




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.

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|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p>2nd March 2025 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C</p> <p>Entrance Antiphon The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.</p> <p>First Reading from the book of Sirach 27:4-7</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm: Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2</p> <p>Second Reading from the first letter to the Corinthians 15:54-58</p> <p>Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!</p> <p>Holy Gospel according to Luke 6:39-45</p> <p>Communion Antiphon I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">First Sunday in Lent In Year C</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Journey Begins</p> <p>As the season of Lent approaches, one of the most significant and visually striking rituals of Ash Wednesday is the burning of palms. This act, which symbolizes both penitence and preparation, serves as a reminder of the spiritual journey that begins with the imposition of ashes on our foreheads. But beyond its simple appearance, the burning of palms carries deep meaning that connects us to the traditions of the Church and the broader Christian faith</p> <p>The burning of palms and the subsequent imposition of ashes mark the beginning of a season of reflection, fasting, and penance. Lent is a time to renew our relationship with God through prayer, almsgiving, and self-sacrifice. By engaging in these practices, we imitate Christ's own journey into the wilderness and His sacrifice on the cross, preparing ourselves to celebrate the joy of His resurrection at Easter.</p> <p>As we begin our journey through Lent, let us remember the powerful symbol of the burning palms. The ashes remind us of who we are, fragile human beings in need of redemption. Yet they also remind us of the hope we have in Christ, who invites us to walk with Him through this season of renewal, trusting that He will bring us to the fullness of new life.</p> <p>The palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday, often stored in homes or churches, that are carefully gathered and are lit in a controlled fire, and as they burn, the smoke rises toward heaven, echoing the prayers and sacrifices of the faithful. This act of purification mirrors our own inner purification as we prepare to walk with Jesus through the 40 days of Lent.</p> <p>Once the palms are reduced to ashes, they are blessed by the priest. These blessed ashes are then used to mark the foreheads of the faithful in the shape of a cross, reminding us that we are marked as Christ's own.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please Bring your Palms in before Tuesday</p> <p>Could anyone who has old palms from previous Palm Sundays please bring them in before Tuesday (this week) so they can be turned into ash for Ash Wednesday</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>9th March 2025 First Sunday of Lent Year C</p> <p>First: Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Resp Ps: Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15 Second: Romans 10:8-13 Gospel: Luke 4:1-13</p> | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td data-bbox="448 1653 751 1832"></td> <td data-bbox="751 1653 1114 1832"> <p>Ash Wednesday Masses</p> <p>Morning: 9am & Evening: 7.30pm</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1114 1653 1466 1832"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="448 1832 751 2045"> <p>Lenten Groups Mondays 7.30pm on Zoom. Mondays 7.30pm at a person's home Contact the Parish Office</p> </td> <td data-bbox="751 1832 1114 2045">  </td> <td data-bbox="1114 1832 1466 2045"> <p>Parish Lenten Retreat Day Saturday 8th Mar 2025 in the Church Hall after 9am Mass</p> </td> </tr> </table> | | <p>Ash Wednesday Masses</p> <p>Morning: 9am & Evening: 7.30pm</p> | | <p>Lenten Groups Mondays 7.30pm on Zoom. Mondays 7.30pm at a person's home Contact the Parish Office</p> |  | <p>Parish Lenten Retreat Day Saturday 8th Mar 2025 in the Church Hall after 9am Mass</p> |
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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: 3rd Sunday at 3pm |
| Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am | Fri and Sat Mass at 9am | Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass & 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 Ponnappalam, Peter Presdee, 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: Christophur Pereira, Effin D’Cruz, Mabel Artuz.

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.



Our Community: Rosters

| 9 March 2025 | Saturday 6pm | Sunday 9.30am | Sunday 5pm |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Welcomers | Suzanne, Russell B & Berna P | Gabriel , Bianca & Antony | Terry & Maree R |
| Altar Servers | Ryan, Amana, Elijah P & Eliana D | Orly | Vu & Nathan |
| Readers | Loretta & Gerard B | Irene R & Lee S | Niya & Effie |
| Refreshments | | | |
| Altar Linen | Nellie R | CLOTW: | |
| Flowers | | Church Vacuuming | Tess V & Effie D |
| Counters | George S & Tess V | Foyer | |

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, 30 March at 9.30am

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

Young Adults Group will meet at 6pm every Sunday after 5pm Mass

Parish & Community Notices

Friendship Group Meeting: Tuesday 4th March @ 10am @ Carmelite Missionaries Convent. We will be celebrating St. Patricks Day. Please bring a plate to share and dress in something Green for the event. Any further info please contact the Parish Office.

Restoration of Church Benches: We are looking for more volunteers to help with the restoration of the Benches in the Church. Steve Locke and his team are doing a great job but really need your help. If you have a couple hours after the Weekday Masses please come along.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRIES GATHERING: 2 March 2025 after 9.30-am mass in the parish hall. All members of cleaners, flower arrangers, money counters, welcomers and refreshments ministry are invited to look at the present and future of their ministry in 2025. RSVP to Beatrix 0422925337 for catering purpose.

Lenten Books: Lenten books are still available at \$5 each from the Parish Office.

Lenten Groups: There will be 2 Lenten Groups you can join this year. Please contact the Parish Office or Parish Mobile for further information.

Parish Lenten Retreat Day: Will be held on 8th March after the 9am Mass till 3pm in the hall. Please contact the Parish Office or Parish Mobile for further information.

A Women's Opportunity to Experience a Cursillo 3-Day Weekend A Cursillo weekend will be held at Carmel House, Varroville (Near Campbelltown) from Thursday evening 6 March to Sunday afternoon 9 March 2025. To view brochure and find out more, please scan the QR code, email cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com or contact Margaret on 0417 041 721.

Carmelite Lent Offering: Do you like the sound of gathering with other people online during Lent to read together in sacred silence? You might be interested in the Carmelite Spirit Online Silent Lent Book Club. To find out more and to register, visit www.carmelite.com/retreats

Marriage Enrichment 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 23-25 May 2025 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

MGL Sisters Consecrated Life Weekend: Discernment Retreat Friday 14th March - Sunday 16th March *A time for single women aged 16-35 to listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and sharing to help discern your vocation. More info and RSVP: mqlsisters.sydney@gmail.com/0402 602 520*

The Journey, – Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast

The Journey is the weekly podcast for parishioners in the Diocese of Wollongong. Each week it brings you great music, formation in faith, with an array of fantastic presenters from our Diocese and around Australia. Just go to www.jcr.org.au and we will send it to you each week.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage: commences Monday 1 September 2025—Accompanied by Fr Patrick Vaughan Queen of Peace – Medjugorje Pilgrimage A tiny Croatian village, six children and the faith of millions from all over the world have shed new light on what it means to be a true pilgrim on life's journey. In this hallowed place of Medjugorje, this valley of miracles, the Mother of God beckons us forward. For full details, itinerary and bookings, Visit: harvestjourneys.com/medjugorje

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue or restart your monthly gift at any time. Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/parishgiving/> to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronically.

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 Luke 6: 39-45

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Commentary by Greg Sunter

In our post-modern world, the lesson of the hypocrite seeking to remove the speck from their neighbour's eye before removing the log from their own has at times been taken too far and too literally. We are often confronted with a minimalist notion that nobody can be corrected or criticised because one person's opinion is just as good as the next person's. In this view, there is no room for universal truths; no room for authority; no room for an over-arching view of the world or a meta-narrative – an underlying 'big picture' story for life.

On the surface, the idea that one person's opinion is as valid as any other's seems very democratic and sociable. However, it is fundamentally not true. Someone who has spent a lifetime studying and practising in a particular field of endeavour cannot be lightly dismissed as 'that's just your opinion'. Yet, all too often, such learned knowledge and experience is given the same weight as ill-informed and sometimes mischievous opinion – frequently in the name of 'balanced' discussion.

For some people immersed in the post-modern culture this wash of opinion dressed up as fact is not only confusing but sometimes dangerous. Social norms and even laws can be seen as just another opinion that differs from my own. The opinions of friends and complete strangers on the internet or social networks are held with the same level of legitimacy as established sources of social, moral, legal and religious authority. Whilst it is proper to question established authority and require accountability and justification, the absence of universal truths and meta-narratives lead us back to the proverb that begins today's gospel: the blind leading the blind.

