



## MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH PARISH

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**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: TO BE A LIGHT UNTO THE WORLD**

Parish Priest: Fr. Bosco Sangbok Son SVD

Parish Secretary: Veena Miranda

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

**Acknowledgement of Country** : We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, Elders and communities and the spirit that binds us in our dreams and aspirations on Dharawal country. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

**4th Sunday of Advent - YEAR - B**

**23rd & 24th December 2023**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
And let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a  
Saviour.

### FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Samuel  
(7:1-5, 8-12,14,16)

*(The kingdom of David will be established for ever  
in the sight of the Lord).*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest

from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The Word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 88)

**All: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

**Reader:** I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts forever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

**All: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

**Reader:** I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.

**All: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

**Reader:** He will say to me: You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me. I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.

**All: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

# Parish News and Happenings

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans  
(16:25-27)

*(The mystery kept secret for endless ages  
is now revealed).*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith.

This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord: may his  
will for me be done.

**Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Luke (1:26-38)

*(You will conceive and bear a son).*

## Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**READINGS FOR THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,  
Year B : 30th & 31st December  
Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;  
Lk 2:22-40**

**BAPTISMS are open.**

**For Baptism Preparation** please contact **Maria D'souza** through email :  
[maria197114@gmail.com](mailto:maria197114@gmail.com) or **Contact the parish office.**

**BAPTISMS on 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 11:30am**

## **The WORD in other words - Bible Diary 2024**

This book contains daily scripture readings and reflections written by the priests, brothers and sisters of the congregations founded by St. Arnold Janssen (the SVD and SSPS) is now available for sale. **The cost is \$25.00 /each.**

For enquiries : please contact Tina Pineda on 0408 785 626 or Lina De Santis on 0418 264 696

## **Parish Pastoral Council 2023 - 2025**

**27th January 2024 Saturday : 10am - 2pm**  
Parish Council Formation session

**28th January 2024; 10am Mass :**Commissioning Mass for new Parish Pastoral Council

## **Dates for your Diary**

**December 16-24 :** Dawn Masses at 5:00am daily

**December 24 :** Sunday - Christmas Family Mass at 7:00pm

**December 24:** Midnight mass at 11:30pm

**December 25:** Monday- Christmas Day Mass at 9:00am

**December 31:** Sunday- End of year Thanksgiving with Adoration at 6:30pm followed by mass

**January 1 2024:** Monday- New Year's mass at 9:00am

## **WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday : 6:00 pm.** (Vigil Mass)

**Sunday : 8:00 am & 10:00 am.**

### **Weekday Masses :**

**Mon- Fridays at 9:00 am**

**Saturday : 8.30am**

**Every Wednesday : NOVENA to our Mother Mary,** 6:30pm Rosary followed by Novena Prayers

**Bible Study :**Fortnightly on Sundays at 2.00pm in the Logos Centre.

**Sunday School :** Fortnightly on Sundays during 10am Mass in the Logos Centre. (during the School Term)

# Parish News and Happenings

## News from our Diocese:

### **CatholicCare are currently looking for Community Support Workers**

Becoming a CatholicCare Community Support Worker will give you a career that you love, whilst providing a valuable connection to people living with a disability or the aged in our Diocese. If you want to find out more about becoming a Community Support Worker go to [catholic-care.dow.org.au/get-involved/careers/](http://catholic-care.dow.org.au/get-involved/careers/) or call 4227 1122.

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CCD Administration and Support Officer – Catholic Diocese of Wollongong Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for this position. Appropriate skills and a passion for the work of SRE Catechists in State schools is essential. Applications close on Wednesday, 10 January 2024.

For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: <https://dow/sh/ccdadminpv>  
For enquiries contact [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

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### **Summer Bible Camp – 19 to 20 January 2024, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Varroville**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Varroville, through the Children's Ministry Team, will conduct a Summer Bible Camp. It is an overnight event for children ages 8 to 14. Through fun activities, they will also learn values in life and skills they need as they grow up in the society, witnessing the Christian way of living. Come along and join with us. Parents, please encourage and support your children to join this BIBLE CAMP. Last day of Registration will be on 31 December 2023. Fee by donation.

For more details and more enquiries, please contact Sr. Jill through email: [asolmcp parish@gmail.com](mailto:asolmcp parish@gmail.com)

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### **Pilgrimage of Mercy 11 – 21 June 2024**

Father Christopher Sarkis, Parish Priest of Rosemeadow, will be the Chaplain accompanying Harvest Journeys Eastern Europe Pilgrimage of Mercy in June 2024, visiting Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. It includes the Shrines of Divine Mercy, the Black Madonna of Czestochowa and the Infant of Prague. It visits places of importance to St John Paul II, St. Faustina and St. Maximilian Kolbe, among others. Enquiries: 4628 1385 or directly at [harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimage-of-mercy](http://harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimage-of-mercy) Bookings only through Harvest Journeys.

## *Reflection:*

## *Saying yes to God*

Today many seek fulfilment and happiness through 'doing their own thing'. It's what I want that matters. They believe that happiness lies in having no commitments, no one to answer to, no one whose needs or problems will ever tie us down.

It is, of course, good and necessary to find and do that which deep down we feel we are called to do. Nevertheless, human nature being what it is, we have to be on our guard. There can be a lot of selfishness in the 'do your own thing' approach. It often means taking the easiest path in the belief that this is where freedom and happiness lie. But this approach is more likely to lead to slavery and unhappiness.

Here is an important truth: freedom, happiness, and fulfilment are more likely to be found in the acceptance of duty. However, for this to happen, a grim acceptance of duty. The more difficult the task to which we devote ourselves out love, the more it will exalt us.

In this Mary gives us a great example. She didn't say to the angel, 'sorry, but I have my own plans. I want to do my own thing.' She said, 'It's not what I want, but what God wants that matters. Let what God wants be done to me.'

Mary made a complete gift of herself to God, and accepted the task he gave her. Even though she didn't understand all the implications of it, she trusted that God would give her all the help she needed.

In effect she was saying, 'I don't know what all this means, but I trust that good things will happen.' She trusted so deeply in God that she was open to all possibilities. She gave up control over her future and let God define her life.

Life imposes a lot of duties on us. Besides duties to ourselves, there are duties to others, and duties to God. Where would the world be if everyone just thought of themselves, and insisted on doing their own thing, seeking their own freedom, happiness, and fulfilment independent of others and of God?

Those who accept duty as Mary did, may not find happiness and fulfilment in the eyes of the world, but they certainly will find it in eyes of God. And deep down they will know it.

The greatest grace in life is when what we have to do is what we want to do.

# Parish News and Happenings

## Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

**Birthday :** Lilia Desalit Villarico /  
Rolando Desalit Mariano

**Blessings:** Arthur Drayne / Kimberly Drayne

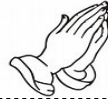
**Wedding Anniversary :** Catherine &  
Pierre Yves Rochecouste

[www.KenneallysFunerals.com.au](http://www.KenneallysFunerals.com.au)

*Kenneally's  
Funerals*

- ✓ Catholic family owned and operated
  - ✓ After funeral bereavement support available
  - ✓ Arrangements made at our Campbelltown office  
or in the comfort of your own home
- Call our caring staff on 4620 8822**

## This week masses have been offered for the Sick and Special needs of :



- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Dr Lydia de Jesus    | * Eva Silang          |
| * Dr Joycelyn de Jesus | * Carole Dimayuga     |
| * Leslie Reich         | * Selda Dimayuga      |
| * Noli Leyesa          | * Nancie              |
| * Jaypee Masangkay     | * Jun & Charo Doctors |
| * Aida Dayao           | * Fr. David Catterall |
| * Victor Padura        | * TJ del Rio          |
| * Nelia Ambat          | * Alan Raisbeck       |
| * Vivian Martin        | * Catherine Nguyen    |
| * Anthony Lee Mariano  | * Nathan Biag         |
| * Jane Peralta         | * Monique             |
| * Steve Ducas & family | * Brigitte & Lysiane  |
| * Alphonsus Lieu Bui   | * Danny Titmarsh      |
| * Christine Dennis     | * Resty Perez         |
| * Sybil Le Miere       |                       |

**SVD Prayer :** *“May the darkness of sin and night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word and the spirit of grace, and may the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all. Amen”* **Saint Arnold Janssen**

## An Advent Prayer

God of light and hope,  
look upon us in love,  
and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus  
that we may love you and serve you in your kingdom.  
Protect us during this week  
and keep us watchful in prayer  
as we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
who is the light of the world,  
and who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.



## THIS WEEK MASSES HAVE BEEN OFFERED FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS & DEATH ANNIVERSARIES OF benefactors of:



- ✠ John & Eliza D'souza
- ✠ Phillip Yongching
- ✠ Angela Takacs
- ✠ Len de Leon
- ✠ Loajos Takacs
- ✠ Kirtie Danton
- ✠ Alice Daly
- ✠ Georgina Jesson
- ✠ Alec Johnston
- ✠ Patrice Rochecouste
- ✠ Irwin McGavin
- ✠ Chackochen
- ✠ Marie-Claude Aliphon
- ✠ All souls in Purgatory



## The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (all bow)  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius  
Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended into hell; on the third day he rose  
again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is  
seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there He will come to judge the living and the  
dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic  
Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of  
sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.  
Amen.*