



To Know, love and serve Jesus
by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission

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Ministry Drive:

Thank You for Your Commitment to Our Parish

Over the past few weeks, we have heard wonderful testimonials from parishioners who are involved in ministry in our parish. These stories have been a beautiful reminder of how each person's gifts and talents contribute to the life and mission of our community. Your dedication and service truly make a difference, and we are deeply grateful for all that you do.

As we look ahead, I invite you to please consider prayerfully where your gifts and talents can best serve our community. There are many opportunities to be involved, and your participation helps us grow stronger together in faith and fellowship. Whether you have been serving for years or are considering joining a ministry for the first time, your contribution is invaluable.

I especially encourage young adults and families to make a commitment to our parish. You are the future of our church, and your energy, ideas, and presence bring life and hope to our community. By stepping forward, you help ensure that our parish continues to thrive for generations to come.

Foyer Renovation —Thank You Message

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Steve Locke, Patricia Wicks, the Property Committee**, and everyone who contributed to the incredible work on the **Foyer Renovations**. Your dedication, vision, and tireless efforts have transformed our space into something truly remarkable—a place that reflects warmth, functionality, and beauty.

Walking into the newly renovated foyer, we are immediately struck by the sense of welcome and community it now offers. The addition of a **modern kitchen** is a game-changer, providing a space where hospitality can flourish and where we can share meals and fellowship in comfort. The **new toilets** bring convenience and accessibility, ensuring that everyone who visits feels cared for and accommodated.

The **vestry** has been thoughtfully designed to support the important work behind the scenes, giving our team a practical and organized space to prepare for services and events. The **quiet room** is a gift of peace—a sanctuary for reflection, prayer, and moments of stillness amidst the busyness of life. And the **piety store** adds a wonderful dimension, offering resources and items that nurture faith and devotion.

This renovation is more than just a physical upgrade; it is a reflection of the heart and soul of our community. It speaks to the commitment of those who envisioned a space that would serve not only our present needs but also the generations to come. We know that projects of this scale require countless hours of planning and coordination. From the initial concept to the final touches, your perseverance and teamwork have been inspiring. You have navigated challenges, balanced priorities, and ensured that the outcome would be something we can all be proud of—and you have succeeded beyond measure.

This beautiful foyer is now a hub of connection, a place where friendships will grow, where faith will be deepened, and where our community will continue to thrive. It is a testament to what can be achieved when people come together with a shared purpose and a generous spirit.

On behalf of everyone who will enjoy and benefit from this space, **thank you**. Thank you for your vision, your commitment, and your willingness to give so much of yourselves to make this dream a reality. We are deeply grateful for your leadership and for the countless ways you have blessed our community through this project.

May this new space be a source of joy and inspiration for many years to come. We celebrate this achievement with you and look forward to all the wonderful moments that will unfold here.

16 November 2025
Thirty-third Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year C

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

First Reading from the prophet Malachi 3:19-20

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97:5-9. R. see v.9. (R.) The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Second Reading from the second letter to Thessalonians 3:7-12

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand. **Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel according to Luke 21:5-19

Communion Antiphon
To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

Next Week
23 November 2025
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe
Year C

First: 2 Samuel 5:1-3
Resp Ps: Ps 121:1-5. R. v.2
Second: Colossians 1:12-20
Gospel: Luke 23:35-43

Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass: 1st Sunday of October at 12noon

Maori Mass: 1st Sunday of each month at 2pm

Filipino Mass: 3rd Sunday of each month at 11.15am

Children's Mass: 5th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

Weekday Mass

9am each day except Thursday;

Thursday at 7.30pm

Healing Mass on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9am.

Reconciliation

every Saturday at 11am

Devotions & Prayer groups

Adoration with the Rosary:

Saturday at 9.30am

Alliance of the 2 hearts Mass

& devotion: 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm

Divine Mercy Devotion: 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm

Faith Circles: every Monday at 2pm & 7pm via zoom

Holy Family Fellowship:

every 4th Saturday at 7pm.

Book Club: meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.

Friendship Group: is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month

Bible Study & Reflection

Group: meets Monday at 10am.

Children's Ministry

Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm

Ascent Youth Ministry:

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

Parish Notices

Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew: The new liturgical year will begin in December. It will be Year A when the Gospel reading for Sundays are mainly from the Gospel of Matthew. The session will commence at 10am on each of the Thursdays of November: 13, 20, 27; You can attend one or more sessions as each will not be dependent on the previous sessions.

Raffle tickets are still available to take home and sell. Please ask the welcomer for a book of tickets or call in at the parish office to collect. Sold tickets can be returned at any time.

Vinnies will be putting up the Christmas tree next weekend and commencing the Christmas appeal for the vulnerable people in our own community.

Advent Books are now available from the Parish office and the Piety stall. The cost \$5.00

First Reconciliation will be celebrated for 24 children who are currently undertaking preparation each Saturday. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers this week.

Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday 27 November at 7.30pm. We will be having a special Mass and celebration in thanksgiving for our Parish and especially for the many parishioners in our parish who serve in the various ministries that are actively building up the Kingdom of God here in Varroville.

Parish Advent Retreat will be held on Saturday 29 November; Save the date and more information will be provided in coming weeks.

Children's Mass will be held on Sunday 30 November at 9.30am Mass. Please bring your children and grandchildren for this special Mass

What's on around the Diocese? dow.sh/stayingconnected or dow.sh/weeklybulletin see everything that is on around our Diocese!

Job Vacancy: The Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding are currently advertising an exciting new job opportunity. We are looking for a detail-oriented and hard working person, who cares about the safety of others, to join the team as a Safeguarding (Records and Case Management) Officer. For more information, please visit the Diocesan Safeguarding website (www.dow.org.au/safeguarding). Applications close 5pm on Friday 21 Nov.

Pilgrimage of the Migrant Jubilee Cross 15 - 23 November: The Migrant Jubilee Cross is arriving in our diocese on Saturday!

The Cross will be at the following churches at the times listed:

- Mary, Mother of the Church, Macquarie Fields on Tuesday 18 November at 9am for Mass.
- St Mary Mackillop, Oran Park on Tuesday 18 November at 5pm for devotion & 7pm for Mass.
- Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow on Thursday 20 November at 9am for Mass & adoration; 12pm for Benediction.

Hear from Pope Leo XIV Sunday Echo is a limited-release resource the Diocese has developed that contains, using the Holy Father's most recent homily or reflection and accompanying discussion questions. Each issue will be released the day after Pope Leo XIV gives a homily or reflection on the most recent Sunday Gospel readings go to <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/> to access or sign up to have sent straight to you.

Formation For Instituted Ministries of Acolyte & Lector will take place at the Xavier Conference Centre Wollongong on 30 November from 9.30am to 1pm including the celebration of Eucharist in the Cathedral at 10.30am. To register: dow.sh/im25.

menALIVE Growing Good Men Weekend 2025 Friday 5 – Sunday 7 December 2025, The Tops Conference Centre: A powerful weekend for fathers and their teenage sons (ages 12–17). Strengthen your bond, explore the journey into manhood, and share in engaging activities, reflection, prayer, and a memorable Rite of Passage. Places are limited – register early to secure your spot! \$400 per father & son pair (includes accommodation, meals, activities & resources). For more information and registration, visit www.dow.org.au/events

Advent Retreat - St Mary's Towers: 415 Douglas Park Drive, Douglas Park, 9:30am – 3:30pm Saturday 13 December 2025. You are invited to a day of calm contemplation amongst the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre in Douglas Park. This is a day of embracing a slower pace, rekindling our inner journey, and enjoying time with like-minded others. The day will include sensory prayer walks, lectio divina, breathing meditation and praying through walking the labyrinth. Morning tea and lunch are included. Cost: \$60 (meals included). RSVP by 3 December: contact 0422 725 438 or christabelhoneysett@barnabasministries.org.au

World Day of the Poor 2025

This Sunday 16 November is the World Day of the Poor. You will be aware of Pope Leo's recent Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexi te*, which encourages the Church to be a poor Church accompanying the poor.

Today is the World Day of the Poor. It offers us an opportunity to renew our solidarity with those who are poor in our own community and across the world. In his message for the World Day of the Poor, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that "the poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel."

Pope Leo has also issued an Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexi te* ("I Have Loved You"), which explores in greater depth our relationship with those who are poor. It encourages us to reflect on how we think about those who live in poverty and how we take action to address their plight.

Bishop Tim Harris
Chair, Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service
Bishop of Townsville

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

May Whitlock, Pat Cullen,
Mary Ponnappalam,
Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran,
Karen Browne, Reg Gardner,
Sr Heather Burke, Barry
Atkins, Carol & Gabriel
Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez,
Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty,
Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib,
John Kajdryns, Pat Stewart,
Allan Marquinez, Richard
Scolyer, Angela Pavlovic,

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently departed
Jennifer Cuaresmo.

Anniversaries that occur at this time Giuseppe Cuomo, Angela Tomarchio
and all the holy souls remembered in the month of November

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light

Our Rosters

23 November 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen, Arlene & Berna	Martin, Voiletti & Paul	Beatrix & Michael
Altar Servers	Andrew Diane, Sebastian & Eliana	Vu	Stuart & Nathan
Readers	Suzanne & Margaret	Gabriel & Irene	Niya & Effie
Altar Linen	Sr Jill	CLOTW: Rhonda & Konrad	
Counters	Bing & Cynthia	Church Vacuuming	Susan

Contact Us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

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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.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 21:5-19

Your endurance will win you your life.

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Have you ever prayed for a parking spot? Which reminds me of the Irishman who went around the block twice looking for a spot, and in his frustration lifted his eyes towards Heaven and prayed 'Almighty God, if you find me a spot I'll go to Mass every Sunday and give up the Guinness.' Just then, a parking spot opened up and he dashed in to the space, raised his eyes to heaven and said 'Almighty God, disregard the previous conversation, I just found a spot by myself.'

Our prayers can tell us a lot about the image of God we really have. For some it is of a Divine Parking Attendant in the sky. For others a sort of weather God who with sufficient entreaty can stop the rain during the second day of the Test Match. But if you were in Syria and your town was being strafed and bombed by government and rebel forces, with innocent people being wantonly killed, then your prayer would be very different. Your image of God would be of a Liberator from warfare, of a Saviour from crimes against humanity, and if it came to it, a Strengthened in time of torture and impending death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus was preparing his followers for what he knew would be times of persecution in the immediate and ongoing futures for the Christian community. Imagine hearing these readings in a Catholic church in Syria, as the congregation fearfully gathers in the wake of murderous violence by some Muslim extremists against Christians, or in a church in a village in China with the Catholic community trying to keep its ties with the Pope, fearful of denunciation and betrayal by family and friends, as predicted by Jesus in today's gospel. There would be a yearning and heartfelt hope which would be a real prayer by those Syrian and Chinese disciples. They would be looking for vindication of their perseverance in persecution.

They would cling to Our Lord's assurance: 'Your endurance will win you your lives.' They would listen to the prophet Malachi:

'The day is coming now... evildoers will be like stubble... But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.'

What a wonderful image of God, putting our rather pathetic parking spot attendant and weather God images to shame. 'The sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.'

This is the image for God which would mean something very heartening in the midst of the seemingly endless darkness of persecution. God will do what the sun does, flooding the world with light and warmth, making our fragile planet habitable for human beings. It is our faith that out of the inky blackness of the cold tomb carved out of a hill near Calvary, the Son of righteousness did rise, shining out with healing in His rays. That is what the early church believed during those early centuries of persecution. They believed that Son when he had said: 'Your endurance will win you your lives.'

This belief is what sustains the martyrs of our present era. The word 'martyr' is the Greek word for witness. It simply means somebody who witnesses to something. A Christian martyr witnesses to Our Lord Jesus Christ, the pre-eminent martyr. Their blood is shed, as was His. They do so with the faith that for them, the Son of righteousness will shine out with healing.

That is our faith, that is the faith of the church. What was in the future tense for Malachi, is a present reality for those in parts of Nigeria, of Indonesia, of China, of Syria and elsewhere. This is what sustains them. There will be vindication. Justice will be done. Because the Son of Righteousness rose with healing in His rays.