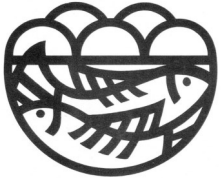


We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.

**28 JULY 2024
SEVENTEENTH
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME YEAR B**



Entrance Antiphon

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who
dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and
strength to his people.

First Reading from the
second book of the Kings
4:42-44

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 144:10-11, 15-18. R. v.16
(R.) The hand of the Lord
feeds us;
he answers all our needs.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia! A great
prophet has appeared
among us; God has visited
his people. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
John 6:1-15

Communion Antiphon
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his
benefits.

NEXT WEEK
4 AUGUST 2024
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR B
First: Exodus 16:2-4. 12-15
Resp Ps:
Ps 77:3-4. 23-25. 54. R. v.24
Second: Ephesians 4:17, 20-24
Gospel: John 6:24-35



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2024

***“Do not cast me off
in my old age”***

The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated in the Church throughout the world on the weekend of 28 July 2024. Recalling the words of Psalm 71:9, “Do not cast me off in my old age”, Pope Francis has provided the Church with a moving and heartfelt message urging the Church to remember the “infinite dignity of each person” regardless of their “circumstance, state or situation”.

With the celebration of its fourth edition, the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly continues to be an important occasion for the life of our ecclesial communities and is enriched with new meaning.

Attending to our grandparents and the elderly is not only a sign of gratitude and affection, but a necessity in the construction of a more human and fraternal society. The Holy Father invites us to recognise their value and to do so permanently, not just occasionally. It is not a matter of celebrating an anniversary once a year, but of making the elderly feel like an integral part of our Christian family and our common history. The successive generations of elderly people must be taken seriously, and the Church must give them appropriate pastoral attention.

This year’s theme, “Do not cast me off in my old age” (cf. Ps 71: 9), recalls the heartfelt plea to the Lord not to be left alone in old age. All too often, in fact, loneliness is a bitter companion in the lives of the elderly due to numerous contingent situations, such as the migration of children or the crisis of families, or due to the individualistic mentality that makes those who are advanced in years feel like a burden. It seems that everyone takes for granted that there is a time in life when one remains alone. It is a habit and a mentality to which, with resignation, even the elderly do not object.

Yet, as the Holy Father reminds us, God never abandons His children. Not even when strength wanes or life seems less productive. Indeed, in the Bible, growing old is a sign of blessing. The loneliness and abandonment of the elderly is not inevitable, rather the result of wrong choices that do not recognise the infinite dignity of each and every person.

Following the example of Ruth who did not abandon her mother-in-law, Naomi, we are called to walk a new path and imagine a different future for our elderly. Our hope for the celebration of this event is, therefore, that every Church community will strive to experience ‘a day without loneliness’ by visiting the elderly, involving them, and listening to their stories and testimonies of faith.

Saints Joachim and Anne’s story come from a legendary source written more than a century after Jesus died. The heroism and holiness of these people however, is inferred from the whole family atmosphere around Mary in the Scriptures. Whether we rely on the legends about Mary’s childhood or make guesses from the information in the Bible, we see in her a fulfillment of many generations of prayerful persons, herself steeped in the religious traditions of her people.

The strong character of Mary in making decisions, her continuous practice of prayer, her devotion to the laws of her faith, her steadiness at moments of crisis, and her devotion to

her relatives—all indicate a close-knit, loving family that looked forward to the next generation even while retaining the best of the past.

Joachim and Anne—whether these are their real names or not—represent that entire quiet series of generations who faithfully perform their duties, practice their faith, and establish an atmosphere for the coming of the Messiah, but remain obscure.

This is the “feast of grandparents.” It reminds grandparents of their responsibility to establish a tone for generations to come: They must make the traditions live and offer them as a promise to little children. But the feast has a message for the younger generation as well. It reminds the young that older people’s greater perspective, depth of experience, and appreciation of life’s profound rhythms are all part of a wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored.

Saints Joachim and Anne are the Patron Saints of: Grandparents

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 at 12 noon	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12



Contact us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm

Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176
Email: varroville@dow.org.au
Website: varroville.dow.org.au

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Matthew Johnson, 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. Catherine, Elizabeth & Monika
May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Agnes Spooner

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Shirley Chitty, Gladys Bergicourt, Anne LaSpina, Jeff Randal,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

4 August 2024	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Estela & Cecilia	Gabriel, Bianca & Antony	Stuart , Judy & Jackie
Altar Servers	Berna, Christian, Elijah & Austin	Orly	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Suzanne & Russell	Tess & Laura	Kathy & Tim
Refreshments	Josephine & Glenda	Steve, Sarah & Tereza	Fev & Maree
Altar Linen	Nellie	CLOTW: Lee & Asinate	
Flowers	Patricia & Mago	Church Vacuuming	Gerard & Maritas
Counters	Margaret & Jeanne	Foyer Cleaning	Estela & Maritas

Our Parish Notices:

Community Notices

Vinnies Winter Appeal & sleepout will be held this weekend. You can join the sleepout campfire after 6pm Mass and show some support, even if you don't stay all night. You can sponsor someone who is braving the elements and sleeping rough on a cold night. You can make a donation to Vinnies either by cash or online at <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepouts/our-lady-of-mount-carmel-catholic-parish-varroville-nsw-1>

Alpha Come and see commences Tuesday 30 July at 7pm Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that create a safe and honest space, where people can explore life, faith and meaning. This night allows you to see what Alpha is about, enjoy a meal together, connect, relax and build friendships.

Confirmation Preparation Classes begin on Saturday 10 August at 4pm. Confirmation will be held on Sunday 15 Sept at 9.30am. Registration is available at the parish office.

Children's Ministry Get together is on this Sunday from 3 – 5pm for children of primary school age.

Major Cash Raffle is still going. If you haven't already taken home a book of tickets please take one today. The draw will be held on Sunday 13 October.

Fiesta: Thank you to everyone who helped with the preparations. The day was very well attended and the sun shone down on us all. There are so many photos on facebook and whatsapp showcasing the day. There will be a final Fiesta Committee Team meeting and thanksgiving on Thursday 8 August at 7.30pm. Please rsvp for catering

Family Fete: Sunday 11 August from 10.30am in the parish hall. Save the date for those who want to spend their family day in a fun, safe, faith filled and vibrant environment. The Ascent youth groups is holding a fundraiser event for all ages. A magic show and bingo games are available with prizes. Other items and nibbles are available for purchase. Entry fee \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The funds will be used to support the youth ministry in our parish.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary You are invited for the solemn Mass on the feast of "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary" and celebration of India's Independence Day;

CELEBRATED BY Fr Alex MSFS, Homilist- Fr Vincent MSFS, Woy Woy **(The Chaplain to the Indians and other visiting priests (including local parish priest) will join in the concelebrated Mass at 6pm on Thursday 15th August at Holy Family Church, 136 Oxford Rd, Ingleburn.** Please bring a plate (finger food only). After the Mass, please join the short Marian procession to the Church basement where we will join in singing the national anthems of India and Australia.

2024 Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass

If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, we invite you to the celebration of Significant Marriage Anniversaries, to be celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on Sunday 25 August 2024 at 2pm at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre Conference Room. Please register online at <https://dow.sh/MA2024> or contact

Helen Bennett at the Office of the Bishop at 4222 2403, or via email helen.bennett@dow.org.au by no later than Monday, 29 July 2024.

Stacy Jane to speak at September Catholic Business Connections Luncheon, Wednesday 11 September 2024 at Rydges Hotel, Campbelltown (11.45am-2pm). Stacy is a survivor and keynote speaker; she blends humour with profound insights. Recognised with multiple awards, including Rotary Inspirational Woman of the Year 2023, Stacy inspires with her message of hope and resilience. Come and hear her story "Escaping to Hope". RSVP by Tuesday, 2 September For more info and to book please visit: dow.sh/CBCSept2024

On The Journey This Week: Fr Daniel Serratore says that today's readings show us how to overcome our scarcity mentality. Mother Hilda asks how did we ever get the idea that we are fit to judge others?. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Peter Abela, and Fr Mike Delaney. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

The University of Notre Dame Australia Open Day Saturday, 31 August 10am-3pm Join us to discover what Notre Dame has to offer! Explore Sydney Campus, meet students, academic staff and graduates. Contact: sydney@nd.edu.au | 02 8204 4404 Register: notredame.edu.au/openday

26 – 27 October Retreat weekend: Pilgrims of Hope A retreat for men in preparation for the Jubilee Year of Hope at Mt Schoenstatt with Mass and Reconciliation. Facilitated by Fr Pawel OP. Email mensbranch@schoenstatt.org.au or ring 0432 487 927 (Jim) or <https://bit.ly/4coasdO>

Ignite Conference 2024: Rise Up! (Sydney) 26-29 September

A conference for everyone, from leaders to first-time believers. This is the Church gathered and alive on mission. This is God's people united with one heart. Ignite Conference is a gathering of Catholics for four days of real-world formation, renewal of faith, great people and powerful worship. Join with young people from our Diocese and over 2000 high schoolers, young adults, leaders, teachers, priests and religious taking part in a life changing encounter with God and His Church. The Diocese of Wollongong is looking to take a group 30 young people to the conference at a subsidised cost. If you would like to join us, know someone who would, or would like to sponsor someone to attend, please contact Diocesan Youth Ministry Leader, Arnie.hurdoyal@dow.org.au or 0431 611 128.

Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at dow.sh/stayingconnected or visit dow.sh/weeklybulletin to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes weekly.

The Chosen – A TV Series about Jesus – Season 4

Go to watch.thechosen.tv . The Chosen is a new 'free to view', series, now in its fourth season, that beautifully and creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and it continues to receiving acclaim

Holy Gospel according to John 6:1-15

He distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.



Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Ryan

The miracle of the loaves or the feeding of the five thousand is our Gospel story today. It is recounted in all four Gospels with some slight variations. John's version that we read today is the only Gospel that includes a young boy with just five loaves and two fish. In the other accounts the food is sourced from what the disciples had with them, but John introduces the unnamed boy who becomes an important element of the story.

There are many themes emerging from this story. The Eucharist is the predominant one. Other interconnected themes are: hospitality, generosity, faith, belief, trust, compassion and community.

Jesus is with a crowd who have followed him, seeking truth, to listen and learn. And being far from home they were hungry. Jesus' need to care and show hospitality for these people and be compassionate to them was important to him. They need food and he needs to provide for them and there was nowhere near that could provide that food. It is now that the boy comes forward and provides the small gift, a gift soon to be multiplied. It wasn't much, just enough for himself and possibly his family, and only simple food. The food of the poor.

Once Jesus blesses these small gifts, the food is distributed with enough to satisfy the crowd and with much left over. Jesus shares The Bread of Life with those who are seeking him in abundance. This is the first sign of how Christ would institute the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

He shows us that from small things, great things can happen.

Maybe that small boy represents us in this story and the story of our faith journey. As members of the St Vincent de Paul Society, you bring your gifts, often seemingly small, and share them not only with other members in the Society but with the people you assist. The young boy had no idea the impact his small offering of bread and fish would have in the hands of Jesus. With God's blessing, the small gifts you bring are multiplied in ways that might not be immediately apparent to you.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Small gifts make
a difference

28
July
2024