

**04 Feb 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday of Ordinary**  
**Time Year B**



**Entrance Antiphon**

O come, let us worship God  
and bow low before the God  
who made us,  
for he is the Lord our God.

**First Reading** from the book  
of Job 7:1-4. 6-7

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3

**Response:**

Praise the Lord who heals  
the broken-hearted.

**Second Reading** from first  
letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
He bore our sickness,  
and endured our suffering.  
Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Mark 1:29-39

**Communion Antiphon**

Let them thank the Lord for  
his mercy, his wonders for  
the children of men,  
for he satisfies the thirsty  
soul, and the hungry he fills  
with good things.

**Next Week**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF**  
**ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

First: Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46  
Resp: Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7  
Second: 1 Corinthians 10:31 –  
11:1  
Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

*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.*

# WORD of GOD Sunday 2024

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

## Word of God Sunday

The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 4 in 2024 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B).

Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God

## The Importance of the Word of God

In fact, there were two documents about Scripture released by the Holy See on 30 September – one in 2019 and the other in 2020. They mark the 1600th anniversary of the death of St Jerome, the great Scripture scholar who prepared the definitive translation of the Bible into Latin. The first document institutes the Sunday of the Word of God, intended to help people to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred Scriptures. The second gives an account of St Jerome, his scholarship, his faith and his “living and tender love” of the Word of God. Jerome is proposed as a model for inculturating the Gospel and discovering Christ for our time. Most are no doubt familiar with the saying of Vatican II: “the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she has venerated the Lord’s body ... offering people the bread of life from the one table of the Word of God and the body of Christ (Dei Verbum 21).”

In the same vein, the second document quotes St Jerome: “We are reading the sacred Scriptures. For me, the Gospel is the body of Christ; for me, the holy Scriptures are his teaching. And when he says: ‘whoever does not eat my flesh and drink my blood’ (Jn 6:53), even though these words can also be understood of the [eucharistic] Mystery, Christ’s body and blood are really the word of Scripture, God’s teaching.” Celebrate, Study, Disseminate the Word The first Sunday in February is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God. The document inaugurating this day, *Aperuit Illis*, offers a number of practical strategies (AI, 3).

## RCIA Rite of Welcome at 9.30am Mass

"After the opening prayer at this Mass today we will welcome Lionel Nguyen, also known as Leo, as he prepares to enter the final stage in his preparation for receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Leo has recently moved into our parish area and has been attending Catholic Mass in both South and Western Australia for several years with his Catholic wife, Linda, and his daughter, Cherrie, who are both here as well today. We are blessed with his decision to journey in faith with us."

The Rite of Election for 2024 will occur on Sunday 18 February 2024. 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

Time: 2:00 pm

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.

## 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 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

### 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:** Rodney Smith, Joseph Baldwin Lopez, Elena Del Rosario Bacani,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Francis Haldar, Antonio De Azevedo, Hilda Young, Lio Feiloakitohi,  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



### Our Community: Rosters

11 February	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Suzanne, Russell & Berna	Laura, Jeanne & Volunteer	Geoff & Margaret
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Andrew, Sebastian & Eliarna	Orly, Claire & Meliame	Robert
<b>Readers</b>	Loretta & Gerard	Tess & Aida	Gloria & Fev
<b>Refreshments</b>	Tracey & Richard	Karen, Katalina & Tess	Beatrix &
<b>CLOTW</b>		Fev & Lee	
<b>Flowers</b>	Tracey & Richard	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Tess
<b>Counters</b>	Richard & Michael	<b>Foyer Cleaning</b>	Estela & Tess

### Our Community Notices: Upcoming Events

**Friendship Group will meet on Tuesday 6 February after 9am Mass.** Connect with other parishioners over a cuppa. All are most warmly welcome to come along.

**RCIA helpers needed:** Appeal for parishioners willing to assist in supporting adults and children new to the Catholic faith in our parish. There are many small ways that you can make a difference. To have a conversation about this contact Diane

Redmayne RCIA coordinator via the parish office or leave your contact details with Sr Jill.

**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.



# Bulletin Notices

**Lenten Groups** will be meeting during Lent to reflect on the Diocesan Lenten Resource, *Pieta*. The books are available in the piety store for \$5. All groups will be in the meeting room, except those on zoom.

- ◆ 10am on Monday.
- ◆ 2pm Monday on zoom
- ◆ 7pm Monday on zoom
- ◆ 7.30pm Monday
- ◆ 7.30pm Tuesday
- ◆ 10am Wednesday
- ◆ 6pm Sunday

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

**Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 10am in the parish meeting room.**

This year there is the possibility of a weekend meeting via zoom—possibly Sunday afternoon. Those who express an interest will be consulted to set a time and day. Please express your interest through the parish office by 11 February. More information is available on the parish website. This group is a faith sharing activity, not an academic exercise. There will be five books this year. The first book for this year is titled: **Jesus and the Natural World** by *Denis Edwards*, an Adelaide Diocesan priest, encourages Christians to wholeheartedly embrace ecological conversion and to connect with people around the globe in their deepening commitment to the survival of life on Earth. (*Available from Garratt Publishing \$19.95*).

**Fundraising news:** The parish fundraising team will be collecting “return and earn” bottles and cans this year. Please bring your bottles and cans that are recyclable for 10c to the parish and leave them in the signposted area for collection.

There will be a bunnings BBQ on Sunday 3 March at Gregory Hills. Volunteers and donations are gratefully accepted for this day. Each bunnings bbq raises approx \$1400 to help with our fundraising target.

**A New Vision for Parishes:** Bishop Mascord has supplied multiple copies of *Come and See Go and Make - A vision for Parishes* in the Diocese of Wollongong for distribution amongst the faithful. 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 [h.tlw dow.sh/CSGMresources](http://dow.sh/CSGMresources)

**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. Those who 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 families affected by this devastating conflict.' With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people. **Pilgrimage of Mercy**

**11 – 21 June 2024;** Father Christopher Sarkis, Parish Priest of Rosemeadow, will be the Chaplain accompanying Harvest Journeys Eastern Europe Pilgrimage of Mercy in June 2024, visiting Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. It includes the Shrines of Divine Mercy, the Black Madonna of Czestochowa and the Infant of Prague. It visits places of importance to St John Paul II, St. Faustina and St. Maximilian Kolbe, among others. Enquiries: 4628 1385 or directly at [harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimage-of-mercy](http://harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimage-of-mercy). Bookings only through Harvest Journeys.

**4th Annual St Joseph Motor Pilgrimage 15 -17 March 2024;** Have you saved the Date yet for this unique, men only, Spiritual Encounter venerating St Joseph for his great example of Fatherhood and a Virtuous life. Come for part or the full pilgrimage, it's your choice. 3 days of cars, bikes, men's gatherings, prayer, worship, mass, keynote speakers, small group discussions and fellowship across the (Arch) Diocese of Bathurst/Orange, Canberra/Goulburn and Sydney! Supported by Parousia Media, MenAlive and Maximus Men's Ministry Network. Once registered you will receive updated information and be added to the Zoom pre-drive/ride briefing. Also, if you have been involved in organising something like this in the past and would like to help, please let us know by direct message. Register Here: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1110723>

**Diocesan Youth Ministry Leader – Catholic Diocese of Wollongong** Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Youth Ministry Leader in the Diocese of Wollongong. Applications close on Thursday, 29 February 2024. For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: [dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/](http://dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/) or for enquiries contact [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

**CCD Level 1 Catechist Course** The Level 1 course is mandatory for all new SRE Catechists (Teachers and Helpers). Experienced Catechists are also welcome to attend to refresh skills and knowledge. The course will run 9:30am - 1:30pm for 5 weeks on Fridays in Campbelltown Fridays 9th, 16th, 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March at the Campbelltown Catholic Club (20/22 Camden Rd, Campbelltown). To register for the Level 1 course click here RSVP: CCD 2024 Level 1 Course. The first day of the course in both locations will include the Child Protection and Classroom Management training, which is required of all SRE Catechists every three years. To register for the Child Protection and Classroom Management update click here RSVP: CCD CP and CM Training Update.

**Touched by Abortion. Need Healing?** Rachel's Vineyard next retreat 1 – 3 March 2024. Held at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre Varroville NSW. Cost is negotiable. Part /full scholarships available. To book or further information, phone 0400 092 555 or 0407 626 079. EMAIL: [rachelsvineyardaus@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsvineyardaus@gmail.com)

**The Journey This Week:** Fr Daniel Serratore MGL says today's Gospel calls us out of our comfort zone to live out Jesus' mission in our lives. Mother Hilda has another tip on how to surrender to God's will. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Trish McCarthy,

## Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:29-39

*He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## REFLECTION OF POPE BENEDICT XVI 8 February 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters, The Gospel today (cf. Mk 1: 29-39) in close continuity with last Sunday's presents to us Jesus who, after preaching on the Sabbath in the synagogue of Capernaum, heals many sick people, beginning with Simon's mother-in-law. Upon entering Simon's house, he finds her lying in bed with a fever and, by taking her hand, immediately heals her and has her get up. After sunset, he heals a multitude of people afflicted with ailments of every kind. The experience of healing the sick occupied a large part of Christ's public mission and invites us once again to reflect on the meaning and value of illness, in every human situation.

Despite the fact that illness is part of human experience, we do not succeed in becoming accustomed to it, not only because it is sometimes truly burdensome and grave, but also essentially because we are made for life, for a full life. Our "internal instinct" rightly makes us think of God as fullness of life indeed, as eternal and perfect Life. When we are tried by evil and our prayers seem to be in vain, then doubt besets us and we ask ourselves in anguish: what is God's will? We find the answer to this very question in the Gospel. For example, in today's passage we read that Jesus "healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons" (Mk 1: 34); in another passage from St Matthew it says that Jesus "went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people" (Mt 4: 23). Jesus leaves no room for doubt: God whose Face he himself revealed is the God of life, who frees us from every evil. The signs of his power of love are the healings he performed. He thus shows that the Kingdom of God is close at hand by restoring men and women to their full spiritual and physical integrity. I maintain that these cures are signs: they are not complete in themselves but guide us towards Christ's message, they guide us towards God and make us understand that man's truest and deepest illness is the absence of God, who is the source of truth and love. Only reconciliation with God can give us true healing, true life, because a life without love and without truth would not be life. The Kingdom of God is precisely the presence of truth and love and thus is healing in the depths of our being. One therefore understands why his preaching and the cures he works always go together: in fact, they form one message of hope and salvation.

Thanks to the action of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' work is extended in the Church's mission. Through the sacraments it is Christ who communicates his life to multitudes of brothers and sisters, while he heals and comforts innumerable sick people through the many activities of health-care assistance that Christian communities promote with fraternal charity. Thus they reveal the true Face of God, his love. It is true: very many Christians around the world priests, religious and lay people - have lent and continue to lend their hands, eyes and hearts to Christ, true physician of bodies and souls! Let us pray for all sick people, especially those who are most seriously ill, who can in no way provide for themselves but depend entirely on the care of others. May each one of them experience, in the solicitude of those who are beside them, the power and love of God and the richness of his saving grace. Mary, health of the sick, pray for us!