

We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the

6 April 2025
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Year C



Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against
a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and
cunning rescue me, for you,
O God, are my strength.

First Reading from the
prophet Isaiah 43:16-21

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great
things for us;
we are filled with joy.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ, king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to
me, for I am tender and
compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ, king of endless glory!

Holy Gospel according to
John 8:1-11

Communion Antiphon

Has no one condemned you,
woman? No one, Lord.
Neither shall I condemn you.
From now on, sin no more.

Next week

**Palm Sunday of the Passion
of the Lord: Year C**

First: Isaiah 50:4-7

Resp Ps:

21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

Second: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Luke 22:14 – 23:56

Jubilee of the sick and health care workers

What is the Jubilee of the Sick & Health Care Workers?

During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind.—**Pope Francis**

This year's Jubilee motto is *Pilgrims of Hope*. We are called to reflect and discover hope in the signs of the times. Pope Francis shares that during this special Jubilee year, we are especially called to show signs of hope to the sick, including those living in their home, hospital, or other settings. We are also called to pay inclusive attention to all who experience their own weaknesses and limitations.



To be a sign of hope for the sick, the Church is celebrating the Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers on April 5, 2025- April 6, 2025

Signs of hope should also be shown to the *sick*, at home or in hospital. Their sufferings can be allayed by the closeness and affection of those who visit them. Works of mercy are also works of hope that give rise to immense gratitude. Gratitude should likewise be shown to all those healthcare workers who, often in precarious conditions, carry out their mission with constant care and concern for the sick and for those who are most vulnerable.

Inclusive attention should also be given to all those in particularly difficult situations, who experience their own weaknesses and limitations, especially those affected by illnesses or disabilities that severely restrict their personal independence and freedom. Care given to them is a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope that calls for the choral participation of society as a whole.

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
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Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: 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: Reg Bucknell, Emma Reyes, Christephur 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

6 April 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Paul, Lori, Myra	Martin Violeti, Paul	Terry & Maree
Altar Servers	Berna, Christian, Elijah, Austin	Orly	Robert, Nathan
Readers	Ryan, Michael	Gabriel, Irene	Madonna, Tim
Altar Linen	Anne- Maree	CLOTW:	School Holidays
Counters	Richard, Michael	Church Vacuuming	Tess, Effie

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.

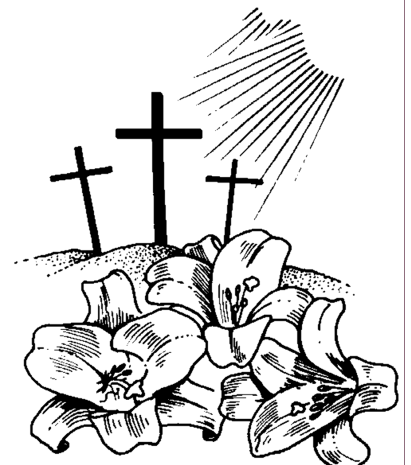
Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.

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.

Buy a Brick promotion held during January has been very successful and I thank everyone who has supported the venture. Receipts and bricks will be prepared in the next week for those who made donations. Over \$8000 has been donated this year. Thank you.

Building update: As you can see, the building project is underway. It's exciting to watch the progress from week to week. We can look forward to having everything completed before our fiesta in July.

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.

Working Bee will be held on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 April to clean up the church and grounds in preparation for Easter. Come along either day for an hour or 2. Bring your cleaning cloths and garden tools.

Easter Services

11 April: Parish Reconciliation Service at 7.30pm
13 April: Passion Sunday Masses 6pm vigil, 9.30am and 5pm
17 April: Holy Thursday Mass at 7.30pm
Adoration at the Altar of Repose until midnight.
18 April: Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 10am
Passion of the Lord at 3pm
19 April: Morning Prayer at 9am
Easter Vigil at 7pm
20 April: Easter Sunday Masses at 9.30am and 5pm
27 April: Divine Mercy Sunday Mass and Devotions from 2pm

Please Support Father David's urgent appeal for Stem Cell Donors across our Diocese Fr David Catterall will soon be undertaking a stem cell transplant. Each year, over 1,100 Australians, like Fr David, search for a stem cell donor to help save their life. Australia's small donor pool means only 80 patients are helped annually, leaving many struggling to find a match. A simple cheek swab, sent to your home could change someone's life. Becoming a source of HOPE in this Jubilee year. If you're 18 to 35 and generally healthy, you can join Fr David's appeal by visiting stemcelldonors.org.au/appeal/david or scanning the QR code.

Formation Nights on the 2025 Jubilee Year Want to know more about how people across the Diocese can embrace the 2025 Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope. Join one of our zoom sessions on Wednesday 9 or Thursday 10 April. They run for an hour, commencing at 7pm and will be a great opportunity to learn about this very special year of Hope and the grace that God wants to bestow on us.

VOCARIS: PASSOVER, LAST SUPPER, FIRST MASS Join us for an unforgettable night as we celebrate a Passover Meal together, unravelling 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).

Pilgrims of Hope – Youth Camp with YMT: Mon 14 -Wed 16 April; Where: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre
What: Games, fellowship, food & formation
Who: Youth Mission Team Sydney & a stack of awesome 14-18 y/o's; More info & rego: M: 0428 771 744 / ymt.com.au/istandevents

Penrose Park: Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage, Sat 26 April 2025, Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy Penrose Park, 10am – 3pm
Join us for a special Youth Pilgrimage—a day of prayer, reflection, and encounter as we journey in faith through: Mass, Reconciliation, Rosary Walk, International Chapels, Fellowship & Lunch, and Creative Prayer Stations. Bring your passports to get stamped along the way! Come as Pilgrims of Hope, embracing the grace of this Jubilee Year! To register: dow.org.au/events/penrose-park-jubilee-youth-pilgrimage/

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.wvme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wvme.org.au

Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk for Life

Join pilgrims from around the Diocese from Fri 23 May- Sat 24 May for all or part of the walk for life along the stunning South Coast from Kiama to Culburra. Pope Francis has urged us in this Jubilee Year to build a culture of life, where every human life is cherished and protected.

Day 1: From Kiama to Gerringong, followed by dinner with Bishop Mascord & overnight adoration.

Day 2: Gerringong to Culburra, finishing with mass and dinner. For more information go to dow.sh/WFL or contact [jude.hennessy@dow.org.au/4222 2407](mailto:jude.hennessy@dow.org.au)

Vinnies NSW Disaster Appeal – Help those affected by Cyclone Alfred 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.

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 John 8: 1-11

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'



The Gospel of the Lord.

Project Compassion Reflection

Pope Francis has spoken a great deal about our need for more women to occupy positions of leadership, both in the Church and in the world at large.

In his wonderful letter about the way we belong to each other, *Fratelli Tutti*, he says 'the organization of societies worldwide is still far from reflecting clearly that women possess the same dignity and identical rights as men. We say one thing with words, but our decisions and reality tell another story.' He is concerned about 'those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence'.

Pope Francis very much reflects the attitude of Jesus whose closeness to women distinguished him as a leader and teacher in his time. You might think of significant encounters in the New Testament: the woman at the well, Martha and Mary, the widow of Nain. You might also think of the woman we met in today's Gospel, described by the scribes and Pharisees as 'caught in the very act of committing adultery.' Listen to the sneer in those words.

These men, who are supposed to be educated and respected, have been peeping through the window. Their behavior is salacious, domineering and demeaning. In their self-righteousness, they threaten violence. There is no sign of the woman's partner who is surely just as much part of the story. Jesus neatly turns the tables.

He starts by sitting on the ground, occupying a position lower than that of the woman. He is the only one not taking an eyeful of her. Caritas Australia, whom we support through Project Compassion, has long acted in constructive ways to uphold the dignity of women and honor their strength, resilience and leadership. We have seen this during Lent, particularly in the stories of Irene from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Toefuata'iga from a school in Samoa. Please look at Caritas Australia's resources online; you will find many such stories. In so much of the world, development is led by women.

This Lent, we have also been mindful of the Year of Jubilee, a significant call to Unite Against Poverty as pilgrims of hope. Today's second reading reminds us that none of us is perfect. But like St Paul, we are still running, still trying to achieve 'the perfection that comes through faith in Christ.' This does not mean judging others as the scribes and Pharisees did. It means challenging ourselves to bring the world closer together as Jesus prayed 'may they all be one.'



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

The transformative work of Caritas Australia is only possible thanks to supporters like you and the dedication, passion, and resilience of our local partners, who tirelessly work to empower communities and create brighter futures.

In Vietnam, Caritas Australia's partner programs, like I-SHINE, helped Lam, a young man with a disability, gain graphic design skills and start a successful freelance business, inspiring others to pursue their dream.

Through partnerships like these, Caritas Australia creates lasting change in communities across the globe.

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above. **Or 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*.