Advent 1, Year B | 29 November 2026

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St John the Evangelist
CATHOLIC PARISH CAMPBELLTOWN



Mass Today

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING | *Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8*
Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | *Psalm 79*
Lord, make us turn to you,
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING | *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*
The revelation we looked for, Chist Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL | *Mark 13:33-37*
Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

This Week

9:30 am Mass – Mon 30 Nov - **St Andrew, apostle [Feast]**
9:30 am Mass – Tues 1 Dec
9:30 am Mass – Wed 2 Dec
9:30 am Mass – Thurs 3 Dec **- St Francis Xavier, priest [Memorial]**
9:30 am Mass – Friday 4 Dec

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

First Friday 10 am - 6 pm

Reconciliation

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

READINGS NEXT WEEK - Second Sunday of Advent, Year B
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

Watch for Him

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in today's First Reading.

In today's Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne—to save and shepherd His people.

Today's readings are relatively brief. Their language and "message" are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves.

And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can't we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him?

God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today's Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel's sake and for ours to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love.

In Jesus, we have seen the Father. The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him.

As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift—especially the Eucharist and penance—to strengthen us as we await Christ's final coming. He will keep us firm to the end—if we let Him.

So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning repeated three times by our Lord in today's Gospel: be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

Scott Hahn - **stpaulcenter.com**

PARISH CLERGY
Fr John Ho PP
Fr Richard Healey AP

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PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Principal: Paul Moroney
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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.

Stay Awake and Prepare Your Heart

Today we begin the season of Advent, a special time of waiting and preparation for the coming of Jesus. During Advent, we look back with gratitude to His birth in Bethlehem and look forward with hope to His coming again in glory.

In the first reading, Isaiah cries out: **"Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!"** This prayer expresses our own longing for God to bring peace, healing and hope to our troubled world.

In the second reading, St Paul reminds us that God is faithful and continues to strengthen us as we wait for the Lord.

In the Gospel, Jesus gives us a simple but powerful message: **"Stay awake!"** He is not asking us to stay awake at night, but to be **spiritually awake**, to recognise His presence and to live our faith each day.

As Christmas approaches, we can become busy decorating our homes, buying gifts and preparing celebrations. But Jesus invites us to ask a more important question: **Are we preparing our hearts to welcome Him?**

Our Parish Invitation: This Advent, let us make a special effort to spend a few minutes each day in prayer, attend Mass faithfully, seek God's forgiveness and reach out to someone who is lonely or in need. Through these simple acts of faith and love, we prepare a place for Jesus in our hearts.

Come, Lord Jesus! Help us to stay awake and welcome You with joyful hearts.

Rosaries/Sunday Missals

Christmas cards, beautiful rosaries & Sunday Missals are now available for purchase from the Piety stall.

First Reconciliation – A Wonderful Celebration of God's Mercy

I am very grateful and encouraged by the celebration of First Reconciliation this year. It was wonderful to see that more than 90% of parents also received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In fact, we needed to invite three additional priests to assist us!

This year, we offered separate formation sessions for children and parents. I strongly believe that **faith formation for parents** is very important, as they are the first and most important teachers of faith for their children.

My sincere thanks to Fr Richard Healey for leading the parent formation sessions, to the group leaders for facilitating the discussions, and to our Sacramental Team for their dedication in preparing the children. A special thank you also to the priests who assisted us.

Congratulations to all the children who received their First Reconciliation and to their parents for setting such a wonderful example of faith.

May this experience of God's love and forgiveness help our families grow closer to Jesus and one another.

St John's Parish Christmas Carols 6pm Friday 18 December

We warmly invite **all parish choirs, ethnic communities, and Parishioners** to take part in our Parish Christmas Carols in St John's Church. Come and share the joy of Christmas through music and singing as one parish family! To help us organise the program, please send your chosen Christmas carols to **Flor Artus** at **anpcomp3@gmail.com** or contact her on **0468 785 108**.

Let us come together to celebrate the joy of Christmas!

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

Graham Wagg, Matilda McMurray, Liam MacMeanmain (Ireland), Anne Serret, Eva Jones.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

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

Rosters

Sunday 6 December

Acolyte

V5 Michael Norris
7:30 Tom Hunter & Uruguay
9 Joy Kuriakose & Emmanuel
10:30 John Hill, Andrei Valderrama
5 Jason de Guzman

Extraordinary Ministers

V5 Graeme & Roseleen Goldie
7:30 Jean Reid, Ian Star
9 Erin Jones, Falakika Nau
10:30 Hazel Vargas, Imelda Landrigan
5 Rowena & Patrick Cooke

Readers

V5 Carmel Gorman, Angel Estepa
7:30 Tarek Boulos, Atoni Kaufusi, Mary Johns
9 Flor Artus, Wendy Fawbert
10:30 Norma McNally, Broone Periera, Tessie Yaghooti Fam
5 Maria Brookes, Melinda Canete

Musicians

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

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal this weekend

This Christmas, **let us share God's love with those in need!** The SVdP Society, Campbelltown, will hold its Christmas Appeal at all Masses this weekend**.** We warmly invite every parishioner to give generously and help struggling families across Macarthur experience the joy, hope and love of Christmas.

Together, we can make Christmas brighter for those in need!

Kids' Corner

Jesus said to his disciples:"Be watchful! Be alert!" (Mark 13: 33)

A little boy came into the world more than 2,000 years ago to save us all. But Jesus also comes into our hearts every day. We call this a mystery because it's the power of God at work, and we can't fully understand it. But we can be watchful and alert for Jesus. We can notice his presence in our families and friends. We can watch for Jesus in the hearts of people all around the world and even in the hearts of people we don't care for. We can be alert to him everywhere! How will you be alert to Jesus' presence in everyone during this Advent season?

Jesus, help me see your face today. Amen. *(From GPBS)*

Praise God!

Our Parish Family in Prayer

How wonderful it is to see the Lord's goodness unfolding among us! Thank you, Jesus, for your constant love and faithfulness to our parish family.

Celebrating Answered Prayers

- **Youth & Work:** We rejoice with our students who passed their exams with "flying colours," and give heartfelt thanks for a parishioner's daughter who secured a new job after months of uncertainty.

Lifting Each Other Up

- **Our Youth:** For peace and guidance as students await exam results, university offers, and discern their next steps.
- **Healing & Comfort:** For loved ones and parishioners facing cancer, scoliosis, and osteoporosis.
- **Families & Loved Ones:** For grace in struggling marriages, the safe arrival of new babies, and the eternal rest of our dear departed family members.

Have a blessing to share or a prayer need? Drop a note in the foyer Testimony & Prayer Box anytime—we love praying with you. All glory to you, Lord Jesus!

Immaculata Mission School: 1 – 7 Jan
"Am I Not Your Mother?" @
Presbyterian Ladies College, Armidale
immaculata.org.au/ims

Take time to prepare for Christmas

You're invited to join the FaithWorX group in the St John's Hall meeting room as we read & discuss the Gospel for the Sundays in Advent. We'll be using the reflections & artwork in the booklet *The Presence*, available for $5 from the Piety stall. Start about 6pm (after 5pm Mass) with a cuppa & biscuits and finish by 7.45pm. Start date is 22 Nov, to prepare for the following Sunday. No need to RSVP, you're welcome to just turn up with your copy of *The Presence*!

Senior Ladies – St John's Community

Christmas get together Lunch
Campbelltown Catholic Club
12 noon Friday 4 Dec 2026

For all senior/retired ladies and friends. A nice way to catch up with "old" and meet new friends.
Enquiries Kay 4625 3367 or Jan 4625 4455

Christmas Masses 2027

There is a new timetable this year with all 6 Masses being held in the Church.

Christmas Eve: 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
Christmas Day: 8am and 10am

Celebrating Our Wonderful Catechists

On Saturday, I had the joy of concelebrating the **Annual Catechist Mass and Awards Ceremony**. It was a wonderful occasion to gather with catechists from across our Diocese. My heart was filled with gratitude and joy to see so many of our parish catechists present.

This year, we are delighted to congratulate:

- **Level I Course – Five New Catechists**: Ana Carmichael, Thomas Hunter, Cecile Marot, Elizabeth Ann Rullis and Yovita Wiyana.
- **Diploma of Catechists:** Linda Kim.
- **20 Years of Service:** Rosemary De Kauwe.
- **25 Years of Service:** Karen Schneider.
- **50 Years of Service:** Diana Hill, our dedicated Parish Catechist Coordinator.

A very special congratulations to Diana for her remarkable 50 years of faithful and generous service. What a beautiful witness of faith, love and commitment!

We are truly blessed to have so many dedicated catechists in our parish. On behalf of our parish family, I warmly congratulate and sincerely thank you all for giving your time, sharing your faith and helping our children to know and love Jesus.

May God continue to bless you abundantly in this beautiful ministry.

Final VOCARIS of 2026... Movie Night Under the Stars!

Young adults 18+ are invited to come and enjoy a free food truck dinner, a catechesis on the Seven Deadly Sins and an outdoor screening of Fr. Stu, an inspiring story of faith and discovering God's call.

When: Saturday 5 December, 6:00–10:00pm,
Where: St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park

Bring a picnic rug or camping chair, your favourite movie snacks and a friend! Head to dow.sh/vocarisdec26 for more information or to register! for more information or to register!

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

It's Advent, almost Christmas! A Season of dreams comes true. Be on guard. The Lord may call you to follow Him.

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez, the diocesan vocations director, **vocations@dow.org.au**



"Ephphatha: Be Opened!"

Calling young men 18-35 years old

Jesus is always calling us to life, and life to the full—the challenge for us is to be open to hearing his voice. How can we become more open to his quiet voice in the big and small decisions of life? How do we know if we are called to marriage, priesthood or religious life, and how do you live your baptismal vocation more fully as a single young man?

Unmarried young men aged 18–35 who are open to discerning God's call are invited to join the priests of the Vocations Team and our seminarians for lunch, formation, Q&A and Eucharistic Adoration.

Sat 12 Dec at St Therese Parish, West Wollongong. Free entry.
dow.sh/Ephphatha

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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