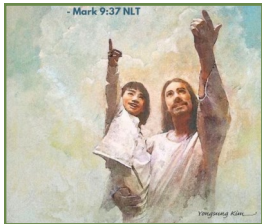


We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.

22 SEPTEMBER 2024
TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading from the book of Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 53:3-6. 8. R. v.6
(R.) The Lord upholds my life.

Second Reading from the letter of St James 3:16 – 4:3

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Mark 9:30-37

Communion Antiphon

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Next Week

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

First: Numbers 11:25-29

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8. 10. 12-14. R. v.9

Second: James 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43.45.47-48



THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

In support of the retirement and health of clergy and the sound and holistic formation of seminarians

Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Offering dignified support to priests who are unwell, care for our retired clergy, and a sound and holistic formation of our seminarians, is my responsibility as your Bishop. I seek your prayers and practical support to help me ensure that I can do this. Your tax deductible donation to this appeal is very much appreciated.

As the Bishop of Wollongong, I am called upon to provide for the dignified support and care for our retired clergy, and for a sound and holistic formation for our seminarians. These two vital ministries are supported by The Bishop's Annual Appeal, which will be promoted in our diocese this weekend.

Presently there are 11 retired diocesan clergy and an additional 11 clergy will retire in the next 5 years.

The diocese has 6 seminarians presently studying for the priesthood.

For the first time, donations to this appeal are tax deductible. You can make an online donation at <https://www.dow.org.au/giving/>

I acknowledge and sincerely thank Monsignor Graham Schmitzer and Senior Seminarian Joseph Nguyen for their time and support in the making of the Appeal video.

Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD

BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

Congratulations to Stuart Lake



One of our parishioners, Stuart Lake, has been studying to become a Deacon since 2017, attending university. He completed his studies in November 2022 and is now waiting to be ordained to the permanent Diaconate.

When Bishop Brian was here in our parish last weekend confirming the children, he also instituted Stuart Lake to the ministry as a Lector and Acolyte. This is an important step for Stuart. Stuart, we congratulate and pray for you as you prepare for your ordination.



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: John MsDermott, Mary Carmel, Tracey Bautovich,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

29 September 2024	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Tracey & Richard	Sarah, Jeanne & Jessica	Geoff, Margaret & Danni
Altar Servers	Berna, Christian, Elijah, Austin	Orly	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Suzanne & Russell	Children’s Mass	Gloria & Leah
Refreshments	Josephine & Glenda	Nelia, Anita, Karen	Fev & Volunteer
Altar Linen	Nelli	CLOTW: -	
Flowers	Lorraine & Effie	Foyer cleaning	Estela & Marites
Counters	Christine, Cira & Tess	Church cleaning	Binny family & Marites

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



Children's Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am next Sunday

Children's Ministry Gathering will meet today from 3– 5pm

Major Cash Raffle: We still have 45 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.

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.

Community Notices

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 – All animals are welcome.

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.

Want Netflix for Catholics? Get 'FORMED' Free for DoW Parishioners; Join hundreds of other families around the Diocese of Wollongong in nurturing your faith at home, in your own time and at your own pace? FORMED is a fantastic Faith Formation Resource library website containing thousands of faith formation documentaries, courses, movies, audio, and books covering all aspects of our Catholic faith. Materials for both adults and children.

To register for FORMED:

- Go to www.formed.org
- Click 'Sign up' button
- Click 'Sign Up as a Parishioner'
- Type Catholic Diocese of Wollongong into the box on the left

On The Journey This Week: Fr Chris de Rosario says Jesus calls us to trust like little children. Mother Hilda has a simple prayer from the Desert Fathers and Mothers. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, a menALIVE testimony on Growing Good Men, and Pete Gilmore. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

A vocation view: The Kingdom of Heaven is built by mutual cooperation, not competition. Work together to build the Kingdom, regardless of when God calls. (Matthew 20:1-16)

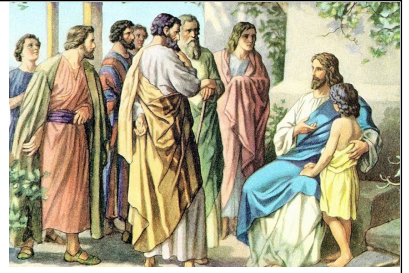
Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at dow.sh/stayingconnected or visit dow.sh/weeklybulletin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

Holy Gospel according to Mark 9:30-37

The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity ...

All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.



They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

Last week's gospel, in which Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do you say I am?' marked a turning point in the gospel of Mark. Having established in the minds of the disciples that he is indeed the Messiah, Jesus now begins to explore with them what that really means and also what it means to be a follower – a disciple – of the Messiah who must be put to death. Having finally come to some level of understanding that Jesus is the Messiah, the disciples have latched on to a very limited understanding of Jesus' Messiahship. They have assumed that being Messiah meant that Jesus was going to lead a triumphant victory over all the woes of the Jews – it was a common understanding and expectation of what the Messiah would do. With this in mind, the disciples begin to argue amongst themselves about who will hold positions of respect and power in the aftermath of Jesus' great triumph. Despite what Jesus had just said about being put to death and rising again, the disciples simply couldn't grasp what he was saying and fell back onto a familiar picture of the Messiah.

To really shake up the disciples and try to make them pay attention to what he was saying to them, Jesus put his arms around a small child and told the disciples they had to welcome little children in his name. Like so many gospel images there is more going on here than meets the eye. Children were regarded as complete nobodies in the culture of the time. They had no status and absolutely no authority. Jesus is saying to the disciples, don't argue about who will be the greatest; this child – this nobody – is greater than anyone who lords it over others. If you treat a nobody like this with respect, you treat me with respect.

The term Messiah means anointed one. In the era of the Kings of Israel, quite literally someone was designated King by being anointed – having oil poured over their head. It's easy to see that when the people of Israel spoke about a 'Messiah' (an 'anointed one') who would restore justice and peace, they had in mind a great King. They even expected that the new king would come from the line of David, the line of the great kings of their history. Jesus was working against centuries of tradition when he tried to get the disciples to see that the Messiah could be something else.

This gospel event is the second of three occasions in the gospel of Mark when Jesus clearly makes a prediction about his death and subsequent resurrection. They occur in chapters 8, 9 and 10 of the gospel and all three are associated with the disciples' lack of understanding about the mission and fate of Jesus. In each case, Jesus could not speak more plainly about what will happen to him and yet the disciples fail to understand. These three chapters have an overarching image of the disciples' 'blindness' to the truth of Jesus' message.

Jesus tells his disciples that if anyone wants to be first, they must make themselves last of all and servant of all. This is as challenging to us today as it was to the disciples and early Christians. Our world seems to revolve around position, status and power – whoever has the most toys wins! But what Jesus advocated was a leadership based on being of service to others. Being powerful simply means you are in a position to help even more people. Putting yourself last, instead of first, gives respect, dignity and power to others rather than to yourself.



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

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