

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.

11 AUGUST 2024
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

Look to your covenant,
O Lord, and forget not
the life of your poor ones
for ever. Arise, O God, and
defend your cause, and
forget not the cries of
those who seek you.

First Reading from first
book of Kings 19:4-8

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 33:2-9. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the
goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians 4:30 – 5:2

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the
living bread from heaven,
says the Lord; whoever eats
this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
John 6:41-51

Communion Antiphon

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of
finest wheat.

NEXT WEEK

18 AUGUST 2024

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

First: Proverbs 9:1-6

Resp Ps: 33:2-3. 10-15. R. v.9

Second: Ephesians 5:15-20

Gospel: John 6:51-58

CatholicCare | A Call for Foster Carers - Can You Help?

Over 350 children and young people in NSW are urgently seeking foster care.
Close to 100 of the 350 are living in our diocese alone.

What is foster care?

Foster care is care provided to children and young people who are unable to live with their own families as a result of child protection concerns and have been taken into the care of the Minister. Foster carers support families by caring for children while parents get help to make change with the hope they will resume care of their own children, however if this is not possible children will likely remain in foster care For a period of time, foster carers take on the responsibilities of a parent to provide a safe, nurturing and secure family environment for children and young people needing care.

2. What is the goal of the foster care system?

In NSW, the Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ) believe that children and young people who experience stability and permanency are more likely to achieve better life outcomes, and have developed the Permanency Support Program (PSP) to support the safety, wellbeing and positive life outcomes for vulnerable children and young people who are at risk of significant harm and cannot live safely at home. The primary goal of PSP is to return the child or young person to the care of their parents when it is safe to do so, a process known as restoration. Foster carers take on a vital role in supporting the child or young person's contact and connection with their family as part of the restoration process. Where this is not possible, other long-term options are needed including exploring guardianship (living with relatives, kin, or another suitable person such as long-term foster carers), open adoption (a legal process that transfers all parental rights and responsibilities from a child's or young person's birth parents to adoptive parents) or long-term foster care.

3. What are the challenges in the foster care system?

There are over 350 children across NSW who are in desperate need of a foster care placement. This is because there is a critical shortage of foster carers within the community. Children who are waiting for foster care placement may be placed into high-cost emergency arrangements, where children and young people are placed into hotels, AirBnBs, serviced apartments, or even caravan parks, to be cared for by a rotating roster of shift workers. High-cost emergency arrangements denies these vulnerable children the nurturing relationships, safe environments, and stability they deserve. It also has a significant financial impact, costing taxpayers up to \$2m per child per year to keep a child in such accommodations.

4. What does this look like in the Diocese of Wollongong?

In the Diocese of Wollongong, there are 100 children and young people in need of foster care.

5. What can we do to help?

Contact the diocesan social services agency, CatholicCare Wollongong, to explore your options in becoming a foster carer. There are many options available to suit your capacity and ability to support these children:

- ◆ **Respite care:** Short periods of time, such as weekends, once a month, or during school holidays, to give parents and carers a break from their caring role.
- ◆ **Short-term and medium-term care:** Placements from a few months up to two years for children and young people who need to stay with someone to support them whilst their parents or family are working through changes so that the children can be returned.

.....Continued on page 3

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: Peter Presdee, 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

18 August 2024	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen & Arlene	Sarah , Jeanne & Jessica	Beatrix & Michael
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana, Elijah & Eliana	Orly	Stuart & Nathan
Readers	Suzanne & Margaret	Irene & Lee	Margaret & Evangeline
Refreshments	Tracey & Richard	Varroville Gospel Choir	Leah & Patricia
Altar Linen		CLOTW: Rebecca & Fev	
Flowers	Lorraine & Effie	Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family
Counters	Richard & Michael	Foyer Cleaning	Feiloakitohi Family

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:

Mass on Thursday for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be at 9am and 7.30pm.

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.

Come along to a Retreat Day with the Varroville Carmelites!

On Saturday, 17th August at the Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Carmelite Priory Conference Room from 9am - 2pm

For Young Adults aged 18-35. Fr Sam Ransom will be giving a talk on the Pilgrims Way. Tired of weaving Dreams? Perhaps, overwhelmed, dishearten or uncertain of how to live your life which is given? Or Tired of getting tired of doing what is required? Seeing your Life a mere routine?

Take a break... There are 3 Words you can ask and pray: SHOW ME LORD. The day will also include Eucharistic Adoration, Midday Prayer with the priory and lunch.

Please register via the link below by Thursday 15th August at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNZ5jL3W7TOjxxETUEbRW6XLXcmwDsDGV—SKCM2Fn4n5Ssw/viewform>. Can't wait to see you there.

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.

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.

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

Community Notices

CatholicCare | A Call for Foster Carers - Can You Help? ...Continued

- ◆ **Long-term care:** When children and young people can't return to their families, they need a permanent family who can give them a safe and secure environment up until they year 18 years of age. Options including legal guardianship or adoption can also be explored for children in stable foster care placements.
- ◆ **Emergency care:** Children and young people are placed in emergency care when there are concerns for their immediate safety. This type of placement can occur after-hours or on weekends, often at very short notice.

CatholicCare is doing all it can to meet this need – but more carers are desperately needed. Bishop Brian has recorded a short video that outlines the challenges of the foster care system and is urging all parishioners within the Wollongong Diocese to discern if you can help: dow.sh/bmfc24

For more information on becoming a foster carer, contact CatholicCare on 02 4227 1122 or email

fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au. CatholicCare will provide you and your family with training, emotional support, and financial assistance to ensure that you are supported every step of the way.

A vocation view Jesus, the Bread of Life, has come so that we might have life to its fullness. Fervent reception of the Holy Eucharist helps to discover the path God has created you to follow. (John 6:41-51)

Each year the Church in Australia marks National Vocations Awareness Week in August, connected with the celebrations of the Feast of St John Vianney (patron saint of priests) and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (Australia's first saint).

This year, in the week of 4-11 August, we reflect once more upon Pope Francis's message from Good Shepherd Sunday, reminding us that all of us, whether married, ordained, religious or single, are called to sow seeds of hope and build peace. Read the Pope's full message here: dow.sh/gss24 Pope Francis beckons us to "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!" If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

On The Journey This Week: Fr Michael Fallon says Jesus invites us to come to him as we are, and he will be our nourishment given by God for our life journey. Mother Hilda asks, "is your life presence friendly?" Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Francine Pirola, and Fr Mike Delaney. www.jcr.org.au.

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.

Holy Gospel according to John 6:41-51

I am the living bread come down from heaven.

The Jews were complaining to each other about Jesus, because he had said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' 'Surely this is Jesus son of Joseph' they said. 'We know his father and mother. How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus said in reply, 'Stop complaining to each other.



'No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets: They will all be taught by God, and to hear the teaching of the Father, and learn from it, is to come to me.

Not that anybody has seen the Father, except the one who comes from God: he has seen the Father.

I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the desert and they are dead; but this is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that a man may eat it and not die.

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A REFLECTION OF POPE FRANCIS 9 August 2015

This Sunday, we continue the Reading of Chapter Six of the Gospel according to John, in which Jesus, after performing the great miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, explains to the people the meaning of that "sign" (Jn 6:41-51). As he had done earlier with the Samaritan woman, starting from the experience of thirst and the sign of water, here Jesus begins from the experience of hunger and the sign of bread, to reveal himself and to offer an invitation to believe in him. The people seek him, the people listen to him, because they are still enthusiastic about the miracle; they want to make him king! However, when Jesus affirms that he is the true bread given by God, many are shocked, they do not understand, and begin murmuring among themselves, saying: "Do we not know his father and mother? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" (cf. Jn 6:42). And they begin to murmur. Then Jesus says, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him", and he adds: "he who believes has eternal life" (vv. 44, 47).

This word of the Lord astonishes us, and makes us think. It introduces the dynamic of faith, which is a relationship: the relationship between the human person — all of us — and the Person of Jesus, where the Father plays a decisive role, and, of course, the Holy Spirit does too, which is implied here. To believe in Him, it is not enough to meet Jesus, it is not enough to read the Bible, the Gospel — this is important! But it is not enough. It is not even enough to witness a miracle, such as that of the multiplication of the loaves. So many people were in close contact with Jesus and they did not believe. In fact, they even despised and condemned him. And I ask myself: Why this? Were they not attracted by the Father? No, this happened because their hearts were closed to the action of God's Spirit. If your heart is always closed, faith doesn't enter! Instead God the Father draws us to Jesus: it is we who open or close our hearts. Instead, faith, which is like a seed deep in the heart, blossoms when we let the Father draw us to Jesus, and we "go to Him" with an open heart, without prejudices; then we recognise in his face the Face of God, and in his words the Word of God, because the Holy Spirit has made us enter into the relationship of love and of life between Jesus and God the Father. And there we receive a gift, the gift of the faith.

With this attitude of faith, we can also understand the meaning of the "Bread of Life" that Jesus gives us, and which he describes in this way: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh" (Jn 6:51). In Jesus, in his "flesh" — that is, in his concrete humanity — is all the love of God, which is the Holy Spirit. Those who let themselves be drawn by this love go to Jesus and go with faith, and receive from Him life, eternal life.

The one who lived this experience in such an exemplary way was Mary, the Virgin of Nazareth: the first human person who believed in God by accepting the flesh of Jesus. Let us learn from her, our Mother, joy and gratitude through the gift of faith. A gift that is not "private", a gift that is not private property but is a gift to be shared: it is a gift "for the life of the world"! Accumulated with that expectation of the Lord, that he may come as soon as possible and that he may come to take us with him.

Let us invoke the intercession of Mary Most Holy, that she may help us to live an active faith, as she did: [faith] is the shining lamp with which we can pass through the night beyond death and reach the great feast of life.