St John the Evangelist
CATHOLIC PARISH CAMPBELLTOWN



Sunday 32, Year A | 8 November 2026

PARISH MISSION & VISION - Celebrating Catholic life since 1822

To know, follow and share Jesus with our neighbours.

To see every neighbourhood transformed by the love and power of Jesus.

Mass Today

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

FIRST READING | Wisdom 6:12-16
Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | *Psalm 62*
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

SECOND READING | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL | Matthew 25:1-13
Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

This Week

9:30 am Mass – Mon 9 Nov – **Dedication of the Lateran Basilica [Feast]**
9:30 am Mass – Tues 10 Nov – **St Leo the Great, pope, doctor [Memorial]**
9:30 am Mass – Wed 11 Nov – **St Martin of Tours, bishop [Memorial]**
9:30 am Mass – Thurs 12 Nov – **St Josaphat, bishop, martyr [Memorial]**
9:30 am Mass – Friday 13 Nov

READINGS NEXT WEEK – Thirty-Third Sunday in Year A
Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30

WEEKEND MASSES
Saturday Vigil 5 pm
Sunday 7:30 am; 9 am; 10:30 am & 5 pm

Weekday Masses
Monday – Friday 9:30 am

Adoration
Friday 10 am - 11 am

Reconciliation
Saturday 11 am – 12 pm *(with Adoration)*

Members of the Wedding

According to marriage customs of Jesus' day, a bride was first "betrothed" to her husband but continued for a time to live with her family. Then, at the appointed hour some months later, the groom would come to claim her, leading her family and bridal party to the wedding feast that would celebrate and inaugurate their new life together.

This is the background to the parable of the last judgment we hear in today's Gospel.

In the parable's symbolism, Jesus is the Bridegroom. In this, He fulfills God's ancient promise to join Himself forever to His chosen people as a husband cleaves to his bride. The virgins of the bridal party represent us, the members of the Church.

We were "betrothed" to Jesus in Baptism and are called to lives of holiness and devotion until He comes again to lead us to the heavenly wedding feast at the end of time.

As St Paul warns in today's Epistle, Jesus is coming again, though we know not the day nor the hour.

We need to keep vigil throughout the dark night of this time in which our Bridegroom seems long delayed. We need to keep our souls' lamps filled with the oil of perseverance and desire for God— virtues that are extolled in today's First Reading and Psalm.

We are to seek Him in love, meditating upon His kindness, calling upon His name, striving to be ever more worthy of Him, to be found without spot or blemish when He comes.

If we do this, we will be counted as wise and the oil for our lamps will not run dry. We will perceive the Bridegroom, the Wisdom of God, hastening toward us, beckoning us to the table He has prepared, the rich banquet which will satisfy our souls.

Scott Hahn - **stpaulcenter.com**

PARISH CLERGY
Fr John Ho PP
Fr Richard Healey AP

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Secretary: Michelle Quinn

PRIMARY SCHOOL
(02) 4625 1171
Principal: Paul Moroney
info@sjctdow.catholic.edu.au

In the spirit of reconciliation we acknowledge the Dharawal people as traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respect to all Elders, past and present, and extend that respect to all First Nations peoples today.

Is There Enough Oil in My Lamp?

In today's Gospel (Matthew 25:1–13), Jesus tells the story of ten bridesmaids waiting for the bridegroom. Five are wise and bring extra oil for their lamps, while the other five are foolish and are not prepared.

Jesus reminds us that we must always be ready to meet him. The oil reminds us of our faith, prayer, love and relationship with God. Just as a lamp needs oil to keep burning, our faith needs prayer, the Eucharist, forgiveness and good works to stay alive.

November, the Month of All Souls, gives this Gospel a special meaning. As we remember and pray for our deceased family members, friends and parishioners, we are reminded that our earthly life will one day come to an end. Their passing invites us to reflect on our own journey towards eternal life.

In today's second reading, St Paul reminds us that because Jesus died and rose again, we have hope that those who die in Christ will also rise with him. **Death is not the end. Our hope is eternal life with God.**

As we pray for those who have gone before us, we must also prepare ourselves to meet the Lord. We should not put off prayer, forgiveness or acts of love until tomorrow.

This week's parish invitation: During November, let us pray daily for our deceased loved ones, remember them at Mass, and keep our own lamps burning through prayer, kindness and forgiveness.

As we remember those who have completed their earthly journey, let us ask ourselves:

"Am I ready for my own journey to eternal life? Is there enough oil in my lamp?"

✨ Christmas Craft Class ✨

Get ready to ignite your Christmas spirit at a festive afternoon of family fun, fellowship, and creativity! Join us for free Christmas Craft & the Story of Christmas Celebration—the perfect way for children to learn the story of the very first Christmas! Your family can make beautiful Christmas Cards and Sparkling Tree Decorations.

2pm Sun 29 Nov in the Parish Hall. Open to adults and children – bring your family and friends! Enjoy laughter, fellowship and a chance to meet other people. All material supplied. No experience needed. – just come ready to create and connect! Tea and coffee provided. Please bring a plate to share. Let's celebrate the joy of Christmas together!

RSVP essential for all by Thur 26 Nov to the Parish Office: 02 **4625 8044**.

Ministry Thank You Dinner ✨Saturday 28 November✨

We warmly invite **all parishioners who have served in any ministry during 2026** to a special **Thank You Dinner** on Saturday 28 November, following the Vigil Mass. This is an opportunity to come together and celebrate your generous service and dedication to our parish throughout the year.

If you would like to attend, please write your name on the sign-up sheet provided.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Upcoming Events

Anointing Mass

10am Sat 2 January 2027

Prayer Ministry

Receive prayer for any need—physical or spiritual—11:30am Sunday 8 Nov.

Children's Mass

10:30am Sunday 22 November

Rosters

Sunday 15 November

Acolyte

V5 Michael Norris
7:30 Tom Hunter & Uruguay
9 Pauloleono Aukusitino & Nathan Cox
10:30 Raul Ladera
5 Jason de Guzman

Extraordinary Ministers

V5 Vicky Horgan, Sam Nour
7:30 Shirley Moretti, Ian Star
9 Ken Fernandez, Falakika Nau
10:30 Ioana Brunt, Maria Aliifa'alogo
5 Jismin Jio & Hazel Vargas

Readers

V5 Jolene Gonzales, Elizabeth Javier
7:30 Lucas Alcantara, John Lloyd, Mary-Ellen Bland
9 Michael Willis, Reiltin Bullock
10:30 Roslyn Williams, Kate Delmo, Ancy Mathews
5 Kerrie McDonald, Kimberly Sumang

Musicians

V5 Ben McKenzie & John George
9 Glynn Family
10:30 Joe Talamaivao
5 Siervas Musika Choir

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal – 28–29 November

The **St Vincent de Paul Society, Campbelltown**, will hold its **Christmas Appeal** at all Masses on the weekend of 28–29 November.

Christmas is a time of love, joy and giving. We invite all parishioners to support this appeal and help families and individuals in need across the Macarthur region celebrate Christmas with hope and dignity.

Your generosity can make a real difference this Christmas. Thank you for your kindness and support.

Kids' Corner

"Stay awake!"

Have you ever been so busy playing that you didn't notice someone waiting to join in? Jesus tells us to **"stay awake"** (Matthew 25:13). He means paying attention to the chances we have to love! Someone might need a friend at lunchtime, help with a tricky task or a kind word after a mistake. We don't need to wait for a special moment to follow Jesus. We can be ready with kindness right now. This week, keep your eyes open and your heart ready. Who might need the love you can share?

Loving God, help us notice who needs kindness and act today.

Prayer Intentions

SPECIAL INTENTIONS & THE SICK

Guadalupe Jordan, Fr Ross Naylor, Craig Moores, Felisa Orca, Phillip W, Sean Logan, Joan Samuel, Helen Barnes, Ronald Elliott, Jack Wheeler, Roslin, John Moore, David Jones, Nathan Taylor, Cathy Hurst, John Wagner, Alan Johnson, Allan Marquinez, Carmela Labrador, Karen Milenkovic, Josefino Pangilinan.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Matilda McMurray, Liam MacMeanmain (Ireland), Anne Serret, Eva Jones, Jess Valix.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

During November all Masses will be offered for those listed in the Book of Remembrance.

Diocesan Annual Catechist Mass

All active and retired SRE Catechists and those involved in the Sacramental preparation of children are warmly invited to the Annual Catechist Mass and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, **21 Nov at 10am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong.**
Join Bishop Brian Mascord, for this celebration, followed by a morning tea.
To register: visit **dow.sh/cm26** or contact **helen.bennett@dow.org.au** for more information.

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'Advent Books/Christmas cards

Christmas cards & 'Presence' Advent - Christmas daily reflection books are now available for purchase from the Piety stall.
Advent books are $5 each.

St Francis Xavier's Feast

The Indian community invites you for the solemn Mass on the feast of St Francis Xavier on Thurs 3 December at 5:30pm, at Mary, Mother of The Church Parish, Macquarie Fields. Please bring a plate.

St John's Jokes Corner

A parish priest noticed a parishioner sleeping soundly during his homily every Sunday. One week, the priest paused mid-sermon and whispered softly to the congregation, "If you want to go to heaven, please stand up."
Everyone stood up except the sleeping man. Everyone sat down.
Then the priest shouted at the top of his voice, "AND IF YOU WANT TO GO TO HELL, STAND UP!"
The sleeping man jumped out of his seat, looked around bewildered, and said, "Father, I don't know what we're voting on, but it looks like you and I are the only two in favour!"



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.

9am – 4pm Saturday 14 Nov 2026
Where: Beginning with 9am Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Varroville, then moving to the parish hall for a day of inputs and activities.

Meals: Please bring your own lunch and snacks to safely accommodate your family's specific dietary needs and preferences.
trybooking.com/DIDCJ

75th Anniversary of the Diocese

Invitation to Opening Mass
11:30am Saturday 14 November
St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Cabbage Tree Drive, Fairy Meadow

The anniversary will be celebrated across the next year until 21 Nov 2027.

Understanding the Billings Ovulation Method

The Billings Ovulation Method helps couples understand the natural signs of fertility and infertility. Through this knowledge, couples can plan their families in a way that is fully consistent with Catholic teaching—whether to achieve or to postpone pregnancy.

This natural method encourages deeper communication and mutual respect within marriage, while supporting reproductive health through a simple, science-based approach that honours God's design. For more information or to connect with a trained teacher, please contact: Liz Gandy 0457 298 823 or visit **lizgandynaturopathy.au**

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

Like the wise bridesmaids who kept their lamps ready, disciples prepare daily for Christ's coming. Stay faithful in prayer and service, and the Lord will reveal the vocation he has prepared for you. (Matthew 25:1-13)
If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez, the diocesan vocations director, **vocations@dow.org.au**



A Post-School Getaway for Year 12 Graduates

Finishing Year 12 can bring big changes. BEACHHOUSE is a relaxed threeday beach house experience helping school leavers build faith, friendship and community as they begin life beyond school.

Jesuit Villa House, Gerroa
16–18 February 2027
$275 (includes accommodation & meals)
Year 12 graduates
Only 20 places available

A chance to slow down, connect with other young Catholics and start the next chapter well.
More details & registration:
dow.sh/beachhouse

Please donate to support our parish

***Use the 3 tap machines to donate $10, $20, $25, $50 or other amount* ($1 - $99).**
We know that less people are carrying cash, so the **DoW App** exists to allow you to donate on a one off or regular basis. Visit **parishgiving.dow.org.au** to register to setup a donation for **Campbelltown Parish—**it takes only **30 seconds** to register and setup. All donations made are safe and secure—you need to enter your card details and then confirm your information before any payments or donations are processed. You can also change or edit your giving at any time in the app.

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