

6 September 2026

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

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Embracing the Divine Fatherhood: A Reflection for Father's Day

On this special day dedicated to fathers, we reflect upon the profound role of fatherhood in the lives of families and communities. As Catholics, we are called to appreciate and honor the gift of fatherhood, for it is a reflection of God's own paternal love and care. Father's Day invites us to deepen our understanding of fatherhood in light of our faith, to acknowledge the joys and challenges faced by fathers, and to offer prayers & gratitude for their presence in our lives.

At the core of our understanding of fatherhood is the recognition of God as our Heavenly Father. The Scriptures reveal God's unconditional love, mercy, and guidance for His children. In prayer and reflection, we can find solace and strength in the knowledge that our Heavenly Father watches over us, protects us, and desires our ultimate well-being. As fathers on Earth, we are called to mirror God's love and to embrace the responsibility of nurturing and guiding our own children.

In contemplating fatherhood, we cannot overlook the inspiring example of Saint Joseph, the earthly, foster-father of Jesus. Despite facing uncertainties and challenges, Joseph faithfully embraced his role as a protector, provider, and teacher to Jesus. His steadfastness, humility, and obedience serve as a model for all fathers, reminding us of the importance of leading our families with love, compassion, and integrity.

Fatherhood is intimately connected to the gift of life. Through the vocation of fatherhood, men are called to collaborate with God in the miracle of creation, both physically and spiritually. Just as God the Father forms and molds us, fathers have the unique privilege of shaping the lives of their children. This sacred duty calls for active participation, genuine presence, and a willingness to foster the growth and development of their children in all aspects— physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual.

Fatherhood requires sacrifice—putting the needs of others before our own, supporting and providing for our families, and making selfless choices for the sake of our loved ones. In imitating the sacrificial love of Christ, fathers can find true fulfillment. It is through self-giving that bonds are strengthened, lessons are learned, and hearts are transformed. Let us remember that our sacrifices as fathers are not in vain but contribute to the growth and well-being of our families and society as a whole.

As Catholic fathers, we are not only called to fulfill our duty to our families, but also to cultivate our own spiritual growth. Our personal relationship with God, nourished through prayer, the sacraments, and a commitment to ongoing conversion, enables us to become better fathers. By seeking God's guidance and grace, we can humbly acknowledge our limitations, ask for forgiveness when we fall short, and strive to be the men of virtue and faith that our families need.

On this Father's Day, let us celebrate and honor the fathers in our lives, recognizing the profound impact they have on shaping our identities and fostering our well-being. May we draw inspiration from the divine fatherhood of God, the example of Saint Joseph, and the teachings of the Church. May we embrace our vocation with joy and responsibility, knowing that through our love and self-sacrifice, we can create a foundation of faith and love for generations to come. Let us offer prayers of gratitude for all fathers, asking God to bless them abundantly and guide them in their noble calling.

Written By Adam Eichelberger (Assumption Church Syracuse NY)

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and
your judgement is right;
treat your servant in
accord with your merciful
love.

First Reading

from the prophet
Ezekiel 33:7-9

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

Response:

O that today you would
listen to his voice! Harden
not your hearts.

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

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia!, Alleluia! God
was in Christ, to reconcile
the world to himself; and
the Good News of
reconciliation he has
entrusted to us. **Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel according
to Matthew 18:15-20

Communion Antiphon

Like the deer that yearns
for running streams, so
my soul is yearning for
you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for
God, the living God.



Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass: 1st Sunday of each month 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 6.15 pm

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

Grief Support Group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month

Parish Notices

Fr Shane will be taking some well deserved leave from 1 October. He will be away from the Parish for 3 months. In his absence Fr Sunny will take over his duties as Parish Administrator.

The funeral for Liliana Jaroveski will be held on Tuesday 8 September at 10.30am.

Grief and Loss support Group will meet on a monthly basis for people who have experienced grief and loss in their lives and who would like an opportunity to connect with others on a gentle environment. Please come along every 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10am after the 9am morning mass. Our next **Grief and Support Group** meeting will be on **Tuesday 8th September**.

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 this Sunday at 6.15pm after 5pm Mass and on the first Sunday of each month

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.



The poster for the Church Dinner Dance Masquerade Ball features a dark blue background with gold and white text and graphics. At the top left is the logo for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Parish Varroville. The main title 'CHURCH DINNER DANCE MASQUERADE BALL' is in large, bold, gold letters. Below it, the date and time 'SATURDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER | 7 P.M. START' are displayed. To the left, there's a section for 'FEATURING: DJ CALVIN' with an image of a DJ. Below that is 'B.Y.O.G' with a masquerade mask icon. To the right, the ticket prices are listed: 'AUD 50 PER PERSON' and 'AUD 125 FOR A FAMILY (2 ADULTS + 2 KIDS)'. At the bottom, the venue 'CHURCH HALL, OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL 193, ST. ANDREWS ROAD, VARROVILLE. NSW - 2566' and the dress code 'DRESS CODE: FORMAL ATTIRE - MASKS ENCOURAGED' are provided, along with the booking information 'BOOK TICKETS AT PARISH OFFICE: (02) 96037373'. A large, ornate masquerade mask is on the right side of the poster.

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

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.

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.

Why Foster Care Matters

A safe home can change everything. Right now, children and young people in our region need someone to step in with care, stability and hope. You could be the person who makes that difference.

Sadly, there are children in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Southern Highlands and Macarthur regions who can't live at home due to safety or wellbeing concerns. Many have experienced trauma and need patient, consistent care to help them heal. Foster care gives these children a stable home, whether it's for a few nights, a few months, or longer. Through CatholicCare Diocese of Wollongong's Permanency Support Program (PSP), we match children with carers and provide the training, support and resources to help you both thrive.

You don't need to be perfect. You just need to be willing to show up with care, patience and consistency to a child who needs it.

People from all walks of life can make a meaningful difference, whether you can care for a few nights, a few months or longer. We'll be with you every step of the way. Contact Catholic Care Diocese of Wollongong to learn more about foster care today at 1800 967 894 or fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au.

Mention My Name Memorial Mass at St Thomas More Catholic Church, Ruse on Saturday, 12 September 2026, at 10am.

This Mass is a beautiful opportunity to pause, remember and honour those whose lives have been lost through suicide. It is also a time to surround the families, friends, caregivers and first responders affected by suicide with prayer, compassion and the reminder that they are not alone.

We would be truly grateful if you could share the attached invitation with your parish community, whether through your bulletin, social media or parish notices.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 9 – 11 October 2026 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

Handmade: Creative Healing Retreat October 16-18, Carmel House, Varroville
In his hand is the life of every creature" Job 12:10

Come away for a weekend of reflection on how carefully God has made and upheld your life through different creative prayer experiences. This retreat is for both men & women. Hosted by the MGL Sisters. Registration link: www.trybooking.com/DIDCB

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,

Anniversaries that occur at this time

Joseph Farrell, Christian
Boudan, Gladys Bergicourt

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



Our Rosters

13 September 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Paul, Lori	Nelia, Anita, Francia	Terry, Maree
Altar Servers	Berna, Christian, Elijah, Arland	Vu	Robert, Nathan
Readers	Loretta, Gerard	Irene, Aura	Judy, Leah
Refreshments	Estela, Myra	Samoan Choir Community	Margaret, Geoff, Danni
Altar Linen	Maria	CLOTW: Lee, Princy	
Flowers	Asinate, Mago	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	Bing, Cynthia	Church Foyer	Parish Office
Choirs	C/o Nick and Amanda	C/o Samoan Community	C/o 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

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The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:15-20

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



SEASON OF CREATION

Reflection: If Water Could Speak

It is a question that sounds almost like the beginning of a children's game: What if water could speak? Yet beneath the simplicity of the question lies something deeply urgent. Water has stood at the centre of nearly every decisive moment in the biblical story: hovering over chaos at creation, parting before a people fleeing slavery, springing

from a rock in the wilderness, and waiting in a jar beside a Samaritan woman under the burning midday sun.

And water is still speaking today. It speaks in communities where children, mainly girls, wake before dawn to walk long distances carrying heavy containers before going to school. It speaks in polluted rivers burdened by industrial waste, in lands cracked by drought, and in melting glaciers disappearing silently while the world debates economics and politics.

It is into this larger story that the prophet Ezekiel speaks. Ezekiel was not writing from peace, stability, or comfort. He was a priest who had watched Jerusalem fall, the Temple destroyed, and his people dragged into exile in Babylon (2 Kings 25:1–21; Ezekiel 1:1–3). For Israel, the destruction of the Temple was more than political defeat; it felt like the collapse of identity, worship, memory, and hope itself. As migrants, they sat beside foreign rivers grieving the loss of home and wondering whether God had abandoned them (Psalm 137:1–4). Then, in the middle of that despair, Ezekiel receives a vision (Ezekiel 47:1–12). He sees water flowing from beneath the threshold of a restored temple. At first it is only a trickle. As it moves outward, it deepens into a river too vast to cross. Wherever the river flows, death gives way to life: salt water becomes fresh, trees grow along barren banks, and creation flourishes again.

The transition is important. Ezekiel's vision is not escapism from a broken world; it is God's response to it. The prophet moves from exile to restoration, from dryness to abundance, from grief to renewal. The river becomes a sign that God's healing presence does not remain trapped inside sacred walls but flows outward toward wounded land, wounded people, and wounded creation. As the vision declares, "everything will live where the river goes" (Ezekiel 47:9). The river therefore becomes a powerful symbol of God's life-giving presence bringing restoration not only to individuals but to communities, ecosystems, and the whole created order.

For children and adolescents today, this vision matters profoundly. Many are growing up in a world marked by climate anxiety, conflict, displacement, pollution, and injustice. Ezekiel reminds them that God's restoration often begins quietly, like a small stream, but it is never meant to stay small. The river of God moves outward, bringing life wherever it goes, and inviting humanity to become caretakers rather than destroyers of creation.

<https://seasonofcreation.org/2025/10/13/reweaving-the-ecological-map-celebrating-the-season-of-creation-in-oceania/>



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.