

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.

15 SEPTEMBER 2024
TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 50:5-9

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9 (R.) .) I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading from the letter of St James 2:14-18

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Mark 8:27-35

Communion Antiphon

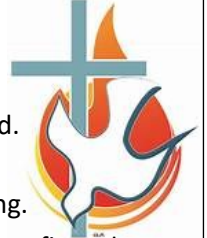
How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Next Week

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time B

First: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
Resp Ps: Ps 53:3-6. 8. R. v.6
Second: James 3:16 – 4:3
Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Confirmation



We welcome Bishop Brian this weekend. He is going confirm 19 people at the 9.30am Mass. We congratulate and pray for all those being confirmed.

Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation which completes baptism through sealing in the Holy Spirit and anoints the recipient as priest, prophet, and king.

Confirmation is a Sacrament in the Catholic Church in which the one who is confirmed (confirmandi) receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the imposition of hand and anointing with oils by the bishop. It's considered a sacrament of initiation which means that it brings you deeper into communion with the Church. Bishops are the original ministers of Confirmation along with other Catholic sacraments (Lumen Gentium 26).

"Bishops are the successors of the apostles. They have received the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders. The administration of this sacrament by them demonstrates clearly that its effects is to unite those who receive it more closely to the Church, her apostolic origins, and her mission of bearing witness to Christ." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1313)

"Like Baptism which it completes, Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark, the 'character,' which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1304)

In other words, just once! It's a permanent thing that is fully completed and doesn't expire. Catholic Confirmation is performed with the Bishop extending his hand over the one to be confirmed and anointing his/her head with the oil of chrism saying, "be sealed with the Holy Spirit." The actual Confirmation ceremony is much longer than this, but this is the "meat" of the action. The oil of chrism is consecrated by the bishop at the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday and is reserved for special things like Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, blessing of tower bells, consecration of churches, altars, chalices and patens.

In short, it is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. Confirmation brings Catholics a deepening of baptismal grace and unites us more firmly to Christ. It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit and leaves an indelible mark on the soul just like baptism.

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit received through Confirmation are Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Fortitude, Counsel, Piety and Fear of the Lord.

Anointing with oil is an ancient Biblical tradition originating in the old testament with the Jewish people. The Jews had a messiah and it was usually their king at the time, however they were also awaiting a greater messiah, one that would deliver them and raise them up. This messiah happened to be Jesus. The sign of the Messiah was that he was royal and messiahs were put in their position by being anointed with oil and an appointment from God. This tradition carried on in Christianity with the teaching of the sharing in Christ's messiahship and his royal priesthood. In fact, the first example of Catholic Confirmation can be found in Acts 8:14-17.

Confirmation sponsors "bring the candidates to receive the sacrament, present them to the minister for anointing, and will later help them fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received." (Rite of Confirmation, 5)

The sacrament of confirmation is the way for a Catholic to attain full membership in the Catholic Church. It is a beautiful sacrament that will instil God's grace within you to strengthen and sustain you in your journey of faith.

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: Reg Bucknell, Mary Ponnalam, 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, Neil Goodhew

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Tracey Bautovich, William Parsons, Shirley Chitty, Gladys Bergicourt,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

22 September 2024	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Paul, Lori & Myra	Gabriel, Bianca & Antony	Patricia & Maryanne
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail & Austin	Orly	Vu & Nathan
Readers	Ryan & Michael	Andy & Caroline	Tim & Evangeline
Refreshments	Margaret & Nadia		Beatrix & Madonna
Altar Linen	Maria	CLOTW: Sarah & Fev	
Flowers	Maria & Estela	Church Vacuuming	Susan
Counters	Margaret & Jeanne	Foyer Cleaning	Susan

Meetings and Gatherings

Friendship Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month after the 9am Mass for morning tea. All are welcome and bring a friend.

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 27 September at 9.30am.

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

Our Parish Notices

Major Cash Raffle: We still have 60 books of tickets available so if you haven't already taken home a book of tickets please take one today. The draw will be held on Sunday 13 October. Remember to return your books before the draw.

The Called and Gifted Program on Sunday 22 September from 11am is having the second series of prayer and formation to those who are volunteers and leaders in various ministries of our parish. Let us listen together to God's wisdom on how he is using our talents and spiritual gifts to advance the kingdom of God. The program starts at 11:00 am and finishes at 2:30 at the Parish hall. Come with an expectant faith of hearing God more in your spiritual journey in ministries. For RSVP please contact the parish at 9603 7373 M: 0434 705 176.

Campfire Social Night on Saturday 28 September from 7pm. Come along for a family social event, singalong and games around the campfire. BBQ dinner will be included. The cost will be \$20 for adults, \$10 for children and \$50 for a family. RSVP to 0434 705 176. The funds raised will support our upcoming foyer renovation. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer so you can rsvp your attendance for catering purposes.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal will be promoted in our Diocese next weekend; *"Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Offering dignified support and care for our retired clergy, who have always cared for us; and a sound and holistic formation of our young seminarians, our future priests, are my responsibilities as your Bishop. I seek your prayers and practical support to help me ensure that I can do this. Your donation to this appeal is very much appreciated."* + Bishop Brian Mascord

Foster Care Week 2024 – A Call For Foster Carers Foster Care Week, beginning on 8 September to 15 September, aims to raise awareness of the urgent need for foster carers. In NSW, over 350 children and young people are urgently seeking foster care, with close to 100 of those children and young people living in our diocese alone. 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: <https://dow.sh/bmfc24>. For more information on becoming a foster carer, please 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.

On The Journey This Week: Fr Sheldon Burke CRS says Jesus reminds us that life involves suffering. Mother Hilda calls all to go to church on Sunday instead of worshipping a God of another kind somewhere else. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Fr Dave Callaghan, and Peter Abela. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Community Notices

I Give You My Word: Encountering God in Lectio Divina Fri 27 – Sun 29 Sept. A weekend retreat, Jamberoo Abbey Retreat Centre; Presenters: Sr Antonia Curtis OSB and Oblate Libby Denny; Lectio Divina is sacred reading. It is a way of prayer whereby we allow the Word of God to touch our hearts and change our lives. It is a dialogue of love between the person and God as heart speaks to heart through the Word. This weekend retreat focuses on the process of Lectio Divina by engaging participants in the ancient art of reading/praying with the word of God in scripture. To register contact 02 4236 0011 Extension 114 or email cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au

A day retreat: Benedictine Values – fertile soil for an integral ecology, Saturday 5 October 2024 Time is moving on and the cry of the earth and the poor is intensifying. The appeal of Pope Francis in "Laudato Si" and "Laudato Deum" is now an imperative. There is a wisdom in the Rule of St Benedict that can provide fertile soil for an integral ecology for our time. Come, let us listen to Mother Earth during this day of retreat. Presenter: Sr Mechtild Crawford; Register at <https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/events/2024-10-05/>

Blessing of Animals, Monday, 7 October at 9:30am As usual, the Blessing of Animals will take place on the Monday of the long weekend, 7 October at 9:30am at the Parish of Saint Michael, 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Thirroul. The blessing takes place in the courtyard next to the church. All animals under 900kg and their carers are welcome, though please keep fleas well-muzzled. The feast of St Francis of Assisi is on Friday, 4 October, with Mass at 9:30am – animals are welcome at that Mass.

Springtime Creative Retreat, 11 - 13 October 2024 Come and experience the healing power of creativity as we step into the blossoming wonders of Spring. Nurture your inner self and watch the boundless possibilities that emerge from spending time co-creating with God.

Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW; Bookings: <http://www.trybooking.com/CNSWN> (by 27 September); Contact: Judy - mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Marriage Encounter Weekend: We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 25-27 October, 2024 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au. If you would like more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, please see the WWME website at www.wwme.org.au.

Walk for Life Sydney, 2–4pm Sat 21 Sept at Hyde Park, Sydney (Near the Archibald Memorial Fountain) Join the movement of Australians making abortion unthinkable in our country! All are welcome to this family-friendly gathering to be a voice for the unborn and call for the protection of every life from the moment of conception. Further Info & Registration (for free): <https://www.lovesydney.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 Mark 8:27-35

You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

'Today's Gospel passage,' Pope Francis says, 'turns to the question that permeates the whole Gospel of Mark: who is Jesus?'

The Pope points out that Jesus 'is not interested in the opinions and gossip of the people'; nor is he fishing for 'pre-packaged formulas'. In fact, as the Pope notes, 'a faith that is reduced to formulas is a short-sighted faith.' This is not what Jesus seeks.

Rather, as the Pope puts it, Jesus 'wants his disciples of yesterday and today to establish a personal relationship with him' in a way that has practical implications. In asking who he is, Jesus is also asking us who we want to be.

'Each person is called to respond, in his or her heart,' the Pope says, 'allowing each one to be illuminated by the light that the Father gives us.' But this can be challenging. Like Peter, we can easily and reflexively recoil at the idea of a Christ whose mission 'contrasts with our expectations, with worldly expectations.' We switch easily from recognition of Christ to rejection of his real mission.

The Pope affirms that 'the profession of faith in Jesus Christ cannot stop at words.' Our thoughts and words about Jesus must translate into action that is 'characterised by God's love' and expressed through 'an abundance of love for neighbour.'

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The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
(1st September) and the Season of Creation
(1 September - 4 October 2024).

This year's theme is To Hope and Act with Creation.
The following resources are available:

[Liturgy World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2024](#)

[Season of Creation Resources 2024](#)