

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.

04 AUGUST 2024
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

O God, come to my
assistance; O Lord, make
haste to help me!

You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

First Reading from the book
of Exodus 16:2-4. 12-15

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 77:3-4. 23-25. 54. R. v.24

(R.) The Lord gave them
bread from heaven.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives
on bread alone, but on every
word that comes from the
mouth of God. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
John 6:24-35

Communion Antiphon

You have given us, O Lord,
bread from heaven,
endowed with all delights
and sweetness in every
taste.

NEXT WEEK

11 AUGUST 2024
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR B
First: 1 Kings 19:4-8
Resp Ps: 33:2-9. R. v.9
Second: Ephesians 4:30 – 5:2
Gospel: John 6:41-51

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE 61st WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace

Dear brothers and sisters!

Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life. Hearing that divine call, which is far from being an imposed duty – even in the name of a religious ideal – is the surest way for us to fulfil our deepest desire for happiness. Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find ourselves.

This Day, then, is always a good occasion to recall with gratitude to the Lord the faithful, persevering and frequently hidden efforts of all those who have responded to a call that embraces their entire existence. I think of mothers and fathers who do not think first of themselves or follow fleeting fads of the moment, but shape their lives through relationships marked by love and graciousness, openness to the gift of life and commitment to their children and their growth in maturity. I think of all those who carry out their work in a spirit of cooperation with others, and those who strive in various ways to build a more just world, a more solidary economy, a more equitable social policy and a more humane society. In a word, of all those men and women of good will who devote their lives to working for the common good. I think too of all those consecrated men and women who offer their lives to the Lord in the silence of prayer and in apostolic activity, sometimes on the fringes of society, tirelessly and creatively exercising their charism by serving those around them. And I think of all those who have accepted God's call to the ordained priesthood, devoting themselves to the preaching of the Gospel, breaking open their own lives, together with the bread of the Eucharist, for their brothers and sisters, sowing seeds of hope and revealing to all the beauty of God's kingdom.

To young people, and especially those who feel distant or uncertain about the Church, I want to say this: Let Jesus draw you to himself; bring him your important questions by reading the Gospels; let him challenge you by his presence, which always provokes in us a healthy crisis. More than anyone else, Jesus respects our freedom. He does not impose, but proposes. Make room for him and you will find the way to happiness by following him. And, should he ask it of you, by giving yourself completely to him.

In this light, I would say once more, as I did at World Youth Day in Lisbon: "Rise up!" Let us awaken from sleep, let us leave indifference behind, let us open the doors of the prison in which we so often enclose ourselves, so that each of us can discover his or her proper vocation in the Church and in the world, and become a pilgrim of hope and a builder of peace! Let us be passionate about life, and commit ourselves to caring lovingly for those around us, in every place where we live. Let me say it again: "Have the courage to commit!" Father Oreste Benzi, a tireless apostle of charity, ever on the side of the poor and the defenceless, used to say that no one is so poor as to have nothing to give, and no one is so rich as not to need something to receive.

Let us rise up, then, and set out as pilgrims of hope, so that, as Mary was for Elizabeth, we too can be messengers of joy, sources of new life and artisans of fraternity and peace.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 21 April 2024, Fourth Sunday of Easter.

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” Girлие 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

11 August 2024	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Suzanne, Russell & Berna	Chris, Margaret & Irene	Terry & Maree
Altar Servers	Andrew, Diane, Sebastian & Eliana	Orly	Michael & Nathan
Readers	Loretta & Gerard	Martin & Tina	Sheenalyn & Leah
Refreshments	Estela & Myra	Samoan Choir Community	Margaret, Geoff & Danni
Altar Linen		CLOTW: Rebecca & Lee	
Flowers	Maria & Estela	Church Vacuuming	Tess & Effie
Counters	Christine, Cira & Tess	Foyer Cleaning	Patricia & Parish Office

Meetings and Gatherings

Readers Ministry Meeting meets on the last Tuesday of every 2 months at 7.30pm via zoom.

Holy Family Fellowship meets on the 4th Saturday at 7pm.

Book Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.

Children’s Mass is on the 5th Sunday of the month:

Wrap with Love Knitting group meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 11am

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.

Children’s Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm.

“Ascent” Youth Ministry All 13-17 years old are invited to join every fortnight on the 2nd & 4th Friday at 6:30 pm.

Pastoral Care Team meets on 23 August at 9.30am.

ALPHA meets every Tuesday at 7pm and Friday at 5pm.

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.

Our Parish Notices:

Community Notices

Friendship Group meets on Tuesday 6 August after the 9am Mass. We will celebrate Grandparents and Elderly Day. Please join us and bring a plate to share. Bring a friend.

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

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.

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. The funds will be used to support the youth ministry in our parish.

Parish Retreat Day Saturday 24 August: Save the date: More details to follow

Safeguarding workshop will be held on Wednesday 28 August at 6pm for everyone ministering with children in our parish
Working with Children Checks (WWCC) are required for the following child related roles:

Acolytes, Adult Altar Servers, Catechists, Children' Liturgy Leaders, Choir Director (where there are children in the choir), Religious Persons delivering services to children, Sacramental Programme Coordinators, Sacramental Programme Team Members, Youth Group Leaders, and Youth Ministry Coordinator and Team Members.

Instituted Ministries Formation: Sr Monica Barlow is running formation sessions for anyone interested in exploring the possibility of becoming an Instituted Lector or Acolyte. These ministries are open to both men and women. The sessions will be held at Eagle Vale: Mary Immaculate Parish, 61 Emerald Drive – Monday Evenings, 12th and 26th August from 7.30pm- 9.30pm. Attendance at the second session is dependent on having attended the first session. It is not a repeat of the first session. The link to register for the first of these formation sessions: dow.sh/imf24eaglevale.

Fire Weekend Friday 5:30pm – Sunday 1pm, 9-11 August
Carmel House, Varroville; Fire Weekends are for singles and young marrieds aged 18 -35 who want to grow deeper in their relationship with God and discover more about their faith. It's also a great way to meet and make friends! The event will include activities such as talks, personal sharings, dramas, recreation time, sport, prayer, good food, live music, reconciliation, Mass, and Adoration. Note: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available throughout the weekend, and Mass will be celebrated on the Sunday. <https://form.jotform.com/ymtaustralia/dojfireweekend2024>.

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. **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.

On The Journey This Week: Fr Sheldon Burke CRS says Jesus wants to move our hunger away from perishables to all that endures for eternal life. Mother Hilda tells the story of the Ravensbrück prayer. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Trish McCarthy, and Deacon Josh Clayton. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Compass: Catholic Family Camping Weekend 13 – 15 Sept 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). 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: <https://dow.sh/cfwsept24>

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. For more info contact the parish office.

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.

Try Faith Circles: Faith Circles is a weekly resource to help individuals but mainly small groups to come together in Parishes. The weekly Faith Circles resource is available for free to download. It is easy to use with simple questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/ or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

CAtHFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts, and recipes from their website to assist parents and grandparents in being the first educators in faith for their kids. Don't miss CathKids <https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/>

Holy Gospel according to John 6:24-35

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never thirst.

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.'



Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' 'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.'

Jesus answered: 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION OF POPE BENEDICT XVI 5 August 2012

The Reading of the sixth chapter of John's Gospel continues in the Liturgy of the Word of this Sunday. We are in the synagogue of Capharnaum where Jesus was giving his well-known discourse after the multiplication of the loaves. The people had sought to make him king but Jesus had withdrawn, first, to the mountain with God, with the Father, and then to Capharnaum. Since they could not see him, they began to look for him, they boarded the boats in order to cross the lake to the other shore and had found him at last. However, Jesus was well aware of the reason for this great enthusiasm in following him and he says so, even clearly: "you seek me, not because you saw signs, [because you were deeply impressed] but because you ate your fill of the loaves" (v. 26).

Jesus wants to help the people go beyond the immediate satisfaction — albeit important — of their own material needs. He wants to open them to a horizon of existence that does not consist merely of the daily concerns of eating, of being clothed, of a career. Jesus speaks of a food that does not perish, which it is important to seek and to receive. He says: "do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you" (v. 27).

The crowd does not understand, it believes that Jesus is asking for the observance of precepts in order to obtain the continuation of that miracle, and asks: "what must we do, to be doing the works of God?" (v. 28). Jesus' answer is unequivocal: "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent" (v. 29). The centre of existence — which is what gives meaning and certain hope in the all too often difficult journey of life — is faith in Jesus, it is the encounter with Christ.

We too ask: "what must we do to have eternal life?". And Jesus says: "believe in me". Faith is the fundamental thing. It is not a matter here of following an idea or a project, but of encountering Jesus as a living Person, of letting ourselves be totally involved by him and by his Gospel. Jesus invites us not to stop at the purely human horizon and to open ourselves to the horizon of God, to the horizon of faith. He demands a single act: to accept God's plan, namely, to "believe in him whom he has sent" (v. 29). Moses had given Israel manna, the bread from heaven with which God himself had nourished his people. Jesus does not give some thing, he gives himself: he is the "true bread that which comes down from heaven". He is the living Word of the Father; in the encounter with him we meet the living God.

"What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" (v. 28), the crowd asks, ready to act in order to perpetuate the miracle of the loaves. But Jesus, the true bread of life that satisfies our hunger for meaning and for truth, cannot be "earned" with human work; he comes to us only as a gift of God's love, as a work of God to be asked for and received.

Dear friends, on days that are busy and full of problems, but also on days of rest and relaxation, the Lord asks us not to forget that if it is necessary to be concerned about material bread and to replenish our strength, it is even more fundamental to develop our relationship with him, to reinforce our faith in the One who is the "bread of life" which satisfies . our desire for truth and love. May the Virgin Mary, sustain us on our journey of faith.