

*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.*

**28 JANUARY 2024  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

**Entrance Antiphon**

Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the  
nations, to give thanks to  
your holy name, and make  
it our glory to praise you.

**First Reading** from the book  
of Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9

**Response:** If today, you  
hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading** from the  
first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians 7: 32-35

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have  
seen a great light: a radiant  
dawn shines on those lost in  
death. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Mark 1: 21-28

**Communion Antiphon**

Let your face shine on your  
servant. Save me in your  
merciful love. O Lord, let  
me never be put to shame,  
for I call on you.

## ***CHILDREN'S BIBLE CAMP***

Last weekend, 19 & 20 January 2024, the 1st Bible Camp for Children was held in our Parish. Thirteen (13) vibrant and responsive children participated in the said event. The days were filled with learning by the heart something about the Bible, such as: locating the passages, the content, the connection between the Old and New Testaments, the general themes and meanings of the scriptures, and above all, the relevance of the Bible in our life as believers and followers of Christ – knowing, growing and serving God and neighbours.

Added to the Bible learning was the deepening of friendship among the kids as they worked and played together through cooking, playing, cleaning and praying, together with the morning exercises and sharing of talents. Everybody went home filled with the Spirit, enthusiasm and excitement with eagerness to come back for another Bible Camp in the future.

Thank you to all the parishioners who had been part of this endeavour by their prayers for a successful and meaningful Bible Camp activities, and to all those who contributed financially to meet the needs of the activities. Thank you to Fr. Shane, to the Parish Staff and Parish Leaders for allowing and supporting this event to happen, to the School and Parish catechists, and to the Parish Youth Ministry Team for their valuable contribution in helping to facilitate the flow of the activities. And above all, to members of the Parish Children's Ministry Team for their active participation, enthusiasm, cooperation and full support in doing all the preparations, organization and facilitating the activities of the camp.

We pray that the Holy Spirit may continue to be with us to vivify our Church all the days of our life.



## 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 Baptism and Marriage enquiries contact the parish office.



**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:** Baldwin Lopez, Elena Del Rosario Bacani,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Antonio De Azevedo, Hilda Young, Lio Feiloakitohi, Patricia Kelleher, Resse Mangulabnan,

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

## Bulletin Notices

**World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated on Friday, February 2, 2024**, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation. The Diocese of Wollongong will celebrate with a special mass in the Cathedral of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. All are invited to celebrate this mass with those women and men, who serve the Lord through their vowed consecrated life.

**Word of God Sunday** The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God. A special presentation will be offered at 4.45pm on Saturday 3 Feb and 10.45 on Sunday 4 Feb, “What Every Catholic needs to Know About the Bible” by Dr Scott Hahn, Dr Michael Barber, Matthew Arnold and Jesse Romero. Please register your interest on the sign up sheet in the foyer or by calling the parish office.

**Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday 14 February. Mass will be at 9am and 7.30pm**

**Lenten Groups will commence the week starting 12 February.** If you are able to host a group please contact the parish office. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer for anyone wishing to join a group.

**The Lenten Reflection book *Pieta*** contains short daily reflections and longer form Sunday reflections, visio divina, questions and prayer—perfect for Lenten groups and individual devotional reading. ***Pieta*** Lenten books will be available next weekend.

**2024 Rite of Election;** The Rite of Election for 2024 will occur on Sunday 18 February. In order for this to be a truly diocesan event, Bishop Brian has requested that we hold the celebration on a Sunday afternoon. We will thus be celebrating this year's upcoming Rite of Election as follows: **Date:** Sunday 18 February 2024 at 2pm  
**Location:** St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Harbour St Wollongong  
Catechumens, their families and friends, are invited to take part in this celebration. Parishioners too are invited to attend this significant event in the life of the Diocese.

**The Chosen Season 4 Premier! - YOUNG ADULTS EVENT (18+)** We are excited to announce the first of many Young Adult events of 2024! **On Saturday 3 Feb**, we will have an outdoor “premier” screening of The Chosen's first episode of season 4! The Chosen is the first ever multi- season TV show about the life of Jesus, receiving worldwide accolades. If you haven't yet experienced it, come along and enjoy your first taste of it with other young adults from throughout the Diocese. The event begins at 6.30pm and will be held at St Mary's Towers Douglas Park, 415 Douglas Park Drive, Douglas Park. The event is for our over 18 young adults, feel free to bring friends along! Please BYO picnic dinner, drink, and if you have one bring a picnic blanket or beach chair.

## Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:21-28

*This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.*

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Discipleship requires a change in us. We want to change because in so many ways we are being strangled to death by demons. We are caught in dysfunction and sin; we live in the midst of the battle between good and evil, the struggle of human finitude and failure. We are plunged into the throes of human suffering and pain, and there seems to be no escape.

The demonic seduces us in more ways than we can count and we are often caught in its web before we recognise what has happened. There have always been many and varied voices that claim to have the remedy for our ills. Preachers and politicians have stirred up crowds and ignited their emotions. Promises have been made and predictions advanced, yet the conflict goes on, the demons continue to hold sway. The demon recognised the authority in the voice of Jesus. Do we recognise it?

When we are released by Jesus from the demons that possess us, we are freed from the stranglehold of evil and liberated to live far less encumbered and divided lives. No Earthly reality will possess us, neither relationships nor obligations nor even religious practices. Rather, we will be possessed by Christ who liberates us for the reign of God. Therefore, whether married or unmarried, whether in the midst of the community or at its margins, we will be able to heed the voice of God in our hearts and to recognise Jesus in our midst.