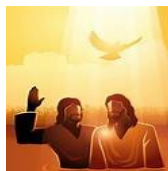


*We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.*

## 12 January 2025 The Baptism of the Lord Year C



### First Reading

from the prophet  
Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1-2. 3-4. 24-25.  
27-30. R. v.1

**Response:** Oh, bless the  
Lord, my soul!

**Second Reading** from the  
letter of St Paul to Titus  
2:11-14; 3:4-7

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to  
come is mightier than I;  
he will baptise you with  
the Holy Spirit and with  
fire. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

### Communion Antiphon

Behold the One of whom  
John said: I have seen  
and testified that this is  
the Son of God.

## Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

*When Jesus had been baptised and had  
been praying, the heavens were opened  
and the Holy Spirit came upon him.*

A feeling of expectancy had grown  
among the people, who were  
beginning to think that John might  
be the Christ, so John declared  
before them all, 'I baptise you with  
water, but someone is coming,  
someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit  
to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with  
the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while  
Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened  
and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like  
a dove. And a voice came from heaven,

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord

### Next week's Readings:

**19th January 2025**

**Second Sunday in Ordinary**

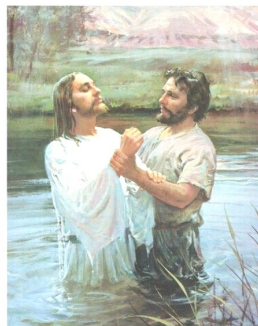
**Time Year C**

**First:** Isaiah 62:1-5

**Resp Ps:** Ps 95:1-3. 7-10. R. v.3

**Second :** 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

**Gospel:** John 2:1-11



# Worship: Mass and Devotions

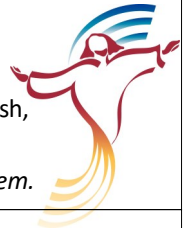
Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri and Sat: Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30—10.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am		Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass & Devotion: First Friday from 7.30pm
Samoa Mass: First Sunday at 12 noon	Healing Mass: First Saturday at 9am	Reconciliation: Sat 11am

## Prayer intentions

***For the sick and homebound:*** Reg Bucknell, Mary Ponnappalam, Peter Presdee, Matthew Johnson, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, 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:***

***Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:*** Hilda Young, Ivan Astolosh, Mrs. Rodriguez, Lio Feiloakitohi  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



## Contact us

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday  
9.30am-12.30pm  
Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176  
Email: [varroville@dow.org.au](mailto:varroville@dow.org.au)  
Website: [varroville.dow.org.au](http://varroville.dow.org.au)

Parish Priest:  
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:  
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

**Ministry Leaders** please check the parish calendar on the website when planning meetings and events. Call the parish office before you promote activities to ensure there is no clash with another ministry.

Promotion of upcoming events & information about your ministry can be submitted to the parish office for inclusion in the weekly bulletin and on the website.

# Parish and Community Notices

**Filipino Mass and Divine Mercy Devotion is cancelled next weekend** due to the celebrations taking place for the feast of Santo Nino in neighbouring parishes.

**Carmelite Retreats 2025:** 1 February 2025: 10am—4pm; Mt. Carmel Priory, 247 St. Andrews Road Varroville: \$30/person (Please BYO lunch)

**Thomas Merton, “A Prophet for our times”** Trappist monk Thomas Merton, who died in 1968, was a prodigious writer whose opus is still highly relevant in today’s world. “The ever renewed mission of the Spirit to the soul that is in the grace of Christ is to be understood by the analogy of the natural breath that keeps renewing, from moment to moment, our bodily life.” **PRESENTER:** Mr. Kirk Willcox

**Cursillo Diocesan Women’s Retreat;** Thurs 6 March—Sun 9 March at Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville; Cost \$320 (flexible payment available). Cursillo is a life changing experience providing a method to support & nurture our faith journey & enable us to live vibrant Gospel oriented lives. It is an opportunity to grow through an encounter with the love & grace of God, and points to a new way of life in unity with others. It is ideal for those who are simply curious, perhaps with little or no connection to church, or for those looking to grow more deeply in faith. There is no pressure or expectation on attendees, other than to come with an open mind so as to hear in a new way the Good News of God’s love. This weekend will include talks, discussions, fostering friendships, daily Mass & spiritual direction.

**Property Update:** The demolition part of our building project has been completed and the new concrete slab was laid before the Christmas break. The construction will commence next week, and it will be exciting to see it all taking shape. In the meantime our property committee has to plan for and carry out the many maintenance jobs that are required to keep our parish buildings & grounds in good condition. One of the jobs we will focus on this year is to sand and stain the pews in the church and repair the kneelers. If you can help out with this or other jobs such as gardening and tree management, please come along to our meeting on Wednesday night at 7.30pm in the parish hall or contact the parish office.

**Fun’Raising News;** We had a successful year last year helping to arrange some great social events and raise some money for the parish. We are calling out for some new members to join our team. We welcome fresh ideas. We will meet on Wednesday 22 January in the parish hall at 7.30pm. Currently we are planning to have a Bunnings BBQ & a social event before lent begins, so watch for more info.

**Buy A Brick in support of our Parish Renovation Project.** A brochure is included in this week’s bulletin promoting a fundraising initiative to help raise money for the building works currently being undertaken.

## REFLECTION by Brendan Byrne, SJ

**With the feast of the Baptism we make a swift transition from Jesus' childhood to the event that, in all four gospels, inaugurates his adult public ministry.**

In this week's **Gospel**, Luke's account begins with a notice about 'a feeling of expectancy' that had arisen among the people. What they are 'expecting' of course is appearance of the long-promised Messiah. They wonder whether John the Baptist might fill this role. But John's disclaimer is clear: he baptises with water – a simple rite of conversion and preparation for the messianic age. A 'stronger One' is coming who will baptise, not with water, but 'with the Holy Spirit and fire'. It is probably right to take these two terms, 'Holy Spirit' and 'fire', closely together. At Pentecost the 'baptism' with the Spirit that the disciples are to receive will involve the appearance upon them of tongues 'as if of fire' (Acts 2:3). Essentially, then, the role of the Stronger One (Jesus) will be to cleanse and empower people with the gift of the Spirit, the force of the messianic era that is now at hand.

Luke notes but does not particularly stress (contrast Matthew 3:13-17) the baptism of Jesus at the hands of John. It is what happens next that is truly significant. Distinctive to Luke is the notice that the experience Jesus is about to undergo takes place while he is 'at prayer' (v. 21). Prayer is a notable theme in Luke. Jesus prays at significant moments in his ministry (6:12; 9:18; 9:28; 22:40-46; 23:34, 46). Prayer erases the barrier between heaven and earth. While Jesus is praying, the 'heavens are opened', responding to a plea in Isaiah 64:1 ('O that you would tear open the heavens and come down'), signalling the onset of the messianic age.

The descent of the Spirit ('in bodily form like a dove') has been variously explained. In view of the address that follows: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased', there are grounds for thinking that Jesus' experience of the Spirit here is essentially an assurance of the Father's love (cf. Paul in Rom 5:5: 'God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us'). This is his 'anointing' with the Spirit that he will announce when inaugurating his ministry, proclaiming the fulfilment of Isaiah 61:1-2, in the synagogue of Nazareth (4:16-22). His mission, empowered by the Spirit (4:14), will be to rebuild a People of God upon that same assurance of love.

Without wanting to suggest an anticipation here of the fully formulated doctrine of the Trinity, it is important, I think, to note the 'trinitarian' dimension of the scene: the divine communion of love that is the Trinity (Father, Son, and Spirit) is operative, not in heavenly remoteness, but here on earth at the Jordan River. The mission of the Son which will be to draw human beings (the 'lost family' of God for Luke) back into the warmth of the Father's home, into the 'fire' of that divine communion of love.

In this way, I think, today's feast, while overtly about the baptism of Jesus, is also about us as well. Every baptised and confirmed believer can hear the Father's voice from heaven: 'You are my beloved son; you are my beloved daughter; in you I am well pleased.'