

*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.*

**19th January 2025  
Second Sunday in  
Ordinary Time Year C**

**Entrance Antiphon**

All the earth shall bow  
down before you, O God,  
and shall sing to you,  
shall sing to your name,  
O Most High!

**First Reading** from the  
prophet Isaiah 62:1-5

**Responsorial Psalm**

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

**Response:** Proclaim his  
marvellous deeds to all  
the nations.

**Second Reading** from the  
first letter of St Paul to  
the Corinthians 12:4-11

**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  
John 2:1-11

**Communion Antiphon**

You have prepared a table  
before me, and how  
precious is the chalice that  
quenches my thirst.

## Holy Gospel according to John 2: 1-11

*The first of the signs given by Jesus was at Cana in Galilee.*

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

26 January 2025  
Third Sunday in  
Ordinary Time Year C

First: [Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10](#)

Resp Ps: [Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63](#)

Second: [1 Corinthians 12:12-30](#)

or

[1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27](#)

Gospel: [Luke 1:1-4. 4:14-21](#)



# Worship: Mass and Devotions

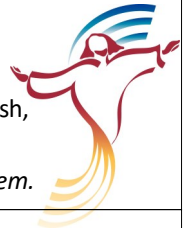
Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri and Sat: Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30—10.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am		Alliance of the 2 Hearts 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:*** Christephur Pereira

***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**  
 Website: **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

**Friendship Group meets on Tuesday 4 February with Mass at 9am followed by morning tea. Please call the parish office for further details.**

**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.

**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** will help raise money for the building works currently being undertaken.

**Sapientia:** Single adults (18—30yrs) are invited to join the Dominican Friars & Sisters for this weekend retreat of prayer, formation & fellowship; 7-9 February at St Mary’s Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park; For more info email to the sisters at [Sydney@op-tn.org](mailto:Sydney@op-tn.org)

**Gospel of Luke Bible Study** An MP3 presentation by Father Felix Just sj will be offered on the 4 Thursdays of February from 10 to 12 in the meeting room. The session will entail two half-hour reflections with suggestions for personal prayer which can be done in your own time. Please register with Colleen via email at [chaughey2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:chaughey2@optusnet.com.au) so materials can be organised.

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Today's first reading from Isaiah is one of several references in the Old Testament that use wedding imagery – bride and groom – to describe the relationship between God and the people of Israel. The imagery is never that of an 'old married couple' but rather young lovers entering into a new life together full of hope; full of romance; and full of passion. This image of God and the people as bride and groom would not have been lost on the first audiences of today's gospel passage. Immediately, they would have recognised the significance of Jesus' first outing in public ministry being at a wedding feast – at the coming together of God and God's people, Jesus is present! It is a very neat and quite deliberate follow on from the prologue of the Gospel of John where the gospel writer uses the image of 'the Word made flesh who lives among us' to describe Jesus. The Word has come into the world and the first public appearance is at an event that symbolises the relationship between God and God's people.

The interplay between Jesus and his mother is very interesting in this gospel event. In this particular gospel it is one of only two occasions that Mary is mentioned: this event at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and then at the foot of the cross as he is crucified. Mary does not ask Jesus to do anything. She simply states, 'They have no wine', but one can almost hear the motherly tone with which it was said. I'm sure Jesus was left in no doubt that he was expected to do something about it. When he tries to avoid the issue, Mary apparently ignores his objections and instructs the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them. No fuss; no argument. How do mothers do it?

What must the servants have been thinking? First of all, there was insufficient wine for the feast. They probably knew who was going to wear the blame for that ordering mistake! Then they're told to fill the enormous water jars with water, draw some into a serving vessel and go and present it to the steward of the household – effectively their overseer; their boss! They must have been very nervous about how the steward would respond to what they were taking to him. Yet they, along with Mary and Jesus, were the only witnesses to Jesus' first miracle! Even the steward was unaware of the miracle.

Sadly, this text is sometimes used by people to show that Jesus legitimises drinking alcohol. If there was anything wrong with drinking, they say, Jesus wouldn't have made wine out of water! This argument is used to not only justify consumption of alcohol (sometimes to excess) but also to berate and ridicule those who, for religious and other reasons, abstain from alcohol. It is, of course, a feeble attempt to misappropriate scripture and use it completely out of context and for their own purposes. One could not even justify this argument on the grounds of a literal interpretation of scripture!

The steward comments that the best wine had been kept until the end of the wedding celebration – a clever use of an image for Jesus. Remembering the use of wedding imagery to describe the relationship between the people of Israel and God, the wedding feast is celebration of that relationship, and at the very heart of the celebration and the relationship is Jesus. He is the best wine that is kept until the end – the 'finishing touch' to a magnificent celebration, just as he is the 'finishing touch' to the relationship between God and God's people to that point.