

2 August 2026

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

193 St Andrews Rd
Varroville NSW 2566
W: varroville.dow.org.au
E: varroville@dow.org.au
T: 96037373 / 0434705176



Feast Day Thank you

Thankyou and God bless all the volunteers who worked so hard preparing for our annual Feast day and Fiesta celebration.

We enjoyed 10 days of Novena Masses culminating with the highlight of our celebration, the Feast Day Mass and the Multicultural extravaganza in the sunshine outdoors. The food stalls, the parish information stalls and the concert was enjoyed by hundreds of parishioners and visitors.

The Committee, led by Rhonda and Kon must be congratulated for their commitment to planning and preparing for this day.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Our Story

Did you know Catholic Church is the largest charitable organisation in the world! What many don't know is that Catholics themselves are often in desperate need, especially in countries affected by displacement, conflict or catastrophe. More than 200 million Christians cannot freely exercise their faith: they suffer persecution and oppression for their love of Christ.

Their needs are not only physical-food, water, shelter, clothing- but, of more eternal consequence, they hunger and thirst for the spiritual works of mercy-provision for prayer, formation, worship, and the sacraments. This is the unique mission of Aid to the Church in Need. We are a spiritual and pastoral foundation bringing the light faith into those places where it is at greatest risk of extinction.

In the name of the Church

In 2011, acknowledging the mission and the faithfulness of Aid to the Church in Need, Pope Benedict XVI raised the charity to the level of a Pontifical Foundation. The Pontifical status of Aid to the Church in Need means that it speaks in nomine ecclesiae - in the name of the Church - across the world.

With twenty-three national offices and over 350,000 benefactors, Aid to the Church in Need raises more than \$150 million annually in support of some 5000 Catholic projects in nearly 150 countries. The work receives no funding from Church or Government; it is only made possible through the offerings of individual Catholics.

Today, Aid to the Church in Need is the only international Catholic charity dedicated to the service of suffering Christians wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need. Much has changed since 1947, but the need to keep the flame of faith alive is greater than ever. Aid to the Church in Need will continue to pray and work that the Lord Jesus Christ can be known and loved the world over.

ACN Australia

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon
O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:1-3

Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

Response: The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:35. 37-39

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according Matthew 14:13-21

Communion Antiphon
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

NEXT WEEK

**Nineteenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

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

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

Eucharistic Adoration of 1st Sunday of each month at 6 to 7pm

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

Tuesday at 7.30p in meeting room

Holy Family Fellowship: every 4th Saturday at 7pm.

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

Friendship Group: meets on the 1st Tuesday of each 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.

Legion of Mary every Saturday at 12.30pm

Parish Notices

Friendship group will be on Tuesday 4th Aug after 9am Mass. The theme will be multicultural. Please bring a plate from your country of origin.

Faith Circles small group will meet on Tuesday at 7.30pm in the meeting room. All are welcome to join in.

Faith Circles is a weekly resource to help individuals but mainly small groups to come together. In doing so it assists in the development of faith and community, a strong desire expressed in our Diocesan feedback from the National Church Life Survey. The weekly Faith Circles resource is available for free to download. It is easy to use with simple questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/ or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

Church Banners on the Back Wall”

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me about refurbishing the two banners at the back of the church. We will begin this work very soon. If you would like to share any further comments or questions, please contact Dawn on 0411 484 081 before 17 August 2026.

Confirmation Classes to commence on Saturday 15 August 2026 at 4pm followed by Mass at 6 –7pm. Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday 20 September 2026 at 9.30am. Registration is available on our website or at the parish office.

Fundraising News

Our Major Cash Raffle was launched at the Fiesta last week. Books of tickets are available to take home and sell. The tickets cost \$5 each and a book of 10 tickets will cost \$50. The raffle draw will take place at our thanks giving Mass on 26 November.

A Cake Stall will be held after all weekend Masses on 15/16 August. Please bring in some cakes and treats to donate and/or buy a cake after Mass.

Masquerade Ball will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 12 September from 7pm with music by DJ Calvin. Tickets cost \$50 pp & \$125 for a family. Tickets will be available on the weekend 15/16 August.

RCIA Team Formation Meeting You are all aware that Christian Easter Baptism for Adult and Older children is an active ongoing process in our Parish. It's just so because we commit ourselves to reach out and share the love of God to anyone according to our Parish Vision – Mission, and as our way to respond to God's love and his flowing graces.

This year we have already enquiries by people discerning their faith life who need our guidance, so before we embark on a new journey, the Parish Leadership Team on Evangelization would like to invite the Parish Community to participate in a talk followed by discussion to gain awareness of the needs for this Parish mission.

You are invited to OLMC Parish gathering:

On Sunday 16th August at 11am-12:30 in Meeting Room

Agenda: Parish planning for building an RCIA team; lunch provided afterwards Hope you are available and could come to this important Parish Community life.

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 .

The Indian community invites you for the solemn Mass on the feast of “Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary” & celebration of India's Independence

Day on the 15th of August at 12 noon. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at Mount Carmel parish Varroville. Please bring a plate.

National Vocations Awareness Week – and Vocaris for Young Adults : National Vocations Awareness Week takes place from 2 - 9 August: a time for everyone of us to be renewed in our commitment to living out our Christian vocation or “calling”, which begins in baptism and is then lived out through ordained ministry, religious life, marriage or the single life. Go to dow.sh/Vocaristestimony for more information or to register. If you would like to discuss your vocation, contact Fr Duane Fernandez, Vocations Director, at vocations@dow.org.au

Mass for St Mary Mackillop

A mass for the Solemnity of St Mary Mackillop will be celebrated at St Francis Xavier Cathedral at 12.10pm, Saturday 8 August. All are welcome to attend. Please note that the Bishop will not be celebrating this Mass this year.

Homecoming Silent Retreat 28 – 30 August Carmel House, Varroville

“His father saw him, ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” Lk 15: 20 Your heavenly Father waits for you to come away with him for a weekend of silently soaking in his great love for you. Embrace this opportunity for encountering deep peace and serenity. This retreat is for men and women aged 18+. Hosted by the MGL Sisters. Choose from a weekend retreat or extend your time with a 5-day retreat option. w/e: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBK> extended: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBU>

Cursillo Diocesan Women’s Encounter, Thurs 10 to Sun 13 September 2026 Carmel House Varroville Cursillo is a life changing experience providing a method to support and nurture our faith journey and enable us to live vibrant Gospel oriented lives. The weekend will include talks, discussions fostering friendship, daily Mass, spiritual direction, good music, fun and laughter. Cost: \$320 (payment options available) covers all meals, accommodation, resources and activities. Enquiries: Shirley Parker 0431 513 109 ; cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com dow.sh/cursillo

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

Pat Cullen, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez, Vladdy Mher Peralta, Mercy Espiritu, Stephen & Kathleen Mitrovics, Jadwiga Doomalewska, Bill Scibberas, Bernie Briscoe

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

For our recently departed

Fr Rick McCann, Vlado Leko, Sr Heather Burke,

Anniversaries that occur at this time

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



Our Rosters

9 August 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen, Arlene, Berna	Nelia, Anita, Francia	Beatrix, Patricia
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail, Austin	Vu	Michael, Nathan
Readers	Loretta, Gerard	Irene, Aura	Judy, Leah
Refreshments	Josephine, Glenda, Margaret McD	Samoan Choir Community	Margaret, Geoff, Danni
Altar Linen	Maria D	CLOTW: Lee & Josephine	
Flowers	Asinate, Mago	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	Christrine, Cira	Church Foyer	Parish Office
Choirs	C/ Nick and Amanda	C/ Samoan Community	C/ Youth Choir



Contact Us

Parish Priest:
Fr Shane Kelleher OCD
Deacon:
Rev Stuart Lake
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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 14:13-21

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.



When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Feeding of the Hungry Crowd

Note the disciples' reaction to the plight of the hungry crowd: 'Send the people away so that *they* can *buy*.' The disciples have gone for the fix which puts no responsibility on them. They are willing to entrust the hungry crowd to market forces. Those with money can eat: those without, can't. For the disciples, money and commerce are the answers to hunger.

Jesus rejects that solution. 'There is no need for them to go; *give* them something to eat yourselves.' The solution to the hunger of that crowd was to give generously what little the disciples had. What they could have kept for themselves was to become gift. Once the disciples were in Jesus' frame of mind, the hunger of the crowd was satisfied. How did this come about? The answer lay in human cooperation with the impulse of Divine generosity which knows no limits. The story simply says that Jesus blessed and broke the loaves 'and handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowd.' Jesus depended on the disciples to obey him: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'.

Jesus still looks with gut-wrenching compassion on those who are hungry in our own society and throughout the world. If we answer that market forces will suffice, Jesus will reject our answer as decisively as he rejected the answer of his earliest disciples. We have to take responsibility to share what we have, to be generous with what we have. After all, Jesus, Our Lord and Master, *commands* us: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'. Note how Jesus blessed those loaves and broke them before they were distributed, which reminds us of the words of Pedro Arrupe, former General of the Jesuits, 'Eucharist will never be complete so long as people still go hungry in the world.'

We could pause for a moment at Mass to ask: Who are those hungry people crowding in on us, and then pray that we may respond to them as our Lord commanded, so that the hungers of the crowd, and our hunger to really follow our Lord, *will be satisfied*.

RENEWED & SENT - PARISH RENEWAL SUMMIT 2026

1st – 3rd October - St Gregory's College, Campbelltown.

"And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land." (Ezekiel 37:14)

Renewed & Sent gathers priests, parishioners & parish leaders across Australia who believe parish renewal is possible and want to discern what it could look like in their parish.

A Quiet Renewal is Underway. Parishes are rediscovering their missionary identity

Leaders are finding renewed purpose

People are encountering Jesus, and lives are being transformed.

The Renewed & Sent Summit is about awakening what God had already planted.

What might it look like if your parish began to experience now life like this?

To secure your ticket to the summit please scan the QR code

If you wish to volunteer at the summit,

please contact May Ataya via text 0416 157 294 or email: may.ataya@dow.org.au

