



15 February 2026
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year A

This Lent, our parish community is called to *Unite Against Poverty* with Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Each year, Project Compassion invites us to encounter stories of courage and hope from people around the world who are striving for a brighter future.

In 2026, Project Compassion shares four stories of resilience and strength. We'll meet Sisilia, a young student from Tanzania, whose education was being disrupted by long daily walks to collect water for her family. With the support of Caritas Australia and people like you, Sisilia now has access to clean water from taps installed in her school and village.

We'll get to know Monoranjon from Bangladesh, where communities are heavily impacted by natural disasters and climate change. Caritas Australia, together with supporters across Australia, has helped Monoranjon to learn climate-resilient farming skills.

We'll be introduced to Manaini from Fiji, who struggled with poverty and food insecurity. With support, she gained training in food processing and gardening, improving nutrition and creating income to support her children's education.

And we'll hear the story of Ahmad, a Caritas Jerusalem worker from Gaza who was displaced many times due to ongoing conflict. Despite this hardship, he continues to serve families in need through Caritas' emergency response.



Sisilia (13) smiles as she stands in the middle of her classroom. Photo: Caritas Australia; Monoranjon lives in a region in southwest Bangladesh that is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Photo: Caritas Australia; Manaini sells fresh fruits and vegetables that she and her community have grown and packaged on their farms, by the roadside in a small village in Fiji. Photo: Caritas Australia; Ahmad, a Caritas Jerusalem staff member in Gaza, sits in the ruins of a building. Photo: Caritas Jerusalem.

Entrance Antiphon
Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First Reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus; Sirach 15:15-20

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1
(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2:6-10

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:17-37

Communion Antiphon
They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Next Week
First Sunday of Lent
Year A

First: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Resp Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17.
R. see v.3
Second: Romans 5:12-19
Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

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

Ash Wednesday will be on 18 February 2026. Mass will be at 9am and 7.30pm.

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday All who are 14 years or older are obliged to abstain from meat All who are 18 to 59 are obliged to fast (Canon 1252). Pastors, teachers, parents are to ensure that even those who, by reason of their age, are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence from meat, are taught the true meaning of penance.

Lenten Reflection Groups; Commencing on Tuesday 17 February, there will be a lenten group meeting at 7.30pm. All are welcome to join.

Lenten reflection booklets "Compassio" are available to purchase for \$7 each. There is also a cd and digital recording of the reflections available by calling the parish office.

Paschal Precept: Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday (18 February) and Trinity Sunday (31 May 2026) unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

Upcoming triple ordination to the diaconate for our diocese!

Bishop Brian Mascord warmly invites you to attend the upcoming ordination to the permanent diaconate of Stuart Lake at 10:00am, Saturday 28 February 2026 at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral (1 Cabbage Tree Lane, Fairy Meadow) All are warmly invited to share in this joyful celebration.

RSVP by 20 February at rsvp.dow.org.au. Parking will be available at the Fraternity Club (11 Bourke Street, Fairy Meadow).

Our Parish is arranging a bus and carpooling to the Ordination. Please complete the sign up sheet after Mass as soon as possible. You will need to be here at the parish at 8am on the day and travel to Fairy Meadow. The bus will return in the afternoon.

As Stuart, John and Ryan enter these final days of preparation, we keep them close in prayer, trusting in the Holy Spirit's guidance as they draw near to their ordination.

Prayer for the ordinandii

Heavenly Father,

we give you thanks for the gift of vocation and for the call you have placed on the lives of Stuart, John and Ryan.

As they prepare to be ordained to the diaconate, fill them with courage and trust in your presence.

Strengthen them to serve with humility, fidelity and love, after the example of your Son, who came not to be served but to serve.

Through the intercession of St Stephen, the first deacon and martyr of the Church, may they be faithful ministers of your Word, generous servants of your altar, and compassionate witnesses of charity in the world.

Keep them steadfast in prayer, gentle in service, and courageous in faith, that in all things they may glorify you and build up your Church.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Our Pastoral Care Team visit people who cannot attend Mass any longer due to ill health and age. If you know anyone who would like to have a home visit and Holy Communion please call the parish office and submit the persons contact information.

The Pastoral Care Team will meet on Tuesday 17 February at 2pm.

Readers Retreat will be held on Monday 16 February at 7.30pm. Fr Gerard will give a talk on the readings proclaimed at the Easter Vigil Mass for the Ministers of the Word in our parish on 16 February 2026 at 7:30 pm. All are invited to attend as Fr. Gerard's talk will help our whole parish community appreciate the beauty of the liturgy, especially the Easter Vigil.

Friday Faith & Supper on Friday 20 February from 6pm. The evening will commence with refreshments, followed by Stations of The Cross at 7pm in the Church. Then Fr Sam will lead us on a Lenten Journey with time for discussion.

MGL Sisters Consecrated Life Weekend: Discernment Retreat on Friday 13th March - Sunday 15th March; A time for single women aged 18-35 to listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and sharing to help discern your vocation. More info and RSVP: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com 0402 602 520

Car and Bike Show on Saturday 14 March from 8am Car & bike enthusiasts will be meeting here to showcase their vehicles. A special day has been organised and will include demonstrations and prizes will be awarded. There will be live entertainment and a family atmosphere. Refreshments will be available to purchase.

This is a fundraising event for the parish and I encourage you to come along and bring your family & friends to be a part of the fun.

Our fundraising team are also reaching out for some assistance on the day. We need some traffic wardens and assistance with setting up and cleaning up. It will be an opportunity for our ministries to reach out beyond the parish. Also there will be an opportunity for your ministry to set up a stall for something such as facepainting or religious sales. We need some helpers for cooking a BBQ and having a cake stall. Please call Patricia for further information on 0409307246.

The next Fundraising team meeting is on Wednesday 4 March at 7.30pm

Book Club will meet again this year starting on Wednesday 18 Feb and continuing to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Children's ministry gathering will meet on Sunday 22 February from 3pm for school aged children.

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 Shirley Wrightman

Anniversaries that occur at this time

Rita Carmel Lopresti,
Anne Migus, Hilda Young,
Mark Thompson
Eternal rest grant unto them,

Our Rosters

22 February 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Paul & Lori	Sarah & Jessica	Terry & Maree
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail & Austin	Orly	Michael & Nathan
Readers	Suzanne & Margaret	Andy & Caroline	Gloria & Leah
Refreshments	Estela & Myra	Irene , Tina , Meg & John	5pm Choir & Grace Stagg
Altar Linen	Ann Maree	CLOTW: Rhonda & Kon	
Flowers	Maria & Estela	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	Bing & Cynthia	Church Foyer	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
Website: 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 Matthew 5: 17-37

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: every one who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Reflection by Nick Brodie

'Let us remember', Pope Leo says, 'that no one can give what they do not have.' Our witness to Christ is most effective when we strive to be Christ-like.

'The words of Jesus', the Pope explains, 'convey to us how God sees the world, at every moment and in every place.' We see thereby that 'the Lord looks into the hearts of people.' Jesus is more concerned with inner truth than outward appearance.

Recognising this characteristic of Our Lord, the Pope suggests that 'through his eyes, we can also recognise one who is in need.' Those forgotten by the world are those to whom Jesus drew the attention of his followers.

'God's saving work is the beginning of our mission,' the Pope reminds us, 'because it invites us to give of ourselves for the good of all.'

'Listening to Moses and the Prophets,' the Pope continues, 'means remembering God's commandments and promises, whose providence never abandons anyone.' We must always remember that God's law is merciful, oriented to salvation.

As the Pope suggests, we need to know and proclaim and love the 'the truth that saves us' – Jesus, our Risen Lord. Such loving of Our Lord, he says, 'leads us to understand the Gospel, for love transforms us by opening our hearts to the word of God and to the face of our neighbour.'