



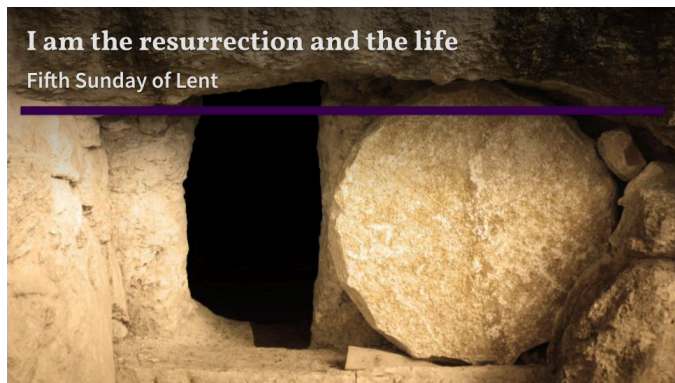
Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Wentworthville

Carmel Bulletin

Sunday, 22nd March 2026

5th Sunday of Lent Year A



Reflections for this week's readings

First Reading:	Ezekiel 37:12-14
Responsorial Psalm:	Psalm 129
Second Reading:	Romans 8:8-11
Gospel:	John 11:1-45

Jesus is the resurrection

John the Evangelist narrates only seven miracles, whereas the other Evangelists narrate twenty-eight miracles. John does not call these seven miracles but 'signs'. This is so because John is the mystic who does not just present facts but seeks to present the deeper meaning of these facts. Jesus tells us that if we see him, we see the Father, and so it is that in the signs he tries to reveal the Father to us. Each sign symbolizes some aspect of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the hour of his glory as he calls it.

Today's Gospel begins by telling us that Jesus has just come back to Galilee from Jerusalem because the Jews in Jerusalem are seeking some way of killing him. Then he gets the news that his close friend, Lazarus, is seriously sick. Jesus intends to go to visit Lazarus but waits four days in Galilee. This may be because of his fear of the Jews, or, more likely, because he wants everyone to be sure that Lazarus is really and truly smelling dead.

When he does go to Bethany, which is quite close to Jerusalem, Martha meets him on the outskirts of the town, and says to him, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died". Mary, then, is summoned to meet Jesus, and she says the same thing to Jesus as her sister.

This is the central point of this sign. The sisters say they know that they will be raised from the dead at the end of time, and Jesus replies the resurrection is now not late.

Jesus asks the sister if they believe in him, they reply that they do believe that he is the Son of God. Then Jesus goes to the tomb and with great emotion calls Lazarus to rise, before all his disciples and the Jews who had come to mourn Lazarus.

Jesus is asking us to believe in him and in the kindness and compassion of the Father who will raise us from the dead now, immediately, and not some time later after God has taken his vengeance by making us suffer for our sins. This way of thinking is certainly not worthy of a kind and loving Father. This is our great consolation and our great incentive to grow in our faith in Jesus and his words. Our faith is that Jesus is the resurrection!

Fr. Anthony O.Carm

Lectio Divina – Weekly Sessions

You are most welcome to join us every Wednesday evening at 6:00pm in the Red Room for the weekly *Lectio Divina*, a prayerful reflection on God's Word.



As we listen, reflect, and pray together. For more information, please click on the link [Lectio Divina](#) **PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO LECTIO DIVINA ON WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH AND WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL.**

Parish News

Lenten Penitential Celebration

We invite you to join us for our Lenten Penitential Celebration this Wednesday 25 March at 7:00 pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Individual Confession and Absolution) also continues to be celebrated on Saturdays at 9:30 am.

Can you help at our Holy Week and Easter Triduum celebrations?

Thank you to the many volunteers who have already signed up to assist at our Holy Week and Easter Triduum celebrations. There are still different roles available. If you can assist, have a look in the parish centre today at what you can do and register.

Palm Sunday

Once again on Palm Sunday, we invite you to bring your own cutting of a branch, from any tree or plant, to use as we commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We would also greatly appreciate it if you can cut and bring some palms or some other branches for people who don't have any. As always, there will be baskets in the parish centre before Mass where you can drop off or collect cuttings.

Planned Giving Envelopes

The Planned Giving Envelopes are now available in the Narthex, please collect yours.

East Timor Committee

The East Timor fundraising committee have been very fortunate to have generous and supportive members in our Parish. We have been able to support students to obtain scholarships to further their education to be able to give back to their communities.

Each year we sponsor 6 students who need financial assistance. Last year out of the 6 students we sponsored, 3 of them completed their studies, graduated.

Rita Salsinha graduated completing a Bachelor of Education and is now working as an English Teacher in a Technical Vocational Training school, supporting students to develop their English language abilities. Rita is proud that she can now support her family and contribute to education in her community. She sincerely thanks all donors for helping her achieve this important milestone in her life.

Alarico Soares graduated from Bachelor of Nursing and is now actively applying for jobs and hopes to begin his career, this month, as a nurse and improve health services especially in the rural community areas. Alarico has expressed his sincere gratitude to all the donors and supporters of the scholarship program, he deeply appreciated the opportunity given to him.

Maria de Jesus do Carmo Marcal graduated from her Bachelor of health Studies and has begun working at a health clinic in the rural community of Suai. Maria expressed deep gratitude to all donors who supported her journey. She shared, she would not be who she is today without the scholarship program.

Three new students will be selected to replace the ones that have graduated. Once they have been appointed we will display their information and photos in the Narthex.

We deeply appreciate and look forward to your ongoing generous support for our East Timor students throughout the year, Thank you. *Teresa Maldigri*

Liturgy Corner

Lent is about Baptism

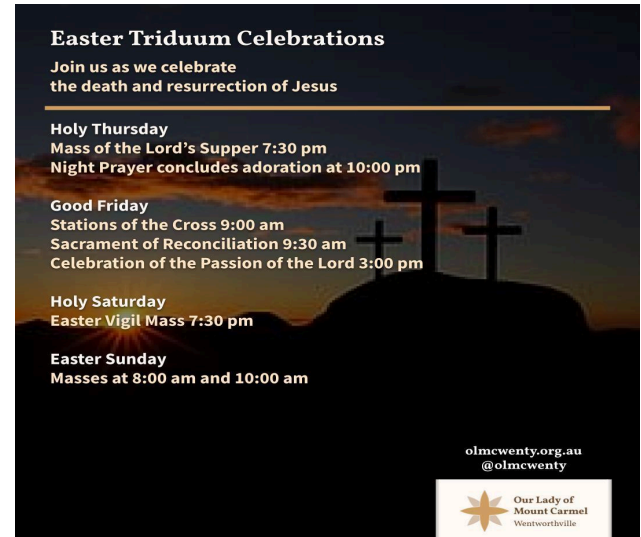
Earlier in Lent, I was asked if we usually kept blessed water in the baptismal font during the season. It's not a surprising question. In the past, some people would suggest that parishes remove holy water from the church during Lent, even replacing it with sand or ashes.

This idea can be motivated by a desire to send a message about repentance and penance, and that it's not Easter yet, which is true. Yet that doesn't mean that Lent has nothing to do with baptism. In fact, it's quite the opposite. As we are experiencing right now through the celebration of the scrutinies of our elect, Lent is for them the final period of intense preparation for their Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at the Easter Vigil. As Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness discerning his mission, so the elect deepens their commitment to life in Christ.

For the rest of us, their example, and the liturgies of Lent, challenge us to renew and strengthen our commitment to

our baptism. We repent because we are baptised. We don't pretend for a while that we're not baptised, but rather make a point of reminding ourselves that we are, with all that demands of us.

The next time you come into the church, be sure to stop at the baptismal font. Every entrance to the church leads to it. Let it remind you that it is through Baptism that you belong to Christ, his Church, and his mission.



Easter Triduum Celebrations
Join us as we celebrate
the death and resurrection of Jesus

Holy Thursday
Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 pm
Night Prayer concludes adoration at 10:00 pm

Good Friday
Stations of the Cross 9:00 am
Sacrament of Reconciliation 9:30 am
Celebration of the Passion of the Lord 3:00 pm

Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil Mass 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday
Masses at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

olmcwenty.org.au
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Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Wentworthville

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for an early morning start to assist at the church for the large number of youth participating in the Good Friday Walk from St Patricks Blacktown to St Patricks Cathedral Parramatta. **Must have** a valid Working with Children Check and completed the Mandatory Safeguarding Training. Please enter your name and phone number on the form located in the Narthex.

Celebrating Sacraments

Baptisms: Matthew Carswell, Normarni Achirem and Emilia Grech. *Sun, 22nd Mar 2026.*

May they grow in faith, love, and the grace of God!

Weddings: Annmaree Kenny and Daniel Khaziran Sat, *21st Mar 2026.*

May our Lord grant them happiness and love



Parish Finances

Thank you for your generosity

Donations to the Parish for the week of Monday 9/3/2026 to Sunday 15/03/2026 totalling \$3516.00

Planned Giving (cash/c cards): \$560.00

Loose cash: \$855.00

Direct Deposits: \$830.00

Tap & Go: \$1,271.00

Parish Online Banking: If you would like to pay fees or to donate, our online banking details are:

BSB: 067 950 **Account Number:** 000 00602

Account Name: Wentworthville Catholic Church

Reference: [Your Surname] PURPOSE OF YOUR DONATION



**Our Lady of
Mount Carmel**
Wentworthville

In the care of the Carmelite Friars

We acknowledge the Darug people as the original custodians of this land and pay our respects to the elders; past, present and emerging.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, together with the Diocese of Parramatta and the Carmelite Friars, are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and ensuring that they feel and are safe.

Connect with us

Online at www.olmcwenty.org.au

On Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @olmcwenty

Email ocarmswenty@gmail.com

If you would like to stay up to date with all the news from the parish, please consider [subscribing to the Carmel bulletin](#).

Parish Office

Phone: 9631 8302

Open Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 3:30pm

Parish Office is closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays

Parish Priest: Fr. Januario Pinto, O.Carm (Carmelite Prior)

Assistant Priest: Fr. Albino Dos Santos, O.Carm

In Community: Fr. Anthony Scerri, O.Carm,
Fr. John Powell, O.Carm (in Aged Care)

Parish Secretary: Diane Vella

Finance Officer: Gennie Cosgrove

Safeguarding Officer: Moira Peter

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary School

Principal: Olimpia Pirovic

Phone: 8832 1100

Liturgy times

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6:00pm (*Vigil*)

Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am (include Children's Liturgy of the Word), 6:00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday - Thursday and Saturday: 9:00am

Friday: 9:15am (except first Friday of the month)

Reconciliation

Saturday: after the 9:00am Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday: 8am

Rosary Group

Monday - Friday: 8am

Saturday: after the 9am Mass

Anointing within Mass

First Friday of the month at 9am Mass followed by morning tea

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals By request

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