

**Sunday May 5 2024**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Year B**



**Entrance Antiphon**

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

**First Reading** from the Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2  
(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

**Second Reading** from the first letter of St John 4:7-10

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to John 15:9-17

**Communion Antiphon**

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

**NEXT WEEK**

**12 MAY 2024**

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR B**

**First Reading:** Acts 1:1-11

**Resp Ps:** Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**Second :** Ephesians 1:17-23

**Gospel:** Mark 16:15-20



**Rest in peace Emeritus Bishop Peter Ingham**

Peter William Ingham, the fourth bishop of Wollongong, died peacefully in the late evening of 26 April 2024. He was 83 years of age and almost 60 years a priest.

The vigil and funeral details for Bishop Peter Ingham have been announced by Bishop Brian Mascord as follows:

A SOLEMN RECEPTION of the body of Bishop Peter will take place at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, 36 Harbour Street, Wollongong on Thursday 9 May 2024 at 6:30pm followed by Evening Prayer. A

SOLEMN VIGIL LITURGY will follow at 7:30pm.

A SOLEMN PONTIFICAL MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL for Bishop Peter will be offered at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong, on Friday 10 May 2024, commencing at 10:30am. Interment will take place in the cathedral grounds at the conclusion of Mass.

Relatives, friends, and the people of God are invited to attend the vigil and funeral. Please note, there will be street parking only for the public. Due to the large number of invited bishops, clergy, relatives, dignitaries, and close friends attending the funeral, there will be very limited seating inside the cathedral. Therefore, a large marquee containing overflow seating with television screens will be erected in the carpark adjacent to the cathedral. Bishop Peter's casket will process past the marquee at the conclusion of the funeral Mass.

Livestream Provisions: Noting limited capacity for attendees at the Cathedral, the funeral will be livestreamed at <https://dow.sh/livestream>.

**We will livestream the funeral in our church on Friday 10 May at 10.30am for those who wish to attend.**



**Ministries** You are called to serve

In our Parish Pastoral Plan we are called to Ministry/Service:

“Giving of ourselves: Our community enables every member to use their unique gifts and skills in ministry, giving of themselves in service to others”.

What gifts and skills can you share in our parish community. Stop at the ministry table after mass and ask about the many practical ways you can support our parish community.

All ministry volunteers currently serving on a roster are requested to recommit for the next 6 months till the end of November. This is the last weekend to complete your commitment form after Mass.

## 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:<br>Third Sunday at 11.15am | Fri and Sat Mass at 9am                                    | Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion:<br>First Friday of each month from 7.30pm |
| Samoan Mass:<br>First Sunday at 12 noon   | Healing Mass on the first Saturday of<br>each month at 9am | Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12                                                     |
| Maori Mass:<br>First Sunday at 2pm        |                                                            |                                                                                       |



### Contact us

Parish Priest:  
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:  
Sr “Jill” Girdle Sudario, CM

### Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm

Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176

Email: [varroville@dow.org.au](mailto:varroville@dow.org.au)

Website: [varroville.dow.org.au](http://varroville.dow.org.au)

## 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 29 May 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 3rd Friday 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:** Matthew Scales, 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:** Emeritus Bishop Peter Ingham,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



## Our Community: Rosters

| 12 May 2024          | Saturday 6pm            | Sunday 9.30am              | Sunday 5pm           |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Welcomers</b>     | Myra, Paul & Lori       | Laura, Jeanne, & Volunteer | Patricia & Volunteer |
| <b>Altar Servers</b> | Berna, Christian, Ralph | Orly, Meliame, Fisilose    | Stuart & Nathan      |
| <b>Readers</b>       | Suzanne & Russell       | Irene & Lee                | Tim & Volunteer      |
| <b>Refreshments</b>  | Tracey & Richard        | Karen, Katalina & Tess     | Margaret & Geoff     |
| <b>CLOTW</b>         |                         | Fev & Asinate              |                      |
| <b>Flowers</b>       | Vai & Mago              | <b>Church Vacuuming</b>    | Feiloakitohi Family  |
| <b>Counters</b>      | Christine & Cira        | <b>Foyer Cleaning</b>      | Feiloakitohi Family  |

## Our Parish Notices:

## Community Notices

Thank you for your incredible support of Project Compassion this year. Our parish has collected \$3558 from the boxes and envelopes this year. If you still wish to return your box, its not too late. Online donations can be made at any time at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au).

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Thank you for supporting the Holy Land collection on Good Friday as encouraged by Pope Francis. Through this collection, you join with other Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land; you become an instrument of peace in the land where Jesus walked. This year our Parish collected \$2414.90 for this collection.

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**Fundraising:** Our major raffle tickets are available from the foyer after all masses. The draw will take place at our Fiesta on 14 July 2024.

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### St. Mariam of Jesus Crucified (1846-1878)

**PRESENTER:** Fr. Paul Maunder, OCD & Cristina Leontini, translator of *Life and thoughts of Mariam Baouardy, 'the little nothing'*. Illiterate, child-like, naive, poor, a 'the little nothing', this Teresian Carmelite nun founded the Carmel of the Holy Child Jesus in Bethlehem. She bore the wounds of the "Ecce Homo" in her body and offered her sufferings in loving union with her Lord for mercy upon sinners. Fr Paul and Cristina Leontini will present her life and comment on her way of the cross in the context of today's sufferings, especially in the Holy Land.

**WHEN:** May 10 - 12, 2024 • 6pm (Fri) - 12:30 pm (Sunday)

**At the** Mt Carmel Priory, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW  
**COST:** \$330. (Price is inclusive of all meals & accommodation). Register at [www.mtcarmel.com.au/carmelite-retreat-program](http://www.mtcarmel.com.au/carmelite-retreat-program).

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**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](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)  
Registrations: <http://www.trybooking.com/CNSXA>.

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**Fiesta update:** The preparations for our Fiesta on 14 July have begun. For information about how to get involved please call the parish office or check our parish website. The next preparation meeting will be held on Monday 20 May at 7.30pm

# SAVE THE DATE



**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

# FEAST DAY

From 10 am onwards



### CatholicCare National Family Week – Family Fun Day

Saturday 18 May 2024, 2pm – 4:30pm at Ruse – St Thomas More Church, 43 Acacia Avenue Ruse  
To Celebrate National Families Week, CatholicCare are hosting a FREE Family Fun Day for the whole Family, with a variety of activities to enjoy, including Petting Zoo, face painting, Ice Cream Van, Lawn Games, Sausage Sizzle, Kids Craft Stations, and Appearances from the Dragons.

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**CCR NSW Celebrating Pentecost Eve "Anointing"**. Please join the Catholic Charismatic Renewal NSW in celebrating Pentecost Eve "Anointing" on Saturday 18 May at Servants of Jesus Centre 15 Park Road Seven Hills for an afternoon of Praise & Worship, Testimonies and Prayer Ministry from 4-7pm hosted by youth from different streams. Any inquires: [email@ccrnsw.org.au](mailto:email@ccrnsw.org.au); Booking essential. Register <https://www.trybooking.com/CPMXQ?qr=true>.

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**Catholic Business Connections Luncheon:** Danny & Leila Abdallah to speak at May Catholic Business Connections Luncheon. In 2020 the Abdallah's tragically lost 3 of their children when they were tragically killed by a speeding driver. The story of their decision to forgive has become an inspiring example worldwide, and a witness to their faith. Come and hear their story and the power of forgiveness. Friday 31 May at City Beach, Function Centre, Wollongong (11.45am- 2pm). For more information and to book please visit <https://dow.sh/CBCMay2024>

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**Charismatic Healing Mass** A warm invitation is extended to anyone who would like to join us in charismatic prayer for our Bishop's Vision for the Wollongong Diocese, followed by Holy Mass. There will also be an opportunity or healing prayer after mass and a cup of tea/coffee. Friday 17 May 2024 at Sacred Heart Chapel, Stewart St, Wollongong. 7:00pm Praise and Worship; 7:30pm Holy Mass;  
Info: Gabriella De Battista 0414 205 404

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**On The Journey, 5 May 2024 Podcast** This Week: Fr James Arblaster says the readings this weekend highlight that God doesn't have favourites. Mother Hilda and finding the one word that connects you with God. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Trish McCarthy, and Fr Mike Delaney. The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au).

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### Compass: Catholic Family Camping Weekend 17 – 19 May 2024 at Wooglemai Catholic Camping Facility, Oakdale

Join with families of all ages and stages to celebrate the incredible gift of family life. Cost: \$30 per adult or \$70 per family (regardless of size). Enquiries: Jude Hennessy 02 4222 2407 / [jude.hennessy@dow.org.au](mailto:jude.hennessy@dow.org.au)  
Camping & Bunk Room Options: You may like to pitch a tent, stay in a caravan, camper or swag. There are also male and female dormitory rooms with bunk beds. These will be allocated during registration on a first-come-first-served basis and will require strict supervision of children by parents/guardians. Come and join in the fun with other awesome people from around the Diocese.

To register: [dow.org.au/events/compass-catholic-family-camping-weekend](http://dow.org.au/events/compass-catholic-family-camping-weekend)

## Holy Gospel according to John 15:9-17

*No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know

his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

### REFLECTION: Cornelius, Catholics and Love by Fr Michael Tate

We owe much to a Roman soldier. In fact, it may be said we are 'Catholic' because of the encounter between St Peter and Cornelius. Cornelius was a centurion. As the name implies, a centurion was in charge of 100 soldiers in the Roman army. So he was a junior officer in the Empire's armed forces and a pagan to boot.

And yet, St Peter found that this man was evidently graced by the Holy Spirit and therefore Peter could not deny him baptism. This incident helped resolve a major controversy in the first decades of the church.

Would a pagan have to become a Jew, one of the Chosen People, before becoming a Christian? Peter concluded, on the basis of a vision and this incident, that God does not have favourites amongst the peoples of this world and that any person of any nationality who is in awe of God and lives justly could be baptised a Christian.

And thus the early church was able to break out of its Jewish confines. We were not to be a Jewish sect which accepted Jesus as the Messiah. We were to be truly universal ('catholic' in the Greek) able to embrace all those who acknowledge our Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

So the great missionary endeavour began to every tribe, every ethnic group, speakers of every tongue throughout the earth. And there were two main messages. First that Jesus of Nazareth had had the victory over death, and we are able to share in that victory. That is the faith of Easter which we have just celebrated.

The second great message involved understanding what 'love' really entails. The word 'love' in English covers such a multitude of experiences as to be devoid of meaning until we know the context. Does it refer to the passionate embrace of two lovers, or a preference for chocolate over nougat? Our Lord gives us the core meaning.

'No greater love can a person have than to lay down his life for his friends.'

Of course, for most of us the closest experience consonant with that gospel is the experience of a parent at the bedside of a chronically ill or badly injured child who is dying. A mother or father would willingly substitute themselves for that child facing death. This is the true core meaning of 'love' according to Our Lord. Every other form of love grades away from this most perfect human expression of loving.

Of course Jesus not only preached this message, but lived and died it. He substituted himself for the whole of humanity dying because of a broken relationship with its Creator. He did so on behalf of us whom he calls friends. He laid down his life for those – for us – whom he called 'friends'.

Though totally innocent of any crime or sin he took on all the horror of a tortured death as if he were a criminal or sinner, rejected by society, even experiencing estrangement from his Heavenly Father: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' He took this experience on himself, really the experience of humanity, and emerged the Victor, the conqueror of death on Easter Sunday. And he did so on behalf of us whom in today's gospel He calls his 'friends', those with whom he wishes to share that victory.

'No greater love can a person have than to lay down his life for his friends.' is the reality, this is the message of the gospel for the peoples of every tribe, every nation, every language. It is a message which has resonated and reverberated down the centuries from Cornelius to those gathered here. It is the message entrusted to us as members of the one holy *Catholic* and apostolic church. More importantly, it is entrusted to us as *friends* of our Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.