

*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.*

**26 January 2025**  
**Third Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time Year C**

**Entrance Antiphon**

I will praise you, Lord,  
among the peoples,  
among the nations sing  
psalms to you,  
for your mercy reaches to  
the heavens,  
and your truth to the skies.

**First Reading** from the  
Prophet Isaiah 32:15-18

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 84:9-  
14. R. v.9  
(R.) The Lord speaks of  
peace to his people.

**Second Reading** from the  
First Letter to the  
Corinthians 12:4-11

**Gospel Acclamation**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called children  
of God.  
**Alleluia!**

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Matthew 5:1-12

**Communion Antiphon**  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
and never forget his  
benefits.

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### *South Land of the Holy Spirit*

The Beatitudes we just heard are at the beginning of the 'Sermon on the Mount'. This sermon provides a picture of a society where the usual expectations of how people relate to each other are turned upside down.

Australia, 'Down Under', is a place to which people have been attracted by a vision of a different future, a future where human beings could relate to each other differently to the old order in their society of origin.

De Quiros, the Portuguese explorer of the 16th Century, set out on a quest for 'Terra Australia del Espiritu Santo', South Land of the Holy Spirit.

I am convinced that 'Australia' is a work of the Holy Spirit, one of whose most distinctive works at Pentecost was the breaking down of ethnic and language barriers between people. Australia is a place where that Pentecostal impulse is creating a new society. Have we responded to the Holy Spirit perfectly?

No. Treatment of the earliest inhabitants of this land was shameful, and is not yet fully remedied as the Lord of the Sermon on the Mount desires.

But, we could pause for a moment and thank God.

For our land abounding in nature's gifts of beauty rich and rare.

For the divine Spirit of Pentecost

attracting us to follow Jesus in this South  
Land of the Holy Spirit.

### **2nd February 2025**

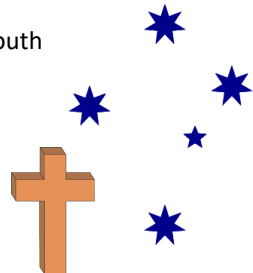
The Presentation of the Lord Year C

First: Malachi 3:1-4

Resp Ps: Ps 23:7-10. R. v.10

Second: Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40



# Worship: Mass and Devotions

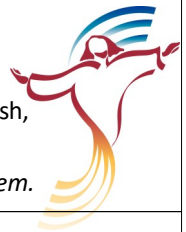
Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri and Sat: Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30—10.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am		Alliance of the 2 Hearts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

***Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:*** Hilda Young, Ivan Astolosh, Mrs. Rodriguez, Lio Feiloakitohi, Baldwin Lopez  
*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.**

**ASCENT Youth Group is Back!** Hey everyone! The wait is over—**ASCENT Youth Group** is kicking off again on **Friday, 31st January!** Come along for fun games Chill vibes and awesome people Great food A space to explore and grow in faith  
**Time?** 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM **Where?** Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Hall If you're aged 12-17, this is the place for you! Bring along your friends, come and make new ones and start 2025 off right! Got questions? Contact Caroline at 0481469262. **Don't miss it—we can't wait to see you there!**

**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 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. 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. Currently we are planning to have a Bunnings BBQ & a social event before lent begins, so watch for more info.

**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. Please register with Colleen via email at [chaughey2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:chaughey2@optusnet.com.au)

## Holy Gospel according to Matthew 5: 1-12

**Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.**

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

