

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.

**31 December 2023
THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
YEAR B**

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph
and the Infant lying in a
manger.

First Reading from the book
of Ecclesiasticus
Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

Responsorial Psalm

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

Response:

The Lord remembers his
covenant for ever.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule
in your hearts, and the
fullness of his message live
within you.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Luke 2:22-40

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on
the earth, and lived among
us.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 2:22-40

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.



**Next Week
THE THE EPIPHANY OF
THE LORD**

First: Isaiah 60:1-6

Resp: 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R.
see v.11

Second: Ep 3:2-3. 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

New Year's Prayer

Surely your goodness and
love will follow me all the
days of my life, and I will
dwell in the house of the
Lord forever.

Psalm 23:6

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: Ron Allen, Antonio Demetrio Santos, 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: asolmcparish@gmail.com

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.

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 families affected by this devastating conflict.' With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict.

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

REFLECTION BY POPE FRANCIS 27 December 2020 (Excerpt)

A few days after Christmas, the liturgy invites us to turn our eyes to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is good to reflect on the fact that the Son of God wanted to be in need of the warmth of a family, like all children. Precisely for this reason, because it is Jesus' family, the family of Nazareth is the model family, in which all families of the world can find their sure point of reference and sure inspiration. In Nazareth, the springtime of the human life of the Son of God began to blossom at the moment he was conceived by the work of the Holy Spirit in the virginal womb of Mary. Within the welcoming walls of the House of Nazareth, Jesus' childhood unfolded in joy, surrounded by the maternal attention of Mary and the care of Joseph, in whom Jesus was able to see God's tenderness (cf. Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, 2).

In imitation of the Holy Family, we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit: it requires being founded on the love that always regenerates relationships, opening up horizons of hope. Within the family one can experience sincere communion when it is a house of prayer, when affections are serious, profound, pure, when forgiveness prevails over discord, when the daily harshness of life is softened by mutual tenderness and serene adherence to God's will. In this way, the family opens itself up to the joy that God gives to all those who know how to give joyfully. At the same time, it finds the spiritual energy to be open to the outside world, to others, to serving brothers and sisters, to cooperation in building an ever new and better world; capable, therefore, of becoming a bearer of positive stimuli; the family evangelizes by the example of life. It is true that there are problems, and at times arguments in every family. "Father, I argued..."

But we are human, we are weak, and we all quarrel within the family at times. I will tell you something: if you quarrel within the family, do not end the day without making peace. "Yes, I quarrelled", but before the end of the day, make peace. And do you know why? Because a cold war, day after day, is extremely dangerous. It does not help. And then, in the family there are three words, three phrases that must always be held dear: "Excuse me", "Thank you", and "Sorry". "Excuse me", so as not to be intrusive in the life of others. "Excuse me: may I do something? Do you think I can do this? Excuse me". Always, not being intrusive. "Excuse me", the first phrase. "Thank you": so much help, so much service that we do for one another within the family. Always say thank you.

Gratitude is the lifeblood of the noble soul. "Thank you". And then, the hardest one to say: "I am sorry". Because we always do some bad things and often someone is offended by this: "I am sorry", "I am sorry". Do not forget the three phrases: "excuse me", "thank you", and "I am sorry". If there are these three phrases in a family, in a family environment, then the family is fine.

May the Virgin Mary, whom we now address with the Angelus prayer, grant that families throughout the world be increasingly fascinated by the evangelical ideal of the Holy Family, so as to become leaven of a new humanity and of a concrete and universal solidarity.