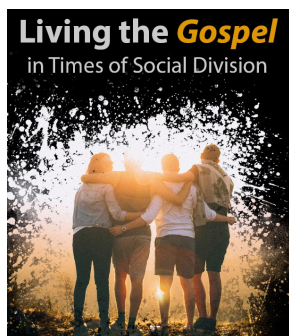


30 August 2026

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



I am pleased to commend this Social Justice Statement, Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division.

We are living through an era of heightened community tension and a growing normalisation of abusive behaviour, incendiary language and violence. In such moments of tension, the temptation is to retreat into trenches of suspicion or to treat those who differ in their views as opponents rather than as people.

The Gospel offers a different path. It calls us back to Jesus Christ, who meets division not with hostility but with mercy; not with the logic of 'us and them' but with the costly love that heals and transforms.

Living the Gospel in these times is not a private devotion. It is a public witness that human dignity is not negotiable, that truth matters and that peace is more than the absence of conflict - it is the fruit of justice, reconciliation and communion.

In Australia, the strain on social cohesion has been made painfully visible by a disturbing rise in antisemitism. Jewish communities have reported unprecedented levels of abuse, intimidation, vandalism and, in the case of the Bondi Beach attack, shocking deadly violence. It has left many to feel unsafe in places that should be secure, such as schools, synagogues, streets and public events.

Such hatred is an affront to God. Catholics stand in solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters. We must unequivocally denounce antisemitism and work to rebuild trust, safety and mutual respect in our communities. Indeed, both tolerance and respect for people of all religions, cultures and ethnicities are the essential foundations for such a rebuilding.

How are we to live the Gospel in these times?

1. By remaining close to Christ in prayer and the sacraments, allowing the Lord to convert our hearts before we seek to change the world.
2. By practising a "culture of encounter": listening before reacting, seeking to understand the fears & hopes of others and choosing relationship over caricature.
3. By exercising restraint in what we say - especially online - rejecting gossip, slander, dehumanising labels and the sharing of unverified claims. Christians must be known as people who speak truthfully, argue respectfully and never delight in humiliation.
4. By concrete acts of compassion and justice: standing with those targeted because of their faith or background, supporting families under economic pressure, welcoming migrants and refugees and working for the common good through parish, school and community initiatives.

In these practical ways we become "salt" and "light" (Matthew 5:13-16). This statement invites us to see our current social climate as an opportunity to witness to the Gospel. We offer Jesus and the hope born of his death and resurrection. When we choose forgiveness over enmity, hospitality over isolation and solidarity over vilification, we help to create the conditions in which a more peaceful society can prosper.

I encourage parishes, families, schools and agencies to use this statement as a resource for prayer, formation and action.

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB PRESIDENT AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE *Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division*

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading

from the prophet
Jeremiah 20:7-9

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

Response:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Second Reading from
the letter of St Paul to the
Romans 12:1-2

Gospel Acclamation **Alleluia!, Alleluia!**

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. **Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel according
to Matthew 16:21-27

Communion Antiphon

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.



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 1st September after 9am Mass. The theme will be **All Fathers**. Please bring a plate.

The group invites people living alone, socially isolated, carers, and people who are being cared for in our community through social interaction in the group. At the meeting, there is blessing and anointing by our Priest, birthdays are celebrated, games played, music, occasional dancing, guest speakers sharing updates on the current affairs of the parish and care services available.

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.

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 .

Eucharistic Adoration will be held next Sunday at 6.15pm after 5pm Mass and on the first Sunday of each month

Eucharist28 Update: Eternal Life in the Eucharist The International Eucharistic Congress ('Eucharist28') is coming to Sydney in 2028! At every Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist is a moment of communion, where we are united in Christ, who's body and blood we share. In the Scriptures, Jesus tells us, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day." (John 6:54) Through the Eucharist, Christ unites us to Himself and draws us into the eternal life He promises.

This invitation is for everyone, even those who have died. At each Mass, the Church offers the Eucharistic sacrifice for the faithful departed, that they may experience eternal life and unity with Christ. To help your parish and community experience this moment of Eucharistic renewal on the journey to Eucharist28, head to eucharist28.org for more.

Fundraising News Thank you to everyone who supported our recent bake sale. \$983.00 was raised for the parish.

Dinner Dance on 12 September after 6pm Mass. Tickets are on sale this weekend and next weekend. As it is a catered event we need numbers, so please reserve your seat to attend. The theme this year is a masquerade ball so it is an opportunity to dress up and enjoy a night with great friends, good food, music and laughter. Tickets \$50 pp or \$125 per family.

Our Major Cash Raffle 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.

Working Bee will be held on Saturday 5 September from 9am for gardening, cleaning & maintenance. Please come along for an hour or 2 on Saturday morning.

Formation Pathway: The Next Faithful Step What is God asking of our parish now? Parish renewal isn't about finding the perfect programme or copying what worked somewhere else. It's about learning to recognise where God is moving, discerning what he may be asking of us, and having the courage to take the next faithful step.

This important formation is for clergy, parish and ministry leaders, and parishioners, and is the perfect preparation for the Parish Renewal Summit in October.

Campbelltown: Tuesday 1 September, 7:00–9:00pm; Wollongong + Zoom: Wednesday 2 September, 7:00–9:00pm; To register: dow.sh/fpsept2026

Synodality from Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV; At 7pm on Thurs 3 Sept at Holy Family Church, Ingleburn. Where are we going? Fr Asaeli Rass SVD will reflect on the development of Pope Francis concept of Synodal Church as a deeply inclusive, missionary community where all Baptised Catholics are empowered to take co-responsibility for the Church's mission and will place it within the current reality of Pope Leo XIV.

Priestly Ordination of Deacon Seth Harsh All parishioners are warmly invited to share in the great joy of the ordination to the priesthood of Deacon Seth Harsh, celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord, on Saturday 12 September 2026 at 10:30am at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rosemeadow. Please come and support Seth with your presence and prayers as he takes this beautiful step in his vocation and begins his priestly ministry. RSVP is essential by 1 September 2026 rsvp.dow.org.au (preferred) or phone (02) 4222 2400

St Carlo Acutis Relic and Display coming here in September! Our diocese is excited to be hosting the International Carlo Acutis Major Relic Pilgrimage in September. The relic will visit the parishes of Oran Park (Mon 14th), Rosemeadow (Tue 15th) Nowra (Wed 16- Thurs 17th), and the Wollongong Cathedral (Fri 18 - Mon 21), with opportunities for veneration of the first-class relic of St Carlo, participating in the sacraments, and visiting St Carlo's own Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition. Everyone, especially students and young adults will be amazed and drawn into a deep experience of faith in encountering St Carlo's story, relic and the display. Go to <https://www.stcarloaustralia.com/> for more information.

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

Liliana Jaroveski, Fr Rick McCann, Vlado Leko, Sr Heather Burke,

Anniversaries that occur at this time

Margaret Farrell, Anne Migus, Christian Boudan, Gladys Bergicourt

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



Our Rosters

6 September 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen, Arlene, Berna	Martin, Violeti, Paul	Beatrix, Patricia
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail, Austin	Vu	Michael, Nathan
Readers	Louise, Candace	Gabriel, Laura	Mark, Madonna
Refreshments	Josephine, Glenda, Margaret McD	Teresa, John, Tess	Fev, Patricia
Altar Linen	Berna	CLOTW: Linda, Conrad	
Flowers	Tracey, Richard	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	George, Digna, James	Church Foyer	Parish Office
Choirs	C/o Nick and Amanda	C/o Maria	C/o 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 16:21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The gospel does not say that Jesus will gallantly step forward, take suffering upon himself, and thus demonstrate his power. Instead, his fate will be a demonstration of his vulnerability. He will be taken forcibly and will suffer at the hands of others. He will do this willingly, but not as a volunteer. Jesus will be a victim. This picture of Jesus carries implications for discipleship. Whoever follows him must follow him to the cross. If we participate in his success, we must also share in his shame. Disciples have a choice to follow or not to follow, but if they choose in his favour they must be ready for suffering and humiliation.

Paul exhorts us to reject the standards of the world. This is a very difficult path to follow, especially when it seems that those who conform to this age prosper. Following Christ can place barriers between ourselves and others. If we no longer share their values and their interests, we may feel alienated. Suffering is bound to invade our ministerial lives as well. We must remember that Jesus' message antagonised many people in his day. Those who proclaim the same message in their own contexts must be prepared for a similar reaction.

After witnessing the marvellous feats that Jesus accomplished, we discover that he is going to suffer and be put to death. How can this be? With Peter we protest. With Jeremiah we wonder: Have we been duped? The realisation that we too will have to suffer becomes a crucial test of our faith.



Our Lady
of Mount Carmel
CATHOLIC PARISH VARROVILLE

CHURCH DINNER DANCE MASQUERADE BALL

SATURDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER | 7 P.M. START



FEATURING:
DJ CALVIN



B.Y.O.G

TICKETS:
AUD 50 PER PERSON
AUD 125 FOR A FAMILY
(2 ADULTS + 2 KIDS)



VENUE: CHURCH HALL, OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
193, ST. ANDREWS ROAD, VARROVILLE. NSW - 2566

DRESS CODE: FORMAL ATTIRE - MASKS ENCOURAGED
BOOK TICKETS AT PARISH OFFICE: (02) 96037373

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.