

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



**Entrance Antiphon**

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

**First Reading** from the prophet Ezekiel  
34:11-12. 15-17

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Ps Ps 22:1-3, 5-6, R. see v.1

**Response:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want

**Second Reading** the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-26. 28

**Gospel Acclamation**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!  
Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to Matthew 25:31-46

**Communion Antiphon**  
The Lord sits as King for ever.  
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

**Next Week**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
YEAR B**  
First: Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8  
Resp: Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19  
R. v.4  
Second: 1 Cor 1:3-9  
Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

*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.*

**Vale Father John Landy, OCD**

Carmelite Fr John Landy suffered a stroke on the morning of Saturday 18 November in Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, and died peacefully after being anointed the following afternoon.

John Denis Landy was born in Brisbane, Australia on 10 July 1935. After a time of preparation in Brisbane he became a Carmelite novice in 1955 in Loughrea, County Galway, Ireland. He professed his religious vows on 8 September 1956. After philosophical and theological studies in Dublin he was ordained on 22 December 1962. Fr John then studied in Rome before returning to Australia.

John was a very talented pianist and did most things with a certain flair. He was a keen gardener all his life and at one time or another kept finch in well-designed aviaries. He was stationed in Brisbane, Morley, Melbourne, Varroville. In 1975 he was the Student Master in Hunters Hill. During this time, he also taught students what was once called sacred eloquence. Fr John himself was a wry preacher. He didn't let the grass grow under his feet. All his life he grew spiritually. In recent years while living within limits he still flourished.



Fr John served in the Carmelite General House in Rome during the 12 years Fr Camilo Maccise was General after which he served in our houses in Israel. In recent years he was stationed in Varroville. He had suffered a stroke before returning to Australia was not allowed to drive a car. So his external ministry was circumscribed. However, he enjoyed contributing in any way he could, giving spiritual direction, hearing confessions, and celebrating the Eucharist. He enjoyed doing translations 'for Father General'. In last Sunday's Liturgy we hear the words of the Lord which apply to Fr John: "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." Fr John was a friendly and fraternal Carmelite. May he now enjoy the heavenly liturgy with all the saints and may he rest in peace in that blessed company.

*Written by Fr Greg Burke, OCD.*

**Join an Advent group**



There will be advent groups starting next week using the Diocese of Wollongong resource "The Sign". It is available for purchase from the Piety stall for \$5 each.

There will be Advent groups meeting:  
Sunday evening in the meeting room,  
Monday morning in the meeting room and via zoom  
Monday evening via zoom,  
Tuesday evening at 7pm in Macquarie Links

Please contact the parish office for the address & time of each group. If you would like to attend a group at another time please discuss it with Sr Jill or the parish office.

## 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](mailto:varroville@dow.org.au)

Website: [varroville.dow.org.au](http://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, Angela Tomarchio, Rozalia Astalosh,  
All our loved ones listed on the tree of remembrance during the month of November. All the souls in purgatory.



### Our Community: Rosters

3 December	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Glen & Arlene	Volunteer	Geoff & Margaret
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Berna, Ralph & Kenneth	Orly, Luisa & Carlos	Vu
<b>Readers</b>	Mark & Carlos	Allan & Laura	Gloria & Fev
<b>Refreshments</b>	Suzanne & Myra	Steve, Sarah & Volunteer	
<b>CLOTW</b>		Fev & Denise	
<b>Flowers</b>	Maria & Estela	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Tess
<b>Counters</b>	Vilma & Jeanette	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Tess

### Our Community Notices: Upcoming Events

**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.

**Roster Renewal:** The new rosters are available this weekend. If you would like to join a roster for the next 6 months please contact the parish office.



# Bulletin Notices

**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

**Parish Working bee next Saturday 2 December.** We need to do some gardening and cleaning to prepare for Christmas. Anytime you can come in the morning from 8am will be great.

**Holy Family Fellowship Prayer Group** We gather at, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Varroville, on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**A New Vision for Parishes** Bishop Mascord has asked that all Parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong distribute copies amongst the faithful this weekend - the Feast of Christ the King - of, Come and See Go and Make - A vision for Parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong. 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 <http://dow.sh/CSGMresources>

**On The Journey This Week:** Fr Mark De Battista says that we're celebrating something that is yet to come, that Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Mother Hilda has a story of a dud toaster acting like God. Plus, Fr Tony Percy on doing a spiritual audit, Fr Dave Callaghan, and Fr Mike Delaney. The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au).

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au) if you have any questions.

**Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal** Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://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.' Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict.

**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](mailto:office@aretecentre.org). Please specify "Program Coordinator" in the subject line. Applications for this Position close Wednesday 6 December.

## Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:31-46

*He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another .*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'



The Gospel of the Lord.

### REFLECTION by POPE FRANCIS 26 November 2017

On this last Sunday of the liturgical year we are celebrating the Solemnity of Christ, King of the Universe. His is a kingship of guidance, of service and also a kingship which at the end of time will be fulfilled as judgment. Today, we have Christ before us as King, shepherd and judge, who reveals the criteria for belonging to the Kingdom of God. Here are the criteria. The Gospel passage opens with a grandiose vision. Jesus, addressing his disciples, says: "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne". It is a solemn introduction to the narrative of the Last Judgment. After having lived his earthly existence in humility and poverty, Jesus now shows himself in the divine glory that pertains to him, surrounded by hosts of angels. All of humanity is summoned before him and he exercises his authority, separating one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. To those whom he has placed at his right he says: "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me". The righteous are taken aback, because they do not recall ever having met Jesus, much less having helped him in that way, but he declares: "as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me". These words never cease to move us, because they reveal the extent to which God's love goes: up to the point of taking flesh, but not when we are well, when we are healthy and happy, no; but when we are in need. And in this hidden way he allows himself to be encountered; he reaches out his hand to us as a mendicant. In this way Jesus reveals the decisive criterion of his judgment, namely, concrete love for a neighbour in difficulty. And in this way the power of love, the kingship of God is revealed: in solidarity with those who suffer in order to engender everywhere compassion and works of mercy.

The Parable of the Judgment continues, presenting the King who shuns those who, during their lives, did not concern themselves with the needs of their brethren. Those in this case too are surprised and ask: "Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?". Implying: "Had we seen you, surely we would have helped you!". But the King will respond: "as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me". At the end of our life we will be judged on love, that is, on our concrete commitment to love and serve Jesus in our littlest and neediest brothers and sisters. That mendicant, that needy person who reaches out his hand is Jesus; that sick person whom I must visit is Jesus; that inmate is Jesus, that hungry person is Jesus. Let us consider this. Jesus will come at the end of time to judge all nations, but he comes to us each day, in many ways, and asks us to welcome him. May the Virgin Mary help us to encounter him and receive him in his Word and in the Eucharist, and at the same time in brothers and sisters who suffer from hunger, disease, oppression, injustice. May our hearts welcome him in the present of our life, so that we may be welcomed by him into the eternity of his Kingdom of light and peace.