

## Parish Thanksgiving

### We had a great celebration last Thursday evening with our Annual Thanksgiving Mass and supper.

During Mass Fr Shane prayed for all our parish volunteers. You are the reason we have such a vibrant community. From the rostered ministries to the committees and teams to the small faith groups to the Sacramental preparation team and catechists. You all willingly share your gifts and talents here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful community.

After Mass we enjoyed a light supper provided by the staff for the volunteers utilising the new kitchen and alfresco areas. It is a wonderful space for parish groups to gather.



**The Raffle Draw** took place at our thanksgiving Mass and Supper last Thursday. Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle and sold tickets. The fundraising team are pleased to report the parish profit was \$9916.

Congratulations to the winners:

First: Anna C;  
Second: Michelle D  
Third: Nadia F

The funds raised by this raffle will be used for finishing off some of the outstanding jobs associated with the renovation. We are gradually getting things completed.

**Our Friendship** group met on Tuesday and also celebrated their Christmas gathering in the new alfresco area. What a joyful gathering we shared, commencing at with morning Mass at 9am, followed by brunch with the participants catching up with friends, singing, dancing and having lots of fun.

The Friendship group meet on the first Tuesday of each month after 9am Mass, except in January. The next gathering will be on 3 February and have a Valentines day theme.



**7 December 2025**  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Year A

#### Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**First Reading** from the prophet Isaiah 11:1-10

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

**Second Reading** from the letter to Romans 15:4-9

#### Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.  
**Alleluia!**

**Holy Gospel** according to Matthew 3:1-12

**Next Week**  
**14 December 2025**  
Third Sunday of  
Advent Year A

**First:** Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

**Psalm:** Ps 145:6-10.

R. Is 35:4

**Second:** James 5:7-10

**Gospel:** Matthew 11:2-11

## Mass and Devotions

### Sunday Mass

**Saturday Vigil:** 6pm

**Sunday:** 9.30am & 5pm

**Samoan Mass:** 1st Sunday at 12 noon

**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

**Calling all Angels and Shepherds:** Preparation for the Christmas Pageant will be held at the church on 9, 16, 22, 23 December from 6 —8 pm.

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

**You are invited to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Immaculate Conception:** to say the Holy Rosary at the back of our Church on 8 December (Monday) at 8.00 am and followed by Mass at 9 am in the Church. We will also have Mass at 7.30pm on Monday 8 December.

**Peter Kearney– Advent to Christmas Concert** Friday 12th December, 7.00PM—Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 193 St Andrews Road, Varroville. Reflection and celebration with Peter Kearney, a Catholic composer, singer and guitarist who has made music his work since the 1980s. His best known compositions include 'Fill My House' and 'The Beatitudes'. The first part of Peter's presentation will focus on Advent themes of preparation. Then he will look ahead to the joyful time of Christmas, with songs including an Australian Christmas song and a traditional carol. There will be opportunities for audience participation. Children are welcome. Entry by donation. Refreshments at interval. Peter's CDs and music will be available.

**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.

**ASCENT Youth Christmas Fun Night** will be on Friday 12th December, 6:30–8:30pm in the Parish Hall. Open to all aged 12–17 for a joyful night of food, games, fun, and celebrating all that God has done this year!

**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.

**For your safety;** please be aware the portico is a drive through and cars will be using it before and after Mass. If you wish to stop after Mass and chat please congregate in the alfresco area outside the meeting room. The door to the alfresco is to the right of the main door past the kitchen servery window.

**Join us for a night of Christmas Carols and praise at Carmel House.** BYO dinner, drinks and picnic chair. Friday 19th December at 6.30pm at Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville. RVP: 16th December. [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

**Sanctus Summit- Rosemeadow** Join us for the last Sanctus Summit for the year at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow on Wednesday 17 December. Sanctus Summit is a monthly adoration night, bringing youth and

### 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

#### Parish Reconciliation Service

Friday 19 December at 7.30pm



young adults together from different parts of the Diocese! Eucharistic Adoration from 6.30 – 7.30pm (Reconciliation will be available), followed by Dinner at Ambarvale Hotel. Come along to pray before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and connect with other young people from the area!

**World Youth Day – Seoul 2027** World Youth Day is returning in August 2027- and this time it's heading to Seoul, South Korea! WYD is an unforgettable celebration of faith with millions of young Catholics from around the world, and we're excited to begin preparing a diocesan pilgrimage. If you (or someone you know) will be 18–25 years old in August 2027 and would love to experience the vibrancy of the universal Church, a new culture, and a life-changing encounter with Christ, we'd love to hear from you. Register your expression of interest: [dow.sh/wyd27](http://dow.sh/wyd27); Let's start the journey!

**Caritas Australia:** Be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity this Christmas. This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to “be a light in the darkness” for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity. Donate today at <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/>

**Immaculata Mission School 2026** What is it? A wonderful opportunity to grow in faith through daily Mass, Adoration and times of prayer, fantastic Catholic speakers (including international speakers Steve and Katey Norman from Renewal Ministries), share groups, fun activities, friendship and lots more. What is the theme? "Our Father" - join us and go deeper in God's goodness and love! When is it? 1-7 Jan for youth and young adults (14 years and up); 1-5 Jan for married couples and families (includes children's ministry). Where is it? Armidale, NSW; For costs, more information and to register visit [www.immaculata.org.au/ims](http://www.immaculata.org.au/ims); Registrations close 23 Dec.

**Stouthearted men's program- coming in 2026** Stouthearted is a new Jesus centred men's program designed to meet a desperate need in men. It's an 8-week program that draws from well-known experts, shares powerful teachings and models real world conversations. Stouthearted fosters learning, discussion, prayer, reflection, healing and builds essential practical strategies. In addition to the main sessions, there are short daily reflections that include video input, bible study, and self-reflection. The Stouthearted program will be running in Wollongong in 2026, starting on Monday 2 Feb and finishing on the last Monday of March. Register now: [dow.sh/stouthearted](http://dow.sh/stouthearted)

## 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 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**  
May Whitlock, Paul Crawford,  
**Anniversaries that occur at this time** Lily Pereira, James Pereira  
**and all the holy souls remembered in the month of November**

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*

## Our Rosters

7 December 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Estela & Cecilia	Bianca, Antony & Laura	Geoff, Margaret & Danni
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail & Austin	Vu	Robert, Nathan & Cassandra
<b>Readers</b>	Richard & Tracey	Andy & Caroline	Fev & Madonna
<b>Altar Linen</b>	Maria	<b>CLOTW:</b> Josephine & Princy	
<b>Counters</b>	Christine & Cira	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Parish Office

### 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  
Address: 193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville  
Email: [varroville@dow.org.au](mailto:varroville@dow.org.au)  
Website: [varroville.dow.org.au](http://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 stewards of this land.

## Holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

When John the Baptist performed baptism it was for the forgiveness of sin. The baptism he gave was a mark of the desire to enter into a new life of right action. It was not a baptism of initiation into community that is the case today. John had two key words that he is recorded as preaching: repent and prepare. His call for repentance was a call to turn away from sin; a call to have a change of heart; a call to turn one's life around and make a fresh start. His call for preparation is in the long line of prophets that includes the great prophet Isaiah from whom we take today's first reading. All of the prophets urged the people towards hope in the future. Isaiah and others spoke specifically of a person – a Messiah – who would bring that hope to reality. But the tradition demanded a readiness for the Messiah and that was the call to preparation that John the Baptist echoed at the beginning of the public life of Jesus.

John's taunting of the Pharisees and Sadducees is an indication of this need for preparation and readiness. He accuses them of being too confident of their own rightness. He demands proof from them of their honest repentance: 'but if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit'. Rather, he suspects that they think that salvation is assured for them by virtue of being a Jew; a son of Abraham. He warns them that an axe hangs poised to cut down any part of the Jewish tradition that is failing to produce good fruit. This is a theme that is picked up later by Jesus himself; you can't be complacent about your own position, you have to welcome the new truth revealed by Jesus and give yourself wholeheartedly to God.

## ADVENT to CHRISTMAS

### Concert with Peter Kearney

*"Spiritually uplifting.  
Perfect for leading us  
into the true meaning  
of Christmas".  
(Janelle Towells)*



*Peter Kearney is the  
composer of  
'Fill My House',  
'The Beatitudes' and  
several titles in the  
'As One Voice' hymnal*

FRIDAY 12th DECEMBER 7.00PM  
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH



193 St. Andrews Road

VARROVILLE

Entry by donation

Light refreshments at interval