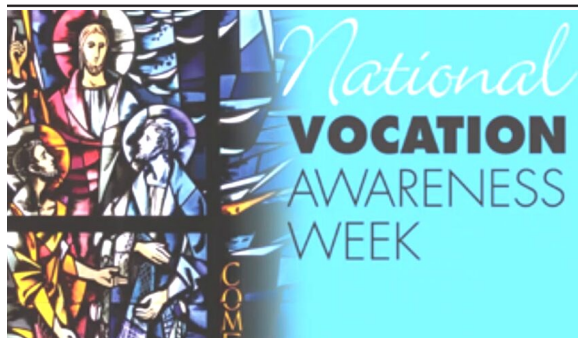


9 August 2026

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

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Vocations Awareness Week

The theme that Pope Leo chose for this year is 'The Interior Discovery of God's Gift'. To see the full Message of the Holy Father Leo XIV on the occasion of the 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 25.03.2026, go to: <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2026/03/25/260325c.html>

'Time out' is an important part of many major sports. Coaches or players can call a *time out*, which stops the play for a short break. In this time, the team can be re-focused or re-inspired for a critical moment ahead. Today we hear about a spiritual kind of *time out* that helps us to rediscover God's love and hear where God may be calling us next.

[1 Kings 19:9.11-13] At the start of this reading, the Prophet Elijah is afraid and fleeing for his life. King Ahab has called him the 'troubler of Israel' and Queen Jezebel has threatened to kill him. Elijah feels alone, helpless and despairing as he journeys through the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights. But today he hears God's call to stand on the mountain and experience God's true presence. Perhaps Elijah expects God to speak to him in the mighty wind, the earthquake or the fire. Yet through all of these, God remains silent. Finally, at the sound of a 'gentle breeze', Elijah comes to stand in God's presence. The voice calls him to continue his role as a prophet with new strength and direction, and to anoint another prophet, Elisha, to come after him. So, in the midst of our own struggles and occasional disasters, God has a purpose for us if only we can be still enough to recognise it.

Pope Leo calls this the "interior discovery of God's gift"* and encourages us to perceive "God's presence in the innermost recesses of [our] soul". It is here that we will know God's love and beauty, and learn how we can best give of our lives to whichever vocation we are called. Like Elijah, we may also be ready to pass our wisdom and gifts to the younger generation, to inspire them in their own journeys. Let us take some *time out* to hear God speak in the gentle breeze.

[Matthew 14:22-33] Jesus' ministry was filled with earth-shaking words and deeds. Yet he regularly took his own *time out* to pray and listen to God. On this occasion, Jesus was away from his disciples long enough for them to be far out on Lake Galilee with an unexpected storm. By the time he reaches them, calm in the midst of turmoil, they think he is a ghost. But his courage and strength leads Peter to do the impossible - to follow him on top of the waves. It doesn't last long, and Peter's fear allows him to sink for the time being. Yet the same Peter will one day preach the risen Christ boldly even to the point of death. This short episode reminds us of our need for personal encounter with God in Jesus Christ.

As Pope Leo says, "A vocation entails an intimate dialogue with the One who calls and invites us to respond, despite the deafening noise of the world, with true joy and generosity."* With Jesus, we take some *time out* to find clarity and purpose. Then Peter's human weakness and brave steps encourage us to take a leap of courage - and we may find ourselves doing the impossible.

On this Vocations Awareness Week, we are challenged to look for the deepest meaning in our own lives, and discover that God is at the heart of it. Pope Leo calls us to cultivate our relationship with God through prayer and reflection on the word, that our vocation may be "a dynamic process of maturation sustained by intimacy with our Lord"*. Let us take some *time out* this week to turn or return to the life that will truly satisfy.

* Message of the Holy Father Leo XIV on the occasion of the 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 25.03.2026.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon
Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

First Reading from the book of the Kings
19:9.11-13

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8
Response: Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 9:1-5

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. **Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel according Matthew 14:22-33

Communion Antiphon
O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

NEXT WEEK Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First: Isaiah 56:1.6-7

Resp Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

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. 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.

Wraps with Love “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.

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 .

Grief & Loss Support Group meets on Tuesday 11 August at 10am. This group meets in our parish meeting room and welcomes all people who have experienced a loss in their lives. Loss is not just death but can be a situation where you have lost your health, job, family. The group is led by professional staff of Griefcare.

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.

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, Lina Agius, Nadia Fortune

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

16 August 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Paul, Lori	Bianca, Antony, Laura	Geoff , Margaret, Danni
Altar Servers	Berna, Christian, Elijah, Arland	Vu	Robert, Nathan,
Readers	Suzanne, Margaret McD	Andy, Caroline	Effie, Niya
Refreshments	Estela, Myra	Varroville Gospel Choir	Pam, Natasha, Maree
Altar Linen	Ann Maree	CLOTW: Lee & Josephine	
Flowers	Maria, Estela	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	Richard, Margaret McD	Church Foyer	Parish Office
Choirs	C/ Nick and Amanda	C/ Varroville Gospel Choir	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
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Email: varroville@dow.org.au
Website: varroville.dow.org.au

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 14:22-33

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear.

But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried.

Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Elijah's experience occurred on the mountain of God. Though in one tradition this mountain is Sinai (see Ex 19:1-6), this tradition identifies it as Horeb (see Dt 4:10-15a). Such a theophany was accompanied by spectacular phenomena. Perhaps the Israelites described it in this way to show that their God, not the god of the Canaanites, governed the powers of nature. Elijah witnessed the phenomena, but did not experience God within it. It was only when he heard a tiny whispering voice that he was gripped with the realisation of God's presence. No divine words were delivered. The voice itself was the experience. This suggests that the insignificant events of life can be the stage upon which God is revealed.

The psalm presumes a community waiting for a prophetic oracle that will announce peace (v.9). The people's confidence in God rests in the conviction that they are God's own people. There is great expectancy here. The people have done what they can to get God's attention. The next move is God's. Lovingkindness, truth, justice and peace (v.11) are characteristics of the covenantal relationship. When they meet and embrace each other, salvation is complete, truth springs up from the earth, and justice comes down from heaven. All of creation, from earth to sky, shares in the benefits of the salvation by God.

Paul speaks of his ardent attachment to his Jewish compatriots. Though he devoted himself to the conversion of the Gentiles, he never ceased loving the people from whom he came. Distressed that they did not accept Jesus as messiah, he is willing to be considered cursed (*anáthema*) and cut off from Christ for their sake. Paul was not the first leader to be willing to forfeit his future with God for the sake of his own people. Moses made the same offer (see Ex 32:32). Paul lists seven prerogatives that his people enjoy as the chosen people of God. Interestingly, the greatest boast is that the Christ, the anointed one of God, came from their line.

In the gospel account, Jesus addresses the terror that the disciples experienced in seeing him walking toward them on the water with a typical divine response: Do not be afraid! To this he adds the theophanic exclamation: It is I; I am (*ego eimi*)! By walking on water, Jesus assumes the role of the creator-god who alone governs chaotic waters. Peter's faith is not strong enough to overcome his fear of such waters, and so he sinks. Thus he is a model of both faith and lack of faith. Ultimately, it was faith that won out, for Peter is saved when he cries out to Jesus. Those in the boat then pay Jesus homage, identifying him as the Son of God. The entire event was a manifestation of the extraordinary power that resided in Jesus.