Our Lady of Mount Carmel
CATHOLIC PARISH VARROVILLE

25 October 2026

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

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Our religious tradition is founded on love.

Actually, life itself is grounded in love. We may not always feel this love, but if we allow ourselves to reflect on life, we will realise this truth. We have been called into being by God's love; and we will only be happy if we live in that love. Thus, when we are directed to love God and love one another, we are not being asked to do something contrary to our nature. Rather, we are being told to live in accord with that nature. We come from God who is love, and so it is in our very nature to love and to be loved.

We may sometimes think that it is easier to love God than to love others. It may actually be just the opposite. Other people are tangible. We can see and hear them, interact with them. Their influence in our lives can permeate our consciousness. That is not the way it is with God. Like Moses on the mountain, we can only see the traces of divinity as God passes by (see Ex 33:23). However, we show that we love God in the way we love our neighbour.

Love, the foundation of the reign of God, is contagious. When we love others, the reign of God spreads throughout the world. The compassion that we show toward others is a form of evangelisation. It proclaims much louder than any words that the reign of God has been established.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon
Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

First Reading from the book of Exodus 22:20-26

Responsorial Psalm Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

Response: I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1:5-10

Alleluia!, Alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. **Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:34-40

Communion Antiphon
We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass:

1st Sunday at 12 noon

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

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

Parish Notices

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.

Preparation for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation – The sessions will begin on the 24th October 2026 4-6pm. The ceremony will be 21 November 2026 at 4pm. If you would like to register your child please contact the Parish Office.

All Souls Day Outdoor Mass on Monday 2 November at 7.30pm
We will be holding our annual Mass in the Columbarium, honouring and remembering our dearly departed loved ones. All are most welcome.
This year, for November, you are invited to bring in a photo if you have experienced the loss of a loved one this year. A photo sized 4 x 6" or 5 x 7" will be displayed in the church for the month.

Friendship Group meets on tuesday 3 November for Melbourne Cup Lunch commencing at midday. We will have sweeps and wear your fascinator. The raceday coverage will be on the TV. Please bring a plate to share for lunch.

Alpha sessions will continue weekly till December. Is there someone who is enquiring about their faith, or is considering joining the Catholic Faith through RCIA. Register via the Parish Office.

2026 Cash Raffle to be drawn on thursday 26 November. This is a major fundraiser for our parish. Books of tickets are available for you to take home and sell to family & friends. Please ask at the welcome desk after Mass or call the parish office to collect a book of tickets. Tickets cost $5 each and a book of tickets cost $50. Your support of our parish is invaluable.

Banns for Sacerdotal Ordination of Rev. Anthony Joseph Lisone, OATH (Oblate Apostles of The Two Hearts), and is scheduled to receive the **Sacred Order of Presbyter on Nov 21, 2026** at Cathedral Parish of St. Paul the First Hermit, San Pablo City, Laguna, Phillipines. Should anyone know of any canonical impediment that would prevent the candidate from receiving the Sacred Orders, please inform the Parish Office. Br Anthony grew up in this parish and we wish him well in his vocation. Va'a & Katalina have been parishioners in this parish and we congratulate them in supporting Br Anthony on his studies.

Altar Server Meeting will be held on tuesday 10 November at 7.30pm. It is important that all Altar Servers attend. Junior Altar Servers should also attend with a parent.

FORMATION PATHWAY: Watch Your Language! – Words That Shape Culture; Could the words we use be holding back parish renewal? Join us as we explore how everyday language shapes our beliefs, behaviours and parish culture, with practical workshops and an open Q&A on all things parish renewal. On Tuesday 3 November: Campbelltown Catholic Club. Time: 7–9 pm; Register: dow.sh/fpnov26

"Alive" Family Retreat Day The MGL Sisters warmly welcome you and your family to the "Alive" Family Retreat Day to unleash the power of the Holy Spirit. Discover as a family your unique mission and how to live with boldness and love! This interactive retreat is designed for all ages to enjoy together. When: 9:00am – 4:00pm on Saturday, 14 November 2026; Where: Beginning with 9:00am Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish (Varroville), then moving to the parish hall for a day of inputs and activities. Please bring your own lunch and snacks to safely accommodate your family's specific dietary needs and preferences. Further information and Registration: trybooking.com?DIDCJ

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church In 2015, Pope Francis wrote that "charity and mercy demand that the Church, like a good mother, be near her children who feel themselves estranged from her." The Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney, which has an Office in the Diocese of Wollongong, is a service of the Church to assist with the pastoral care of Catholics and non-Catholics who are civilly divorced, and who are seeking to remarry or who want clarification of their standing in the Church. The Tribunal also assists remarried persons seeking to have their current marriage recognised in the Church, and remarried persons wishing to be baptised or received into the Catholic Church. Any divorced person, or a divorced and remarried person is welcome to contact the Wollongong Office of the Tribunal to obtain further information, or to have their status within the Church clarified. Brochures are available at the back of the church in the notice board area. The Wollongong Office of the Tribunal is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You are welcome to contact the Tribunal on 42222409 or tribunal@dow.org.au

Prayer Intentions

For the sick and homebound:

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

Stephen Skocylas, Liliana Jaroveski, Peter MacKenzie

Anniversaries that occur at this time

Rozalia Astalosh, Les Stewart

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

Our Rosters

1 November 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen & Arlene	Chris , Margaret & Gabriel	Beatrix & Patricia
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana , Elijah & Eliana	Vu	Michael & Nathan
Readers	Suzanne & Margaret	Gabriel & Laura	Mark & Madonna
Refreshments	Josephine , Glenda & Margaret	SarahL, Tereza & John	Pam, Natasha & Maree
Altar Linen	Margaret	**CLOTW:** Rhonda & Konrad	
Flowers	Lorraine & Effie	**Church Vacuuming**	Parish Office
Counters	Bing & Cynthia	**Church Foyer**	Parish Office

Contact Us

Parish Administrator:
Fr Sunny Abraham OCD

Deacon:
Rev Stuart Lake

Parish Associate:
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm
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The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

HOMILY by Fr Michael Tate

When my father returned from serving in the Middle East during World War II, he brought home a set of photographs of the Sphinx, the Pyramids, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and so on. The set was accompanied by a mysterious instrument which gave we young boys endless fascination: bioptic lenses which created a 3D effect. What was a flat photograph suddenly had depth and foreground. The sphinx loomed close, the pyramids receded. The true dimension in which those objects existed was revealed. Their reality was more apparent because we saw them in the right perspective.Our Lord is asking us to see reality about the Divine and about human beings, beyond a flat description of 'God' or 'person', and then we will respond appropriately.

Did you notice that Our Lord does not command us to love 'God'? That is too abstract. No, we are to love 'the Lord your God', the proper Hebrew title for the One who rescued the Jewish people from slavery. The Lord God is the liberator, the one who sets us free. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals the Lord God as the liberator from the apparent final dominance of death. Loving such a liberator is the natural response. So, 'Love the Lord your God'. Then Our Lord does not command us to love our neighbour! Rather, we are commanded 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. So, it is necessary to get a correct perspective on 'yourself'. Am I merely a biological phenomenon? The answer is 'no'. In the wonderful story-telling of Genesis, we are told that Adam, an earthen statue, had divine breath breathed into the nostrils, creating him as a human being.

We earthlings are conceived with the Divine Breath, Divine Life, at the core of our being. In a James McAuley hymn*, we sing of Jesus Christ as 'Divine Love in a human heart'. What is true of Jesus Christ by nature, is true of us by adoption, by grace. The great Spanish mystic, St John of the Cross, wrote:

'[God] is hidden by his essence and his presence in the innermost being of the soul.'

'You yourself are [God's] dwelling and his inner secret room and hiding place. …' (The Spiritual Canticle, 6.2, 7)

The challenge for you and for me is to see 'yourself' in that way. If only we saw ourselves in that way. If only we saw in that way every human being whose lives we can affect: the neighbour. And in today's global world, the neighbour can be a person in a society geographically distant and culturally very different, but 'L'Amour sans frontieres'. With these perspectives, seeing the true dimensions of God, self and the other, then how easily we could fulfil the dual command: 'You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul and with your whole mind. And you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

In the run-up to Christmas I have quite a few baptisms to celebrate. Pray for all those to be baptised, that all those who encounter them will love them with the love due a neighbour who is the dwelling place of God. Pray that those baptised persons may come to the fulfilment of divine and human love in the everlasting bliss of Heaven.