

16 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

“O woman, great is your faith!” By Anon

There are moments in the Gospel when a single encounter reveals the immeasurable depth of God's mercy. Today's passage is one of those moments. A mother, burdened by the suffering of her daughter, approaches Jesus with nothing but faith. She has no influence, no status among the people of Israel, and no claim that the world would recognise. Yet she possesses what heaven treasures most: complete trust in the Lord. The Canaanite woman teaches us that genuine faith is not discouraged by silence, delayed by disappointment, or weakened by obstacles. She does not turn away when Jesus initially says nothing. She does not become bitter when the disciples ask that she be sent away. She does not lose hope when His words seem difficult to understand. Instead, she remains where every believer must remain, in the presence of Christ. Her persistence is not stubbornness. It is confidence born of love. She knows that if she can remain before Jesus, there is still hope. Many of us have experienced moments when God seems silent. We pray for healing, for peace in our families, for employment, for reconciliation, or for guidance, and yet the answer does not come as quickly as we had hoped. In those moments, we may wonder whether the Lord has forgotten us. This Gospel gently reminds us that God's silence is never His absence. The Lord was not ignoring the woman. He was drawing forth a faith that would become an example for every generation. Her trust became stronger with every step of the conversation, until Jesus publicly praised her before all who were present

Cake Sale

This weekend our Parish comes together in a simple but beautiful way. A Cake Sale after every Mass (15/16 August). So, please consider buying a cake and support those who took the time to bake. Small acts of kindness nourish a strong and vibrant parish family



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



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your eyes, O
God, our shield; and
look on the face of
your anointed one;
one day within your
courts is better than a
thousand elsewhere.

First Reading from
the prophet Isaiah
56:1.6-7

Responsorial
Psalms Ps 66:2-3 5-
6. 8. R. v.4 O God, let
all the nations praise
you!

**Second
Reading** from the
letter to the Romans
11:13-15. 29-32

**Gospel
Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the
Good News of the
kingdom and healed
all who were sick.
Alleluia

Holy Gospel
according Matthew
14:22-33

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.

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

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 484 181 before 17 August 2026.

OLMC Knitting Group

“Wraps with love” is a charitable organisation that donates knitted/ crocheted blankets to people affected by natural disasters. Anyone interested is welcome to attend on the **4th Tuesday** of the month at 9.30am-11.30am in the Parish Meeting Room. We need more volunteers, we teach you how to knit or crochet. Come along for a cuppa and chat while we knit for love. Please contact Theresa Almeida on 0421 221 542.

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.

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 .

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

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.



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 Marquezinez, 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

Christian Boudan, Gladys Bergicourt

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

Our Rosters

23 August 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Gabriel, Myra	Chris, Margaret P, Gabriel	Terry, Maree
Altar Servers	Andrew, Diane, Sebastian, Eliana	Orly S	Michael, Nathan,
Readers	Richard, Tracey	Irene, Lee	Celia, fev
Refreshments	Estela, Myra	Richard, Tracey, Venessa	Grace Staggs Choir
Altar Linen	Ann Maree	CLOTW: Sarah, Princy	
Flowers	Lorraine, Effie	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	Louise, Lina	Church Foyer	Parish Office
Choirs	C/ Ryan	C/ Karen	C/ Grace



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 15:21-28

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.



The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The overarching theme derived from today's readings is the question of insider-outsider. We see here that the divisions and barriers that emerge out of human experience have been shattered by the graciousness of God. Jesus' openness to 'the other' finds a precedent in the prophetic tradition. Isaiah spoke of a time when outsiders would join insiders in worshipping God, thus dissolving the categories of insider and outsider. He was, of course, referring to the age of eschatological fulfilment. This age dawned with the coming of Jesus. Jesus himself moved out of the constraints of his own cultural worldview, and he directs us to do the same. People are either excluded because of gender, culture or religious perspective, or included only because they are able and willing to conform to discriminatory standards. In the reign of God, this should not be the case. People are accepted along with their own cultural profiles.

God's embrace first enclosed even those who rejected Jesus, and then God's plan of salvation unfolded in a new way. An invitation to enter the kingdom was issued to the Gentiles, those who had been considered outsiders. If outsiders are now insiders, what has happened to the former insiders? Paul insists that they are still insiders. God has not simply shifted the identifying boundaries; God has dissolved them. In the interim between the dawning of the eschatological age and the end of time, the invitation to be included remains open to all.

