

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.

24 November 2024
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe,
Year B



Entrance Antiphon

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

First Reading from the prophet Daniel 7:13-14

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 92:1-2. 5. R.v.1
(R.) The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Second Reading from the book of Revelations 1:5-8

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to John 18:33-37

Communion Antiphon

The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Next Week
First Sunday in Advent
Year C

First: Jeremiah 33:14-16
Resp Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14
Second: 1 Thess 3:12 – 4:2
Gospel: Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

Christ the King !!!
Let's Celebrate

Pope Pius XI established the feast of Christ the King in the Holy Year of 1925.

It appears to have its roots in the 1880s when many European bishops were worried with what they saw as the rise of secularisation. I'm pleased they're not around today! These bishops were concerned at how governments were increasingly asserting more power over and against the church. Especially in France and Italy Bishops started to venerate Jesus as the Universal King. This devotion took off. By 1922, at the Eucharistic Congress in Rome, sixty-nine cardinals petitioned the Pope to establish this feast. Within three years the Vatican had been inundated with requests, and so the solemnity was established.

It's clear from today's Gospel, and the New Testament in general, that while Jesus frequently spoke of his Kingdom, is hailed like a king on Palm Sunday and is facetiously given the title of king by Pilate, his kingship is vastly different from those of Caesar, Herod and even David and the other Kings of Israel.

The earliest Christians seem to have understood this very well. We find very little writing or artistic representation of Jesus as a king before 324 AD. In that year Emperor Constantine becomes a catechumen and Christianity becomes the religion of the Roman Empire. After this time Jesus starts to appear wearing a crown and holding an orb. Mary is styled as the Queen of Heaven and begins to be pictured as such. This is all understandable as the previously persecuted Christian sect now emerges to become the most powerful unifying force in the Roman Empire. It was a sweet victory, but it meant that whatever was said of the Roman Emperor, even more must be true of Christ the Universal King and Lord.

As centuries passed and the Roman Empire passed away, the Church maintained many of its now long-standing royal prerogatives and language. Just as an example, to this day the Pope and some bishops live in places called palaces. They wear jewels and rings and have feudal coats of arms. Worse still by far, however, is the mentality and behaviour of a very few Bishops, who seem to think that the church is above the scrutiny of the faithful, and the law of the land.

There are not too many Kings or Queens today who would love their people so much that they would be prepared to die for them. We know from history that when the going gets tough many monarchs get going. But what we get in Jesus as King is one who did not compromise his humanity, who would not yield from his preaching and does not abandon us in our desolation. Jesus' kingship is revealed in his utter fidelity to us – even to the end.

So let's not be seduced by the power, pride, riches and greed which worldly rulers so crave. Let's keep our own eyes on Christ our King who loved people more than things, who spoke the truth with love, and who died that we might live. And let's not shrink from challenging the entire Church to do the same.



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

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Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Fr David Catterall, 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, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart.

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Marija Radja, Oswald O’Flaherty, Monique Serret, Joe Spinnato, Stanley Gomez,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those whom we especially remember during the month of November.

Joe Cuomo, Rozalia Astalosh, Istvan Tubic, Angela & Angelo Tomarchio,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

1 December	6pm	9.30am	5pm
Welcomers	Paul, Lori & Myra	Sarah, Jeanne & Jessica	Terry & Maree
Altar Servers	Andrew, Diane, Sebastian, Eliarna	Orly	Stuart & Nathan
Readers	Loretta & Gerard	Gabriel & Volunteer	Gloria & Feviline
CLOTW		Lee & Asinate	
Counters	Louise & Lina	Vacuuming	Tess & Effie
Linen	Berna		

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 6pm.

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 last friday at 9.30am.

Rosters will finish at the end of November. Reminders will be sent out this week via your whatsapp groups. Please send your commitment for the next 6 months. New members are welcome to join our ministry rosters.

Our Parish Notices

Community Notices

Parish Advent Retreat is on Saturday 30 November from 8.30am – 3pm. The day will include Mass, a talk about advent given by Fr Paul Maunder, Reconciliation, Adoration. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Entry by donation.

Advent Reflection Groups will commence on this week Every Tuesday at 7.30pm in the parish meeting room. Every Sunday at 6pm for Young adults. All welcome to attend.

Advent reflection booklets, The Light, are available to purchase this weekend for \$5 per booklet.

Celebrate the Babe, Christmas Carols will be held on Saturday 14 December at 7pm in the parish hall. Save the date and bring your family for a night of caroling. Singers are welcome to join. Please contact the parish office to register your interest if you wish to perform.

Fr. Francisco Palau Foundation: Carmelite Missionary Sisters would to thank everyone that donated to the Foundation. The appeal raised \$2250.

Summer School of Evangelisation (Sydney): 7-14 January 2025 Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Registrations open 31st October. Register by 30th November to receive early bird rates. More info: contact@summerschool.org.au. Bookings: summerschool.org.au

Filipino & Friends Parish Community Association are hosting a fundraiser at Dumeresq St Cinema on Tuesday 26 November to watch "Wicked".

Tickets are \$20 and are available by calling 0475 920 343.

Catholic Youth & Young Adults Wollongong serves young people in Illawarra, Macarthur, Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven regions. To stay up to date with what is happening around the diocese, head to our social media and scan the code to see to access the youth calendar.

Go Deeper in your Faith with popular & FREE Catholic Podcasts

- Bible in a Year

Ascension Press will again run the Catholic Bible in a Year Podcast featuring Fr Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins in 2024. It remains one of the world's leading podcasts with over 400 million downloads. While a new podcast is released daily, you can do it at your own pace signing up at www.ascensionpress.com/biy and it's not too late to catch up or simply work through at your own pace.

- Catechism in a Year

This year, Ascension Press will also again run the Catechism in a Year podcast which will slowly and prayerfully read through

and break open the Catechism over 365 days. It's not too late to catch up, and the daily podcasts can be listened to at your own pace. It is available at www.ascensionpress.com/ciy

Annual General Reunion: The legion of Mary—Our Lady Queen of Peace Campbelltown Curia is celebrating The immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 6th December 2024 at St John the Evangelist Catholic Church at 6pm Legion Prayers and 6.30pm Holy Mass. Refreshments provided at the end Mass in Hall. All Welcome!!!

Advent Day Retreat Jamberoo Abbey with Mother Hilda Scott osb, Sr Magdalen Mather osb and Sr Julian Grigor: Saturday 7 December 2024 Mass: 9am Talks: 10.30am – 3.30pm; Cost: \$50 Morning tea provided, bring your own lunch; Register at www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/abbey-retreat-programs. Advent is ushered in with the lighting of the first Advent candle. The beautiful purple candle represents Hope, and its lighting represents the Light with which the Christ enlightens our hearts and world. On this day of retreat, we explore how the hope and promise of the coming of the Lord continues to sing in the deepest places of our soul.

On The Journey This Week: Fr Chris de Rosario says that God must reign over every aspect of our lives, not just in select moments. Mother Hilda says God whispers to us every day, have a nice day. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Fr Dave Callaghan MGL, and Fr Mike Delaney. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Social Justice Points It continues to be regrettable that global crises are being squandered when they could be the occasions to bring about beneficial changes. This is what happened in the 2007-2008 financial crisis and again in the Covid- 19 crisis. For "the actual strategies developed worldwide in the wake of [those crises] fostered greater individualism, less integration and increased freedom for the truly powerful, who always find a way to escape unscathed". - Laudate Deum – Pope Francis - To All People of Good Will on The Climate Crisis

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts With a Global Gift, you can share the joy of the Christmas season and create lasting impact for those who need it most. Browse our collection today. **Shop Christmas Gifts**



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/weekly bulletin to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes.

Holy Gospel according to John 18: 33-37

Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?'

Jesus replied,

'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.'

'So you are a king then?' said Pilate.

'It is you who say it' answered Jesus.

'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection by Mary Coloe PBVM

The Gospel today breaks from our usual Gospel of Mark, to read from John's Passion account. On Sundays we hear just a small section of the Gospel and so can miss its wider context. This is particularly true today. Throughout the entire narrative of John's Gospel, Jesus has spoken of his passion, his 'Hour', not as a death, but as a 'lifting up'. "Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show by what death he was to die.' (John 12:31-32; also 3:14; 8:28)

This expression must be understood with two meanings. It refers to his being lifted up on a cross, but the word also means to be exalted, and, in John, the Cross is the great Hour of Jesus' exaltation. In the Hour he brings to completion the ministry he was sent to accomplish.

From Chapter 10 in John's Gospel, the Kingship theme comes into strong focus. In John 10 Jesus uses the image from the Old Testament of the Shepherd-Kings of Israel and speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd, one who will lay down his life for his flock (10:11). Then in Chapter 12, Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, just as King Solomon once did to claim his kingship (see 1 Kings 1:32-40). In John, the crowds acclaim Jesus as 'King of Israel,' and wave the same types of palm branches that were used to greet Judas Maccabeus after his victory over the Greeks in 142 BCE. We read in the book of Maccabees, 'the Jews entered in [Jerusalem] with praise and palm branches, and with harps and cymbals...' (1 Macc 13:51). Even in his Passion the soldiers ironically give him a crown and a royal purple cloak to wear. And when Pilate presents Jesus to the crowd he says, 'Here is your King' (19:14), Jesus is still wearing the royal purple. So throughout John's passion Jesus is King.

Poor Pilate! He just doesn't get it. He is thinking of a kingdom with soldiers and armies, but Jesus speaks about truth. Armies can be conquered – even Rome's – but truth outlives Emperors. Even in oppressive regimes small sparks of truth refuse to be overcome by the darkness. Jesus is God's truth for us.

I speak now more personally as this is the final reflection for this liturgical year.

I have tried to bring to these words both biblical scholarship and reflections born of my own faith. I name this clearly, as sometimes I meet people who are afraid that scholarship and faith are enemies to each other. Not so! Theological education has the goal of helping the searcher gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of his/her faith. It does challenge us to keep allowing our faith to grow and change to the rigorous faith of an adult. This will involve, at times, letting go the simplistic and sometimes erroneous notions we have carried. Tough! Painful! And liberating! God's truth is like that.

May the peace of God reign in all our hearts. Maranatha – come Lord Jesus.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
CATHOLIC PARISH
155 ST. ANDREWS, VARROVILLE, NSW

PARISH ADVENT RETREAT
30 NOVEMBER 2024
SATURDAY
8:30AM TO 3PM

Mass
Talk
Reconciliation
Adoration

Speaker: Fr. Paul Maunder, OCD

Morning Tea and Lunch to be served
Registration fee by donation

Sr. Jill - 0481373124

Everyone is invited

Let every heart prepare...

Celebrate the Babe Christmas Carols

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
CATHOLIC PARISH
VARROVILLE

Saturday,
December 14th,
starting at 7 pm!

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Parish Hall
193 St Andrews Rd Varrville

Free entry

Bring a plate for supper