR
- ◆ INTEGRAL FORMATION FOR THE POOR
- ◆ PROMOTE OTHER PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFITS OF THE POOREST OF THE POOR

We invite you to become part of this journey of communion with our more challenged brethren by sharing the blessings that you received from God according to your kindness and generosity. We believe that God is never outdone in generosity, and He will continue to call more people who are willing to manifest into the world the generosity of God by through their generous sharing of blessings to our needy brethren.

May God bless us all!

There will be an extra leaving collection this weekend to support the work of FFPFI

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: Mary Bergstedt, Giuseppe Cuomo, Angela Tomarchio, Rozalia Astalosh,
All our loved ones listed on the tree of remembrance during the month of November
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

| 19 November | Saturday 6pm | Sunday 9.30am | Sunday 5pm |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Welcomers | Myra, Paul and Lori | Gabriel , Ofa and Volunteer | Patricia and Volunteer |
| Altar Servers | Maria, Cassandra, Eliana and Abigail | Orly, Claire and Meliame | Stuart |
| Readers | Richard and Tracey | Allan and Laura | Evangeline and Kavya |
| Refreshments | Josephine and Glenda | Nelia, Anita and Tina | |
| CLOTW | | Rebecca and Samantha | |
| Flowers | Tracey and Richard | Church Vacuuming | Feiloakitohi Family |
| Counters | George and Wendy | Foyer Cleaning | Feiloakitohi Family |

Our Community Notices: Upcoming Events

19 November at 11am: Annual Parish Meeting
19 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.

1 December at 6.30pm: Youth gathering suitable for all from year 6 to adult.
2 December from 9am: Parish working bee.
Advent Groups; the first Sunday of Advent is 3 December. Anyone interested in hosting a group or joining a group please contact the Parish office.



Bulletin Notices

Roster Renewal: The current rosters finish at the end of November. If you would like to join a roster for the next 6 months please contact the parish office.

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. Child minding is available for anyone attending with children. RSVP to 0434705176 for catering purposes and childminding.

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, Ocarm. Registration at the Parish office, cost by donation.

Thanksgiving Supper Thursday 30 November. All parishioners who are actively involved in ministry at Our Lady of Mt Carmel parish are invited to the annual thanksgiving mass at 7:30pm followed by supper.

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Youth Event on Friday 1 December at 6:30pm. It is going to be a faith filled event where ages 13-17 years old can meet new friends, play games and share a meal and learn about their faith. For more info phone 0432 874 282

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/tZUpcOmpqD8vG9PRZiY4ntg5JEx6Jz1jXCDH#/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 - mglisisters.sydney@gmail.com

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.

St Mary's Singers is presenting a concert in St Mary's Cathedral Sydney called 'Church Music Through the Year' on 17 November 2023. It features Mozart's Coronation Mass in C Major K217 (excluding the Credo). The programme takes us on a journey through a year in the musical life of the sacred liturgy. It includes many choral favourites including Haydn's 'The Heavens are Telling' from the Creation and two movements from Handel's Messiah 'For unto us a child is born' and the 'Hallelujah' Chorus. William Byrd's unaccompanied 'Emendemus in Melius' and the Pentecost plainchant verse 'Veni Creator Spiritus' provide moments of quiet contemplation. There will be solo organ works and congregational hymns when audience participation is encouraged. The soloists are soprano Anna Sandstrom, alto Anna Fraser, tenor William Varga and bass/baritone Ben Caukwell. The choir is directed by Titus Grenyer with Callum Knox on the Grand Organ. Tickets on sale now via: trybooking.com/events/landing/1097546

Advent begins Year B and the Gospel of Mark. To prepare come and meet Mark, his Gospel and his Jesus; Three Tuesday evenings: 7.30pm - 9.30pm via ZOOM; 21 and 28 November, 5 December; Booking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CLYVL> before 1pm 20 Nov. This course is offered by the Catholic School of Evangelisation. Further info: Emilia 0418 120 902

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>

RETREAT DAY "LET THERE BE LIGHT" - At Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo on Saturday, 2 December; 10am-3.30pm; This day is especially set aside as a day of reflection with Christmas in mind. We see it as, a day to visit hope, a day to look forward toward the light that may just have escaped us during this past year, and yet still shines brightly beyond the clouds, beckoning us toward all that is good in the time ahead. There will be three input sessions by the Sisters along with time for quiet reflection and a guided meditation by one of the Sisters as well. MASS at 9am for anyone who would like to come
MORNING TEA: Provided; LUNCH: Bring your own; COST: \$30
TO REGISTER: Phone number: 4236 0011 ext106 (Just leave your name and number)

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

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:1-13

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did not take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'



The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION BY POPE FRANCIS

This Sunday's Gospel passage (Mt 25:1-13) invites us to prolong the reflection on eternal life that we began on the occasion of the Feast of All Saints and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. Jesus recounts the parable of the ten virgins invited to a wedding feast, symbol of the Kingdom of Heaven. In Jesus' time it was customary for weddings to be celebrated at night; so the procession of guests took place with lit lamps.

Some of the bridesmaids are foolish: they take their lamps but do not take the oil with them; the wise ones instead take the oil with them together with their lamps. The bridegroom is late, late in coming, and they all fall asleep. When a voice alerts them that the bridegroom is about to arrive, in that moment, the foolish ones realize that they do not have oil for their lamps; they ask the wise ones for some, but the latter reply that they cannot give away any oil, because there would not be enough for them all. While the foolish maidens go to buy oil, the bridegroom arrives. The wise maidens enter the banquet hall with him, and the door is closed. The others arrive too late and are turned away.

It is clear that with this parable, Jesus wants to tell us that we must be prepared for the encounter with him. Not only for the final encounter, but also for the everyday great and small encounters, with a view to that encounter for which the lamp of faith is not enough; we also need the oil of charity and good works. As the Apostle Paul says, the faith that truly unites us to Jesus is, "faith working through love" (Gal 5:6). It is what is represented by the behaviour of the wise maidens. Being wise and prudent means not waiting until the last moment to correspond to God's grace, but to do so actively and immediately, starting right now. "I... yes, I will convert soon...". "Convert today! Change your life today!". "Yes, yes, tomorrow". And the same thing is said tomorrow, and so it never arrives. Today! If we want to be ready for the final encounter with the Lord, we must cooperate with him now and perform good deeds inspired by his love. We know that unfortunately it happens that we forget the purpose of our life, that is, the definitive appointment with God, thus losing the sense of expectation and making the present absolute. When one makes the present absolute, one looks only to the present, losing the sense of expectation, which is so beautiful and so necessary, and also pulls us away from the contradictions of the moment. This attitude — when one loses the sense of expectation — precludes any view of the hereafter: we do everything as if we will never depart for the other life.

And so we care only about possessing, about emerging, about establishing ourselves... And always more. If we allow ourselves to be led by what seems most attractive to us, by what we like, by seeking our interests, our life becomes sterile; we do not accumulate any reserve of oil for our lamp, and it will be extinguished before the encounter with the Lord. We must live today, but a today that goes towards tomorrow, towards that encounter, a present full of hope. If, on the other hand, we are vigilant and correspond to God's grace by doing good, we can serenely await the bridegroom's coming. The Lord will be able to come even while we are sleeping: this will not worry us, because we have the reserve of oil accumulated through our daily good works, accumulated with that expectation of the Lord, that he may come as soon as possible and that he may come to take us with him.

Let us invoke the intercession of Mary Most Holy, that she may help us to live an active faith, as she did: [faith] is the shining lamp with which we can pass through the night beyond death and reach the great feast of life.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SUNDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

10:30 AM - 2:30 PM Lunch at 12:30pm

- 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

Evangelisation
Community
Discipleship

Worship
Ministry
Leadership

HOW WE AS A COMMUNITY CAN SHOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND BEYOND.

