

Fourth Sunday in Advent Year A

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6.
R. see vv 7. 10
(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading from the letter to the Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**Next Week: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Year A**

First: Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

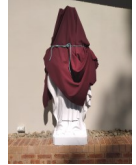
Resp Ps: Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

Second: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

Thank you for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Statue

A heartfelt thank you to Steve, Fundraising Committee and Property Committee for organizing Our Lady of Mount Carmel Statue, and to Con and Gerry for their incredible help with the installation. We deeply appreciate your dedication and teamwork. The blessing this weekend is truly special, and it wouldn't have been possible without your efforts.



Thank you for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Processional Cross

Thank you for your generous gift of the new processional cross to our parish from our Anonymous Parishioner. Your kindness enriches our worship and strengthens our community. We are deeply grateful for the blessing this cross will receive this weekend, which marks this cross as a sacred symbol of faith and unity. May God bless you abundantly



**Blessings for Both Sacred Items in
and after the Sunday 9.30am Mass**

**From Father Shane and the Parish Office
Staff**



In this Jubilee Year we wish you a blessed Christmas filled with peace, joy, and hope. May Christ's love guide your family and you throughout the New Year, bringing abundant blessings, health, happiness, and cherished moments with loved ones."

Parish Notices

Carmelite Missionaries ask you to join them for a festive evening of Christmas Carols on December 26th, 6-8 pm, in the Parish meeting room (video presentation).

Come share in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in thanksgiving for 2025 and welcome the New Year 2026 with us at the Carmelite Missionaries residence on December 31st, 10:45-11:45 pm.

Calling all Angels and Shepherds: Preparation for the Christmas Pageant will be held at the church on 22 & 23 December from 6 —8 pm.

Prayer Intentions: There is a box to submit your prayer intentions near the statue of Our Lady in the church. You may have a concern or a celebration you wish to bring to the Lord. All our intentions are read and prayed for at 9.30 each Saturday morning during Rosary and Adoration.

The Art of Dying Well: a four part series based on Eternal Rest (a powerful video program from the Augustinian Institute). This series helps us honestly and prayerfully confront questions about death, dying and our hope in eternal life. Commencing on Saturday 10 January at 10.30am and concluding on 31 January 2025 in our parish meeting room. Each session opens with a short video from the Eternal Rest Series, followed by small group discussion so everyone can share, ask questions and learn together. Light refreshments will be provided.



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve:

Christmas Pageant & Carols at 6pm

Vigil Mass at 7pm

Samoan Mass at 9pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Mass at 9am



Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

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 Kajdrys,

Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez, Richard Scolyer, Angela Pavlovic,
*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain
 and affliction.*

For our recently departed Maria Cuaresma, Graham Henneberry,
 May Whitlock, Paul Crawford,

Anniversaries that occur at this time Lily Pereira, James Pereira
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

28 December	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen , Arlene & Berna	Chris, Margaret & Gabriel	Geoff , Margaret & Danni
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail & Austin	Orly	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Bevina & Mark	Irene & Lee	Gloria & Leah
Altar Linen	Sr Jill	CLOTW:	
Flowers	Jeanne & Jessica	Church Vacuum	Gerard & Loretta
Counters	George & Digna	Church Foyer	



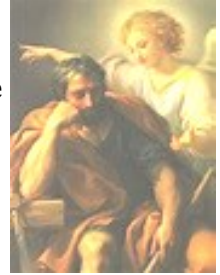
Parish Office: **Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm**
 Phone: **9603 7373 / 0434 705 176**
 Address: **193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville**
 Email: **varroville@dow.org.au**

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

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Just Man Dreaming

Joseph could not ignore Mary's pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him. If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened. You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message. We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!