

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.

23rd February 2025
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year C

Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading from the first book of Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8 (R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading from the letter to the Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Luke 6:27-38

Communion Antiphon

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

23rd February 2025
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year C

First: Sirach 27:4-7

Resp Ps: Ps 91:2-3.13-16. R.v.2

Second: I Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary
Time In Year C

A Message from Our Bishop

Dear Pilgrim,

As we embark on the Jubilee Year, I encourage you to use this pilgrim passport not just as a document, but as a spiritual tool guiding you through the historic tradition of pilgrimage. This tradition connects us deeply with those who have journeyed before us, seeking hospitality and blessings on their sacred travels. I have designated six Jubilee pilgrimage sites within our diocese. Visiting these sites offers a unique way to enrich your prayer life and experience God's boundless mercy, particularly through the Jubilee plenary indulgence. As we embody the vision outlined in Come and See, Go and Make, let us respond to the call to be "overwhelmed not by fear, but by hope!" This Jubilee Year presents an invaluable chance to enrich our faith at the diocesan pilgrimage sites, where each visit becomes a profound experience of God's mercy through the Jubilee plenary indulgence. Inspired by Pope Francis, let us advance with hearts open to "gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and far-sighted vision".

Fraternally in hope,



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: 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.



Our Community: Rosters

2 March 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Gabriel M	Martin H & Paul T	Stuart, Judy L & Jackie P
Altar Servers	Maria T, Cassandra T, Abigail A & Austin J	Orly	Michael & Nathan S
Readers	Suzanne & Russell B	Andy & Caroline A	Leah M & Fev S
Refreshments			
Altar Linen	Maria D	CLOTW:	
Flowers		Church Vacuuming	Gerard B & Maritas B
Counters	Louise M & Lina A	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, 29 December 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

Pastoral Care Team meets on last Friday at 9.30am.

Faith Circles meets every Monday via zoom at 2pm & 7.30pm.

Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.

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.

Pilgrim's Passports: In the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 the Diocese of Wollongong has nominated some Parishes as a Pilgrim Parish. The passport tells you which ones and invites you to go and visit. You will journey to these sacred Churches to obtain a Jubilee Indulgence One. For further Information please contact the Parish Office

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.

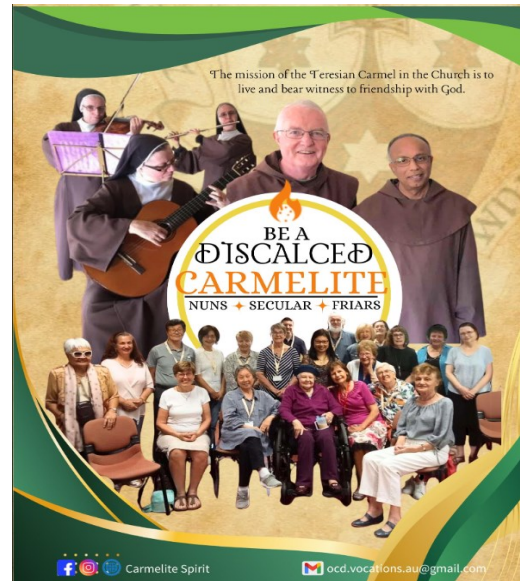
Lenten Books: Lenten books are now available at \$5 each from the Parish Office.

Lenten Groups: Would you like to lead a group through Lent this year. Please contact the Parish Office or Parish Mobile.

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.

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: mgl sisters.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/weeklybulletin to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 6: 27-38

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Commentary by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's Gospel continues Luke's instruction to his disciples known as the Sermon on the Plain. As if the Beatitudes (and Woes) that we heard last Sunday were not radical enough, the Sermon now pushes vulnerability to fresh extremes. A long instruction begins (v. 27) and ends (v. 35) with the extraordinary command to 'love your enemies'. This is the central theme. In between come concrete illustrations of what loving one's enemies might mean in practice: returning blessing for a curse, turning the other cheek, not withholding one's shirt from a person who demands one's coat, and so forth. All involve responding to injury or unreasonable demand with nothing but generosity and the abandonment of all claim to recompense. [It has been plausibly suggested that the instruction has in view the situation of people in an occupied country such as Palestine was at the time of Jesus under the Romans. The injuries listed are particularly those that ordinary citizens would be likely to suffer at the hands of Roman soldiers, who could bully and plunder them at will].

The attitudes Jesus commends make no sense in themselves. Once again, as so often in the Gospels, allowance has to be made for the exaggeration that often marks the prophetic speech of Jesus. He is not laying down maxims to be followed literally. Rather, he is seeking to inculcate a fundamental attitude according to which one would be prepared to be vulnerable to a degree that would be thought foolish by the standards of the world. The grounds for adopting a policy of such vulnerability and generosity towards others, even one's enemies, stems from what one both discerns in God and experiences from God. As in the case of the Beatitudes, the policy only makes sense in the context of the distinctive vision of God and relationship to God that Jesus communicates to his own. As obedient children follow the example of their parents, so, concludes Jesus, by acting in this way 'you will be children of the Most High, who is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked'(v 35).

Likewise, in view of this relationship with God, the members of the community are to be 'compassionate' as their Father is compassionate. If they refrain from judging (that is, condemning others), they themselves will avoid being judged (condemned [at the final judgment] by God)]. If they forgive they will be forgiven (by God). If they are generous in giving, they will meet with an extraordinary measure of generosity in return ('a full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap'). The principle is: 'The measure you give will be the measure you get back.' The sense is not that God waits to see the level of human generosity before deciding how generous to be in return. God's aim from the start is to be as extravagantly generous as possible. But, just as the volume of water one can draw from a tank depends upon the capacity of the vessel one brings to draw from it, so the generosity of the human 'receptacle' conditions the amount ('measure') God can give. Any limitation stems from the human, not the divine side.