

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.

Pope Francis: 17 December 1936 – 21 April 2025

It is with deep sadness and profound gratitude that we in the Diocese of Wollongong mourn the passing of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Today, we join with Catholics across the globe in prayer and reflection, giving thanks for the extraordinary life and ministry of a man who touched the hearts of millions and whose papacy will be remembered for its compassion, humility, and unwavering commitment to the Gospel.



Pope Francis led the Church with a gentle strength, reminding us constantly of God's love for the poor and marginalised. His tireless advocacy for justice, peace, and care for creation resonated far beyond the boundaries of our Church, inspiring people of all faiths and backgrounds to work together for a more just and sustainable world. He challenged us to see the face of Christ in everyone we meet, especially those on the peripheries of society, and he lived this challenge with remarkable authenticity.

Pope Francis' focus on the kerygma—the simple yet powerful Gospel message—has been a particular inspiration for the Diocese of Wollongong. His words and example have encouraged us to renew our commitment to evangelisation. This is reflected in our “Come and See, Go and Make” vision for parishes, which invites all people to encounter Jesus, be transformed, and become disciples themselves.

We remember Pope Francis not only as a spiritual leader, but also as a pastor who genuinely cared for his flock. His warmth, his sense of humour, and his ability to connect with people from all walks of life made him a beloved figure around the world.

As we grieve the loss of our Holy Father, we also look forward with hope and faith. We pray for the repose of his soul and ask God to grant him eternal rest. We also pray for the College of Cardinals as they prepare to elect his successor, that the Holy Spirit guide them in choosing a new leader for our Church who will continue to build upon the foundation laid by Pope Francis and those who came before him.

In this time of mourning, let us unite in prayer and support for one another. As bearers of Christ's love, may we carry forward the legacy of Pope Francis by living out the Gospel with the same love, compassion, and courage that he exemplified.

May we be the joy of the Gospel.

Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD



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: Mary Ponnalam, 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: Grahame Clifford, Reg Bucknell, Peter Presdee, Nejia Tannous.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Hilda Young, Anthony Binny
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



Rest in Peace Reverend Deacon Peter Presdee
 5 June 1947 – 18 April 2025

The Funeral for Peter will be held at 11am on
 Wednesday 30 April here in our church

Parish and Community Notices

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

Pastoral Care Team will meet on the Friday 2nd May after the 9am Mass. All are welcome to join. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Friendship group will meet on Tuesday 6th May at 10am at Carmelite Missionaries Convent. We will be celebrating Mother's Day. Please bring a plate. For further information please contact the Parish Office.

Property Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 April at 7.30pm.

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.

The Marriage Course Want to build a strong, better marriage? - The Marriage Course is for any couples who are married (from 2 years married to 50 years married) and it has been run in over 117 countries for over 1.5 million couples since its inception in 1996. It runs over 7 sessions covering topics such as resolving conflict, impact of family and the art of communication. It gives you more time to spend as a couple! The course begins on Monday 26 May at 7.30pm and runs weekly until the 7 July. It will be held online in the comfort of your own home! Register now at: <https://app.tickets.org.au/DOW/Marriagecoursedow>.

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.

Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name. The Gospel of the Lord.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Christ requested that the great feast of his mercy be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter because the feast of the Divine Mercy goes hand in hand with the Paschal Mystery! The Cross is the greatest proof of God's eternal love and mercy for mankind.

Fittingly, the Gospel reading on the Sunday after Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) is the passage from John's Gospel about Christ's first appearance to the apostles after his resurrection, when he gave them the ability to forgive sins:

He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:21).

By conferring the power to forgive sins, Christ reaffirmed the role of mercy in his new covenant of love and invited his disciples to be ministers of his mercy to the world.