

14 April 2024
THIRD SUNDAY OF
EASTER YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading from Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15. 17-19

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

Response: Lord, let your face shine on us.

Second Reading from the first letter of St John 2:1-5

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according according to Luke 24:35-48

NEXT WEEK
FOURTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER YEAR B

First Reading: Acts 4:8-12

Resp Ps: 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22

The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Second Reading: 1John 3:1-2

Gospel: John 10:11-18

What it means to me to be a part of our parish family

by Diane Redmayne

As RCIA coordinator and an interested parishioner, I ask newcomers why they come to **our** parish and the answer never surprises me, because I feel the same way: I feel welcomed, accepted for who I am and uplifted by the people around me and the uplifting liturgies. When we walk into Mass, we are celebrating our faith community and there is a sense of being “together” that often gives me new energy to face the daily challenges that await me when I leave.

But I am also challenged to be more than a Sunday guest, I am challenged to be a member of the parish family, to roll up my sleeves and help prepare for the feast and to clean up after the feast, to share companionship and faith. In this Easter season, we listen to the readings from The Acts of the Apostles describing the beginnings of the Christian community drawn together by Christ’s love, after his death and resurrection, and his commandment to “Love one another as I have loved you.” They gave their time, talent and money to be a community in Christ’s love. This is what parish ministry is to me, and being involved confirms my sense of belonging to a Christian family that wants to build up our community, Christ’s body. I want to do my part in whatever way I can make a difference. Christ’s body has many parts as St Paul tells us, what part of Christ’s body are you?

If you want to know how you can help build up our parish community, Sr Ninfa, Sr Julie and Colleen Haughey meet with individuals to help them work this out- it is a process of discernment and often one of self- discovery! Express your interest by completing a form “**Ministry Discernment**” available at the Information desk. If you already know what you can do, then complete the “**Ministry Membership**” form available online or at the information desk. In the coming weeks there will be more information about the different ministries and representatives of different ministries will be available after Mass to answer questions.



Ministries

Easter Vigil Initiation 2024

Welcome RCIA Neophytes: new sprouts



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	Stations of the Cross; Friday 7pm during Lent
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

Meetings and Gatherings

Friendship Group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 9am.
Readers Ministry Meeting meets on the last Tuesday of every 2 months at 7.30pm via zoom. (30 April)
Holy Family Fellowship meets on the 4th Saturday at 7pm.
Book Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am.
Fundraising Team meeting is on Wednesday 24 April at 7.30pm.
Faith Circles meets every Monday via zoom at 2pm & 7.30pm.

Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.
Children’s Choir will meet on Friday 19 April at 7.30pm.
Childrens Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm.
Youth Ministry is on fire for faith, friendship and specially for God! All 13-17 years old are invited to join every fortnight on the 2nd & 4th Friday of every month at 6:30 pm.
 Save the date: **Parish Fiesta** July 14

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Una Champion, 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, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart.
May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Francisco Carmona, Lola Moors, Rosario David, Rodney Smith,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Anthony Mangos, Anthony Binny, Hilda Young, Fr Tadgh Tierney ocd, Veni Menezes *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



Our Community: Rosters

21 April	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Myra, Paul & Lori	Sarah, Violeti & Martin	Betty & Boby
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra & Abigail	Orly, Meliame & Fisiilose	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Richard & Tracey	Gabriel & Volunteer	Kathy & Margaret
Refreshments	Estela & Margaret	Nelia, Anita & Tina	Beatrix & Madonna
CLOTW		School holidays	
Flowers	Patricia & Asinate	Church Vacuuming	Tess
Counters	Ruby & Cynthia	Foyer Cleaning	Estela & Tess

Our Parish Notices:

Community Notices

'Emmaus Silent Retreat Friday 19th April - Sunday 21st April, Varroville: Embark on the sacred journey of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, where the victorious love of God is revealed through the abiding presence of Jesus.

Be renewed in spending time alone with the Lord, and watch as He slowly sets your heart ablaze. This retreat is run by the MGL Sisters and is a retreat for both men and women:

trybooking.com/CNSXK

Project Compassion boxes and envelopes can still be returned to the parish office. Caritas Message:- "On behalf of everyone at Caritas Australia, I want to thank your parish once more. Without your ongoing support, dedication and commitment, the work we do would simply not be possible. The inspiring stories we have shared during lent are living proof that your generosity travels far and wide, and can create better opportunities for all future generations."

FIND US ONLINE: Visit the Caritas Australia website for more information about Project Compassion, including online donations, go to CARITAS.ORG.AU/PROJECT-COMPASSION. Receipts for those who have requested one will be issued in May.

Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation; The dates for these Sacraments are available on our parish website and registrations are being accepted via the Parish office.

Catechist Training Course Level 2 The Level 2 Course is a chance for all SRE Teachers and Helpers to take their knowledge of teaching and the Catholic Faith deeper. It focuses on a variety of topics to help you grow as a Catechist and Catholic.

Mondays – Wollongong – Xavier Centre (36 Harbour St, Wollongong)

Fridays – Campbelltown – Campbelltown Catholic Club, 20/22 Camden Road, Campbelltown

Time: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Dates: Week 1 - Mon 29 April / Fri 3 May

Week 2 - Mon 6 May / Fri 10 May

Week 3 - Mon 13 May / Fri 17 May

Week 4 - Mon 20 May / Fri 24 May

Week 5 - Mon 27 May / Fri 31 May

Week 6 - Mon 3 June / Fri 7 June

Please register your attendance at either the Level 2 Course in Wollongong or Campbelltown by clicking the link below, noting that you can attend either course and that if you miss one day, you can attend the other course so as to not miss any topics.

Enquiries: Sue Clark 4222 2416

email.support@ccdwoollongong.com

Banquet: Pentecost Intensive 2024

Friday 17 May - Wednesday 22 May @ Carmel House, Varroville Join the MGL Sisters for Pentecost 2024 as we discover the depths of God's love through our Banquet Intensive and accept the invitation to radical intimacy with the Trinity. Feast on God's powerful love for you, open up to the gifts of the Spirit, savour times of powerful input, prayer, and practical workshops, and find the charismatic generosity of

God unleashed in your own life of mission and discipleship.

Enquiries: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Registrations: <http://www.trybooking.com/CNSXA>

The Journey - Our DoW Weekly Podcast This podcast is a really simple way to promote adult faith formation and growth in personal prayer life for the faithful of your parish.

Thousands access it as an email each week. Tens of thousands hear it across a radio network of around 30 stations.

The Journey, 31 March 2024 – this Week: Fr Joshua Whicker says that Jesus is here now to redeem us in the fullness of our humanity in our current lived experience. Mother Hilda says speak and listen with the eyes of God. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Byron & Francine Pirola, and Fr Mike Delaney.

The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage' 10 – 20 October 2024

The itinerary for the 'Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop' pilgrimage has been released. Set out on a true Australian Pilgrimage through the life and times of Mary MacKillop, as we rekindle the story, landscape, and spirit of our nation's first saint. Please share this news with family, friends, and fellow parishioners. As it is expected that this pilgrimage will 'sell out', everyone wanting to attend is encouraged to submit your deposit as soon as possible. It is the hope of Fr David Catterall (Parish Priest of St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park) to be chaplain on the October 2024 departure. More info, including the costs and itinerary, can be found at

www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/footsteps-of-st-mary-mackillop

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council

An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue or restart your monthly gift at any time. Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/parishgiving/> to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronically.

Go Deeper in your Faith with popular & FREE Catholic Podcas

• Bible in a Year

Ascension Press will again run the Catholic Bible in a Year Podcast featuring Fr Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins in 2024. It remains one of the world's leading podcasts with over 400 million downloads. While a new podcast is released daily, you can do it at your own pace signing up at www.ascensionpress.com/biy and it's not too late to catch up or simply work through at your own pace.

• Catechism in a Year

This year, Ascension Press will also again run the Catechism in a Year podcast which will slowly and prayerfully read through and break open the Catechism over 365 days. It's not too late to catch up, and the daily podcasts can be listened to at your own pace. It is available at

www.ascensionpress.com/ciy

Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:35-48

It was written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.



Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION BY POPE BENDICT XVI 30 April 2006

In the Easter Season the liturgy offers us manifold incentives to strengthen our faith in the Risen Christ. Today, on the Third Sunday of Easter, for example, St Luke tells how the two disciples of Emmaus, after recognizing him "in the breaking of the bread" (Lk 24: 35), returned to Jerusalem full of joy to tell the others what had happened to them. And just as they were speaking, the Lord appeared, showing them his hands and his feet with the signs of the Passion. Then, in the face of the Apostles' disbelief and wonder, Jesus had them give him some broiled fish and ate it before their eyes (cf. Lk 24: 35-43).

In this and in other accounts, one can discern a repeated invitation to overcome incredulity and believe in Christ's Resurrection, since his disciples are called to be witnesses precisely of this extraordinary event.

The Resurrection of Christ is central to Christianity. It is a fundamental truth to be reasserted vigorously in every epoch, since to deny it, as has been, and continues to be attempted, or to transform it into a purely spiritual event, is to thwart our very faith. St Paul states: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (I Cor 15: 14).

In the days that followed the Lord's Resurrection, the Apostles stayed together, comforted by Mary's presence, and after the Ascension they persevered with her in prayerful expectation of Pentecost. Our Lady was a mother and teacher to them, a role that she continues to play for Christians of all times.

Every year, at Eastertide, we relive this experience more intensely and perhaps, precisely for this reason, popular tradition has dedicated to Mary the month of May that normally falls between Easter and Pentecost. Consequently, this month which we begin tomorrow helps us to rediscover the maternal role that she plays in our lives so that we may always be docile disciples and courageous witnesses of the Risen Lord.

SAVE THE DATE



Sunday , 14th July 2024

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

FEAST DAY

From 10 am onwards

