

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Entrance Antiphon

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 49:3. 5-6

Responsorial Psalm Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.(R.) Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading from the First Letter to 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
John 1:29-34

Communion Antiphon

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

**Next Week: Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year A**

First: Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

Resp Ps: Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

Second: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

The Lamb of God—It's Origin

In the Catholic Church, the title “Lamb of God” is central to understanding Jesus’ identity and mission. During the Second Week in Ordinary Time, the

Church reflects especially on John the Baptist’s proclamation in the Gospel: *“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”* This declaration, read at Mass during this week, invites the faithful to contemplate Christ as the One who fulfills and surpasses all Old Testament sacrifices.



Where the title comes from

The title “**Lamb of God**” has deep biblical roots. In the Old Testament, the Passover lamb’s blood brought protection and freedom for Israel, symbolizing God’s saving power. The daily temple sacrifices and the Suffering Servant of Isaiah, “like a lamb led to the slaughter,” also shaped Jewish expectations of a redemptive figure.

John the Baptist’s words identify Jesus as the true and final sacrificial Lamb, whose offering brings forgiveness, liberation, and restored relationship with God.

Its significance in Catholic worship

The Church enshrines this title in the Mass, especially in the *Agnus Dei*, where the faithful pray: *“Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.”* The priest’s invitation—*“Behold the Lamb of God”*—echoes John’s original testimony and reminds believers that they encounter the same Christ in the Eucharist. During Ordinary Time, this title calls Catholics to imitate Jesus’ humility, obedience, and self-giving love, recognizing Him as the Lamb who leads His people into deeper communion with God.

Parish Notices

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. The next session will be on 24 January 2026 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.

Parish Leadership Team will be meeting Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 3pm.

Fundraising Committee will be meeting on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. **Upcoming Event !!!** Car & Bike Show 14th March 2026 on the grounds of OLMC Church Varroville. More details to follow. Please put it in your Diary so you can come along for a event.

Pastoral Care Team will be meeting on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 2pm. All are welcome to attend. If you are in need of a member of the Pastoral Care Team to visit please advise the Parish Office.

Property Committee will be meeting again until Wednesday 28 January 2026 at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. The committee is currently looking for new members. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Vinnies will be meeting again until Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room. All are welcome to attend. If you need any further details please contact the Parish Office.

Friendship Group will be meeting on Tuesday 3 February 2026 after the 9am Mass in the Meeting Room. All are welcome to attend. The theme is Valentines Day. If you need any further details please contact the Parish Office. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeanne Halder for her great Leadership of the Group over the last couple of years. May we also thank the new Leader Margaret Connolly as she takes on this important role.

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Prayer intentions

Pat Cullen, Mary Ponnalam, 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, Mercy



Espiritu - *May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.*

For our recently departed Maria Cuaresma, Graham Henneberry, Paul Crawford, Alex Sitjar, Pedro Gonzales, Wal Glynn, Lucila Cruz Montano, Vanessa Steed, Shirley Wrightman

Anniversaries that occur at this time: Lily Pereira, James Pereira, Lio Feiloakitohi

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

25 January 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen, Arlene & Berna P	Bianca Antony & Laura M	Beatrix & Michael
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail & Austin	Orly S	Stuart & Nathan
Readers	Bevina & Mark	Irene & Lee	Niya & Effie
Refreshments	Estela & Myra	Sarah, Tereza C, John & Tess	Margaret A, Geoff & Danni
Altar Linen	Margaret McD	CLOTW:	
Flowers	Lorraine & Effie	Church Vacuum	Susan R & Gerard & Loretta B
Counters	Christine & Cira R	Church Foyer	Susan R



Parish Office: **Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm**
 Phone: **9603 7373 / 0434 705 176**
 Address: **193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville**

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 John 1:29-34

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.



Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.'

John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

COMMENTARY by Brendan Byrne SJ

In the Gospel John the Baptist is carrying out his role of witness. This has, of course, already been mentioned in the Prologue to the Gospel (1:1-18; see esp. vv 6-7, 15). He makes clear his own status vis-à-vis Jesus. The usual understanding was that figures who came later in the scheme of salvation ranked lower than those who had preceded them. But the Prologue has established that Jesus, the embodiment of God's creative Word, has a priority in eternity that completely transcends the human history of John. Hence the One who comes 'after' him actually 'ranks before' him.

Besides this, there is the vast difference in what each has to give. John's water baptism is a simple preparatory rite of conversion, *disposing* people for salvation. Jesus, upon whom John has seen the Spirit come down and rest, is going to 'baptise with the Holy Spirit'. He is going to impart the Spirit of God. To understand the full significance of what John is saying we have to look forward to the climax of the Fourth Gospel. The moment of Jesus' death upon the cross is not simply a final expiration of breath; it involves a majestic imparting of the Spirit (19:30). In the person of his Mother and the Beloved Disciple, the Church comes to birth at this moment through the gift of the Spirit and then in the hint of the sacraments (Baptism and Eucharist) in the flow of water and blood from his pierced side (19:33-34). Because his legs are not broken, Jesus dies as the Paschal Lamb. In the evening two days later, the risen Lord will stand among his disciples, breathe upon them and say, 'Receive, the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained' (20:22-23). Only when we have learned all this at the close of the Gospel will we truly grasp why John the Baptist points out Jesus, as 'the Lamb, that takes away the sin of the world' (1:29; cf. v 36). In this way, as Isaiah foretold, he is the instrument of salvation for the entire world.