

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.

Sunday 23 Mar 2025
Third Sunday of Lent
Year C



Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

First Reading from the Book of Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8

Response:

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading from the first Letter Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Holy Gospel according to
Luke 13:1-9

Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Next week

30th March 2025
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Year C

First: Joshua 5:9-12

Resp Ps: Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

Second: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

Parish Leadership Group Renewal

The insert in this week's bulletin is an invitation from Fr Shane, inviting **all** parishioners to consider joining our Parish Leadership Group. Please take the time to read this letter and if you feel called please contact the parish office or a member of the Parish Leadership Group.

As Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year, marking it as a special time of grace that calls us toward a deeper holiness and strengthens our witness of God's loving mercy to the world. In his Papal Bull, the Holy Father reminds us that "hope does not disappoint" (Rm5.5), articulating his desire for this Jubilee Year to foster a renewed climate of hope and spiritual rejuvenation within the Church, energising our mission to the world.

Last year our Parish Pastoral Council released our Vision and Mission for the next 5 years. Our new PPC will have the responsibility to create the Pastoral Plan. The Pastoral Plan will set the priorities and guide our focus for the future, to quote Pope Francis, with a renewed climate of hope and spiritual rejuvenation within our parish.

Our Parish Vision is for everyone in our parish community to encounter the love and mercy of the Father through Jesus Christ, be accompanied by a community of believers and be equipped to share that encounter with others in the power of the Holy Spirit. The vision is further articulated under 6 key themes: Evangelisation, Discipleship, Worship, Leadership, Community & Ministry.

Despite the inconvenience of the construction, our own parish building renovation is reflective of the spiritual rejuvenation I feel stirring among our faith community. We seem to have many new parishioners, and I appeal to all parishioners, no matter your age or how long you have been attending our parish, to consider how you can serve this community.

On Sunday 30 March all interested parishioners are invited to attend a discernment day from 11am—1.30pm. This day is an opportunity for you to find out more information and consider how you can best serve our parish.

PRAYER is most important for the support, guidance and focus of teams and ministries in achieving our Parish Vision. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring forth people who have the gifts, skills and time available to undertake this task.

The Parish Structures Model is:

- ⇒ The PARISH PRIEST who is responsible for providing overall sacramental and pastoral leadership of the Parish.
- ⇒ The PARISH LEADERSHIP GROUP is responsible for visioning, pastoral planning and leading the Parish as a whole. It is made up of two teams who work in unison with each other:
- ⇒ The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is responsible for creating and shaping and monitoring the overall Parish Vision, Mission and Pastoral Plan.
- ⇒ The Parish Leadership Team (PLT) is responsible for leading the overall implementation of the Pastoral Plan and prioritising delivery.
- ⇒ Ministry Leaders are responsible for leading the implementation of the Parish Vision, Mission and Pastoral Plan within a specific area of parish life.
- ⇒ Ministries are responsible for delivering the Parish Vision, Mission and Pastoral Plan within a specific area of parish life.

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: Not during April	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, Allan Marquinez.

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:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

30 March 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen & Arlene & Gabriel	Nelia & Anita	Stuart & Judy, Jackie
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana, Elijah & Eliana	Orly	Michael & Nathan
Readers	Mark & Carlos	Children's Mass	Leah & Fev
Altar Linen	Maria	CLOTW:	
Flowers		Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	Margaret & Jeanne	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

Friendship Group is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month

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

Ascent Youth Ministry meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday from 6.30pm.

Parish & Community Notices

Stations of the Cross are held every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the church.

Liturgy Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 25 at 7.30pm in the meeting room.

Property Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday March 26 in the Parish meeting room. All are welcome especially new members with practical skills.

ASCENT Youth Group Presents: REDEEMED – A Lenten Day Retreat! Join us for a FREE & faith-filled retreat **next Saturday, March 29th, from 9 AM to 3:30 PM!** Open to all youth aged 12-17.

We'll begin with **Mass at the Church at 9am**, followed by an inspiring day in the hall—exploring the true meaning of **Jesus' sacrifice** in our lives today. Expect a day packed with **faith, fun, games, and delicious food!** **RSVP by March 23rd** to help us with catering. Contact **Caroline (0481 469 262)** to RSVP or for more info. **Don't miss out—see you there!**

Children's Mass will be next Sunday 30 March at 9.30am. A special Children's Mass is held on the 5th Sunday of the Month (in the months when there is 5 Sundays). Children are invited to join the choir and proclaim the readings on the day. Practice gatherings are held each month. To join in and for further info call the parish office.

Parish Leadership Team Discernment Day will be held on Sunday March 30 after the 9.30am Mass. For a discernment kit and to RSVP call the Parish office. All are welcome.

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.

Friendship group will meet on Tuesday 1st April at 10am at Carmelite Missionaries Convent. We will be celebrating Easter. For further information please contact the Parish Office

Project Compassion: This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. **Please donate today.** You can support Project Compassion **online at:** caritas.org.au/project-compassion **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413 Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

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. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

VOCARIS: PASSOVER, LAST SUPPER, FIRST MASS Join us for an unforgettable night as we celebrate a Passover Meal together, unraveling the deep significance behind Christ's words at the Last Supper, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and on the cross! What better way to start your Holy Week! Join us on Saturday, 12 April from 5pm to 10pm at the Wilton Community Centre: Main Hall (20 Broughton Street, WILTON) (25 minutes from Campbelltown).

JUBILEE EVENT: 24 Hrs for the Lord, commencing 7am 28 March Shrine of the , Immaculate Conception Unanderra one of the Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites in the Diocese of Wollongong - is participating in the 24 Hours for the Lord, a worldwide initiative encouraged by Pope Francis, on 28-29 March. It will begin with 7am Mass and Rosary on Friday 28 March, with Eucharistic Adoration until the 7:30am Mass on Saturday 29 March, children's resources available to help them to pray between 3pm and 5pm, and Stations of the Cross on Friday at 5:30pm followed by Reconciliation until 9pm. You can see more information and commit to one or more one-hour time slots at jubilee24hoursfortheLord or simply come along for any part of the day.

Vinnies NSW Disaster Appeal – Help those affected by Cyclone Alfred St Vincent de Paul Society NSW has launched an appeal to support communities in Northern NSW impacted by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Thousands are without power and have been forced to evacuate due to severe weather conditions, including destructive winds and potential flooding. Vinnies NSW is providing immediate relief such as food, clothing, and essential household items, while also supporting long-term recovery efforts. Financial donations are the most effective way to help. To donate, call 13 18 12, visit www.vinnies.org.au/nswdisasterappeal, or donate at any Vinnies NSW Shop. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



The poster features a dark blue background with a white diagonal line. At the top right, there is a circular logo for St. Patrick's College for Girls and a vertical banner that reads 'Celebrating 185 years 1939-2025'. The main text in the center reads 'A Morning at St Pat's' in a large, white, serif font. Below this, it says 'Monday 24 March 2025' and 'saintpatricks.nsw.edu.au'. In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code and a red button that says 'REGISTER NOW'.

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 13: 1-9

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord



Gospel Commentary by Greg Sunter

When Jesus is asked about the deaths of some Galileans and some residents of Jerusalem, he seizes the opportunity to remind his audience that their obsession with the 'sin' of the victims is misplaced. He challenges all who are listening that unless they repent, they will all perish in a similar fashion. This would have been very confronting to those in the audience who were ingrained in the thinking that 'bad things only happen to bad people'. The purity codes of the day stated that if one maintained purity of action – obeying the Law and respecting the prohibitions on certain actions – then one was fulfilling one's duty and maintaining right relationship with God. Jesus chastises the people for this attitude and tells them that they all must 'repent'. For 1st Century Jews, the word 'repent' had a greater depth of meaning than our current understanding. Rather than simply 'being sorry', to repent meant to completely turn life around – both individually and as a society. His injunction to repent would be seen as a challenge to question motives and actions and set a new direction.

To follow this up, Jesus tells his audience a parable about a fig tree that has not borne fruit after three years. There are many interpretations of this parable and it is often interpreted in isolation from the gospel passage that immediately precedes it. Given the challenge to 'repent' that is given so strongly, we can see the parable as an example to the listeners that their time for repenting is running out. The one year reprieve for the fig tree is an indication to the listeners that their change of heart and change of spirit had better take shape in the very near future.

Project Compassion Reflection

Sometimes you hear Indigenous people refer to Jesus as a 'person of Country'. What might this mean?

It is hard to imagine the Gospels without the connection of Jesus to the sea, the river, the desert, the fields and the mountain. His teaching often featured seeds and birds and sheep and corn. In today's Gospel, we hear the parable of the fig tree. The impatient person wants to cut it down. A wiser person is prepared to work with nature by putting manure on the tree and looking after it. This is a story of growth. God is creative. God is patient with us. God gives us another chance. He journeys with us on our pilgrimage of hope.

This week, Project Compassion brings us the story of Lam, a young man from rural Vietnam. Lam's disability made his upbringing difficult. Sometimes people look at those with disability a little like the fig tree. They judge them and dismiss them. Through the I-SHINE program, supported by Caritas Australia's partner in Vietnam, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Lam was able to pursue his dreams and become more independent. He enrolled in a six-month IT Technician training course in Da Nang that not only equipped him with professional skills but also rekindled his social connections and confidence. Lam's dedication during the training paid off as he launched a freelance graphic design business from his home. Today, he is a successful graphic designer, serving clients locally and internationally and earning a stable income every month. He has a creative life.

In today's reading, Moses is in the wilderness, a place of surprising possibilities. Like the Australian landscape, the wilderness in Scripture is subtle; it is a place of encounter with God. Moses thinks he is having a regular day in the family business, looking after his father-in-law's sheep. But a voice comes from a bush that is blazing without being burnt up. The voice tells Moses to take off his shoes because 'the place on which you stand is holy ground.' This is the beginning of the freedom story of his people, the start of their journey out of captivity. May we Unite Against Poverty as we create a better world for all God's people.

We pray for all those who live with disability, especially those who are stigmatised in any way. May we do all we can to support their flourishing as truly equal participants in the human family. Your generosity through Project Compassion this year empowers some of the world's most vulnerable people to build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. Thank you so much for being part of Project Compassion 2025! Please scan the QR here to find your Diocesan Director's details.

