

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.

24 December 2023
Fourth Sunday
of Advent Year B

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above,
you heavens, and let the
clouds rain down the Just
One; let the earth be opened
and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading from the
second book of Samuel
7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

Response:

For ever I will sing the
goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Luke 1:26-38

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall
conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called
Emmanuel.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 1:26-38

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she

whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.'

And the
angel left
her.

Next Week

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
YEAR B**

First: Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

Resp: Ps 104:1-6. 8-9.
R.vv.7.8

Second: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Lk 2:22-40



Contact Us

Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD
Parish Associate: Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM
193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville
Parish Office Ph: 9603 7373 /0434 705 176
Office Hours: Tues -Fri: 9.30am-12.30pm
Email: varroville@dow.org.au
Website: varroville.dow.org.au

| 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 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 |



For the sick & 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 & affliction.

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

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Leticia Gonzalez De Patino, Lily Pereira, Mary Bergstedt, Giuseppe Cuomo.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Bulletin Notices

This summer the Children Ministry Team will hold a Bible Camp on 19 – 20 January 2024 here in the Parish grounds. Children aged from 8 to 14 years old are invited to participate. This is an opportunity to grow in the knowledge of God, to deepen their love of Him and to serve Jesus through others, by learning the Bible in their own way. Through fun activities, they will also learn values in life and skills they need as they grow up in the society, witnessing the Christian way of living.

Come along and join with us. Parents, please encourage and support your children to join this BIBLE CAMP. *Last day of Registration will be on 31 December 2023.*

Fee by donation. For more details and more enquiries, please contact Sr. Jill through email: asolmcp parish@gmail.com

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. Bookings are now full, but to join the waitlist visit: summerschool.org.au

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 on what changes lie ahead.

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.

On The Journey This Week: Fr Joshua Whitehead says Salvation history continues into the here and the now because we too can say yes to God's plan. Mother Hilda's encouragement for those who face a difficult Christmas. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Fr Sean Cullen, and Sr Mary Helen Hill. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

A vocation view: Mary was called to be open to the extraordinary. What do you need to say "let it be" in response to God's call to you? Trust that the Lord is with you and will guide you always. (Luke 1:26-38) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

Christmas message from Bishop Brian Mascord



My sisters and brothers in Christ and to all people of goodwill in the Diocese of Wollongong,
Grace, peace, and a very happy Christmas to you and your loved ones.

I recently had the joy of leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land—a wonderful time of prayer, reflection, and connection with God. In pondering the Christmas mystery of Emmanuel, God with us, I am drawn back to my experience in the land that was truly the cradle of our faith. In an unremarkable little town, far from the centres of power, a child was born whose life, death, and resurrection would change the course of history. As I stepped into the cave that, as tradition holds, was the place where Jesus was born, I was overcome by the humility of our Saviour King. This cave would not have been adorned by the smell of incense or the shimmering of gold. Instead, on that first Christmas day, the incense was the fragrance of a flock of sheep, and the gold was the adoring gaze of a mother and father who had fled their home for fear of losing their lives. Standing in the cave where a feeding box for animals held God himself, I was overwhelmed. This celebration of the coming of Jesus should remind us that, in a certain sense, every day is Christmas and an opportunity to welcome Emmanuel—God with us—into our lives. We do not need to be afraid nor concerned that we are not “fitting” for him, for surely, “A God who became so small could only be mercy and love” (St Thérèse of Lisieux). Therefore, with St Ambrose of Milan, I invite you to, “Open wide your door to the One who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light that illuminates all people.” And let us join together in prayer for those places in our world, particularly the Holy Land, mired by hatred and violence. May the one we call Prince of Peace bring peace to our world and the heart of all humanity.
Happy Christmas and the blessings of Christ’s love.

**A God who became
so small could only
be mercy and love.**

ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

Yours in Christ,

Brian Mascord

Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD

BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

19 December 2023

