

19 November 2023
Thirty third Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year A



Entrance Antiphon

The Lord said: I think
thoughts of peace and not of
affliction. You will call upon
me, and I will answer you,
and I will lead back your
captives from every place.

First Reading from the book
of Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20.
30-31

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

Response: Happy are those
who fear the Lord.

Second Reading from the
first letter of St Paul to the
Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in
you, says the Lord; my
branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 25:14-30

Communion Antiphon

To be near God is my
happiness, to place my
hope in God the Lord.

Next Week

26 November 2023
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe

First: Ez 34:11-12,15-17

Resp: Ps 22: 1-3,5-6,R.v.1

Second: 1 Cor 15:20-26,28

Gospel: Matt 25: 31-46

*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.*

Annual Parish meeting today at 10.30am

We gather today in the hall at 10.30am for our Annual Parish meeting. It is an opportunity for us all to look back and reflect on the past year and look forward and together develop our vision for the future.

Our parish has a Pastoral Plan which outlines the Parish Mission and Visions along with the strategies and goals for the future. Our Mission is to "know, love and serve Jesus..." and we aim to achieve this through 6 specific areas:

Worship, Ministry, Community, Evangelisation, Discipleship and Leadership.

Each of these 6 areas has their own vision, strategies and goals in the Plan. This Pastoral Plan now needs updating and this will be the basis of our meeting.

We would like to know your thoughts and hopes for our parish in each of these 6 areas. What you would like to see improved or renewed and what part you can play in the life of our parish. All of your insights will be reviewed by the Parish Council who will then develop our new Pastoral Plan, setting the path forward.

This is an opportunity for you to have your say in the future of our parish and how we as a community can show the love of Christ to our neighbourhood and beyond. What would you like to see renewed, started or altered, and what your role here is in the life of the parish. Ultimately, what do you want our parish to be - for you, for your family and for the broader community. Our Lady of Mount Carmel is a community of faith and it is also one of friendship and hospitality, of service and commitment, of celebrating our faith here together and sharing our faith with others beyond.

Annual Catechist Mass

Last Saturday we gathered at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral for the Annual Catechist Mass, a heartfelt celebration of the dedication and generosity of our incredible volunteers in the diocese!

Our Catechists are more than educators; they are missionaries, spreading the message of love and faith to individuals and families. The impact they make is truly out of this world!

In every Scripture lesson, in every prayer taught, these good and faithful servants shape the spiritual journey of many young hearts. Without them, some may never have encountered the profound love of Jesus

May we continue to pray for our Catechists, so they can be a witness to Christ, to those who do not know him!

Bishop Brian



*We Congratulate
Nellie Rafidi who
received an award for
25 years service as a
catechist in our parish
and Sr Ines for 10 years
service.*



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. All the souls in purgatory.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

26 November	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Tracey, Richard, Estela	Chris, Margaret, Bianca	Betty & family
Altar Servers	Michelle. Austin, Christian	Orly, Fisilose, Claire	Vu, Samantha, Nathan
Readers	Bevina, Amana	Tess, Aida	Tim, Volunteer
Refreshments	Emmarie, Suzanne, Berna	Volunteers	
CLOTW		Rebecca, Josephine	
Flowers	Vai, Jacinta	Church Vacuuming	Pawan, Effie
Counters	Ruby, Cynthia	Foyer Cleaning	Estela, Allan

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 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.

On Thursday 30 November at 7.30pm we will celebrate our annual Thanksgiving Mass. In gratitude for all of us who faithfully serve our parish in ministry. Every parishioner chooses to worship here and most parishioners have contributed to our parish, freely sharing their time, talents and treasure. The date for our thanksgiving mass has been chosen at the end of the church year, just before advent begins. We have a Thursday evening Mass every week, and we can dedicate this night to everyone in our parish who has served in ministry. A light supper will be served after Mass.

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

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.

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

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)

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 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

"Purpose Conference" - Free Bus from Wollongong/Macarthur - 18-35 Years Old; The 'Purpose Conference' will feature world renowned Catholic speakers Jason Evert and Matt Fradd, and hundreds of young adults from Sydney and all over Australia. We are also providing a free bus from Wollongong Diocese where you can connect with other local young adults on the way to the event. Tickets to the event are limited and so are spots on the bus, so register for both as soon as you can! Book your tickets: Book your own ticket to the conference via: dow.sh/Purpose23 Book your travel on Free Gong Bus: Feel free to make your own way to the Conference on Thursday 7 December, but be sure to reserve your spot on our Free Gong Bus for Friday 8 December by registering here (dow.sh/YA-BUS) and connect with other young adults from our Diocese on the journey - departing from Rosemeadow Parish at 4.45pm. Deadline for booking a spot on the bus is 3 December. Contact Fr Duane & the team at vocations@dow.org.au if you have any questions.

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 call 4227 1122 or go to catholiccare.dow.org.au/get-involved/careers/

Position Vacant | Safeguarding Support Officer Do you want to work for the mission of the Church by helping people ensure that our Diocese is a safe place for people to encounter Christ? Do you want to be a bearer of Christ's love by ensuring that our Diocese is a place where people who have been hurt can feel safe and heard? If you answered yes to these questions, you may be interested in joining the Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding (OPSS) in the Diocese of Wollongong. OPSS is looking for an organised and articulate professional to join the team as a Safeguarding Support Officer. The successful applicant will provide case support, project support and represent the office at professional development sessions. The Safeguarding Support Officer will be part of a team that assists the pastoral works of the Diocese to safely carry out the evangelising mission of making Jesus known and loved in the Illawarra, Macarthur, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands. "Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth" . If you are interested in finding out more about this position, please email safeguarding@dow.org.au and the Application Pack will be emailed to you. The position description for this role is also available on the Diocesan website – www.dow.org.au Applications close at 5pm on 21 November.

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

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:14-30

Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."



The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

This Gospel, Pope Francis says, highlights that 'not doing good is not good'.

The Pope points out that goodness is more than the absence of harm. Burying our talent and passively neglecting our gift is not what God wants. And, the Pope adds, we have been given many gifts: Faith, the Gospel, the Sacraments, even the Holy Spirit!

We Christians cannot, therefore, be a people who respond to God by turning in on ourselves and burying our treasures because we are fearful of losing them. Having been 'entrusted' with God's property – the Church, the Earth, even our very lives – we will be called to account for our custodianship of it.

But as this Gospel indicates, our judgment will not be measured by numbers, be they five or two talents (or converts!). Rather, the biggest question is whether we recognise the reality of being God's servants. As the Pope noted, the man in the parable was very quick to characterise the master as 'a hard man', justifying inaction. But with gifts already in hand our options are simple: we can make the excuse that God will be more concerned with punishing us for what we might do wrong and therefore do nothing; or we can try doing the best we can to do good and do something.



Parish Retreat

25 November 2023 Saturday

9:30am - 3pm

(Mass, Talk, Reconciliation and Adoration)

Registration Fee: by donation



Our Lady
of Mount Carmel
CATHOLIC PARISH VARROVILLE



**"THE INCARNATION: In the perspective
of St. John of the Cross"**

(Fr. Christian Marave, O Carm)