

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.

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:1-12

Why look among the dead for someone who is alive?

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, the women went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. As they stood there not knowing what to think, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them, 'Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee: that the Son of Man had to be handed over into the power of sinful men and be crucified, and rise again on the third day?' And they remembered his words.



When the women returned from the tomb they told all this to the Eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary of Magdala, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them also told the apostles, but this story of theirs seemed pure nonsense, and they did not believe them.

Peter, however, went running to the tomb. He bent down and saw the binding cloths, but nothing else; he then went back home, amazed at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Dawn has Broken – The Son is Risen *Reflection by Fr Michael Tate*

Women go to the tomb as dawn is breaking. The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, cruelly tortured and buried in the pitch blackness of the tomb, is conquered by the Son-Rise of all sun rises flooding our world and the whole of human history with Divine Light and Energy.

This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the Easter Vigil. From that earthly element we light the Easter candle and the Exultet is sung: 'Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King.'

The resurrection itself is nowhere described in the gospels, but we do have appearances of the Risen Lord Jesus. The first appearance was to a woman, Mary of Magdala. A title given to her by the early church was 'Apostle to the Apostles' because she was the bearer of the message which the male disciples initially did not believe. But eventually they too believed that Death had been done to death because the Son had risen.

Christ's body was transfigured by the energy of Divine Love and we can, by grace, participate in that resurrection life of Our Lord. A glorious destiny awaits us, as indeed it awaits the whole cosmos as it is to be transformed by that resurrection life recreating the whole of creation.

We could take a moment to pray that we, along with all that matters, are graced with the life-giving energy of the Risen Son and that we may join Mary of Magdala in spreading the Good News of Christ's victory over death. Alleluia!

Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & 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
Samoan Mass: First & Fourth Sunday at 12 noon	Healing Mass: First Sat at 9am	Reconciliation: Sat 11am

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Nejia Tannous, Mary Ponnalam, 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: Graham Clifford, Reg Bucknell,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Anthony Binny, Anthony Mangos, *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



Contact us

193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville
 Parish office open 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

Parish and Community Notices

27 April: Divine Mercy Sunday Mass and Devotions from 2pm.

Working bee thank you to the few faithful people who came along for our working bee last Saturday. Your dedication is appreciated. It takes a lot of work keeping our church and gardens clean and tidy.

Sacramental Preparation will be commencing in May for children wishing to make First Holy Communion. Confirmation and Reconciliation preparation will be held later in the year. You can register at the parish office for all sacraments including Baptism and Marriage. Information booklet available, ask the welcomer as you leave.

Mother's Day Movie Night: YOU are invited! Join ASCENT Youth Group for Mother's Day Movie Night on Saturday, 10 May at 7pm in the Parish Hall and enjoy a heart-warming screening of *Unsung Hero*, a TRUE STORY of a mother's unshakeable faith and her family's inspiring journey. All are welcome - bring the whole family! Tickets include: Entry, sausage sizzle, tea/coffee, snacks & sweets. Pre-book via the Parish Office: \$20 (adults), \$10 (children); At the door: \$25 (adults), \$15 (children) Raffle tickets & canned drinks available for purchase on the night with great prizes to be won! For more info: Caroline 0481 469 262 or Parish Office: (02) 9603 7373

Buy a Brick promotion held since January has been very successful and I thank everyone who has supported the venture. Buy a Brick is fundraising specifically for the building renovations we are doing at the moment. Take a flyer as you leave.

MGL Sisters Day Retreat Saturday 26th April, 9am-4pm: *"BEHOLD, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5); Take a day to reflect on the incredible gift offered to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and allow God's love and mercy to bring new life.* Registration: trybooking.com/CZPVW

Embracing the Life and Witness of Carlo Acutis Canonisation – 27 April 2025

A Documentary film, *The Boy From Milan* will be released on April 2, on "formed" and outlines the life of Carlo Acutis, the **first millennial saint to be canonized**, and his story powerfully witnesses *extraordinary holiness in an ordinary life*. He rose early to attend daily Mass before school, proclaiming the Eucharist as his "highway to Heaven." He inspired his mother to return to the Church. He used technology to catalogue Eucharistic miracles and spread the Gospel with as many people as possible.

The universal church will join together to celebrate Bl. Carlo's canonization on April 27 (Divine Mercy Sunday), by **showing *The Boy From Milan*** with first hand accounts about Carlo Acutis, the sneaker-wearing, computer-loving "gamer saint" of this generation, who because of his deep love of God, devotion to the Eucharist, and quiet acts of charity is drawing a new generation of young people to be amazed by the miraculous and strive to live with everyday holiness.

Easter Message from Bishop Brian Mascord

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we journeyed together through Lent, I invited you to embrace an inner turning towards God—not just external actions—so we might find ourselves open-hearted when Holy Week arrived. Now I ask you, are you ready to receive the gift of Easter?



Now is the time to lay aside the garments of sorrow and penance we have worn throughout Lent so that the peace and joy of the risen Lord will fill our hearts today as we celebrate his victory over sin and death. Now is the time for our homes and communities to resound with our Easter song: the Lord is truly risen, alleluia!

On that first Easter Sunday morning when the women were dismayed by the empty tomb, two men in brilliant clothes appeared and said to them, “*Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee: that the Son of Man had to be handed over into the power of sinful men and be crucified, and rise again on the third day?*” (Luke 24:1-12) Herein, we find a powerful lesson for us this Easter. My dear sisters and brothers, remember what he told you!

Memory plays a powerful role in the Scriptures. For the Jewish people, remembering the promises and actions of God—like the rescue of the Israelites from Egypt—was not simply calling to mind fond memories, but making them present. In the same way, Jesus did this by instituting the Eucharist, making his body and blood truly present. God’s saving action in the past, promises of a future full of hope, and pledge to care for us here and now, are truths we can make present at all times, especially when we feel sorrow or distance from God. And yet, so often, we forget to remember.

In this Jubilee Year, the gift of Easter takes on a particular character: we are called to remember our sacred hope in Jesus and his promises. Death is not the end and does not have the final word. We can trust in his love and mercy. My dear sisters and brothers, we can have hope. The *gift* of the Jubilee Year may be the generous and merciful offer of indulgences, but the *joy* of the Year is drawing close to God and remembering that he has not, and will not, abandon us—now or ever.

And so, on this blessed day, may our hearts be genuinely open so that the truth may dwell richly in us. Though we stand before an empty tomb, may we hear the words of the angels: “Remember what he told you!” And may we **remember hope**— Hope that holds us yesterday, today and forever. Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

With every blessing,

Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

