



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)

PARISH CLERGY

Fr John Ho PP
Fr Richard Healey AP

CONTACT US

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OFFICE HOURS

9 am to 3:30 pm (Tuesday to Friday)
Secretary: Michelle Quinn

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Sunday 22, Year A | 30 August 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

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

FIRST READING | Jeremiah 20:7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 62

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

SECOND READING | Romans 12:1-2

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL | Matthew 16:21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

This Week

9:30 am Mass – Mon 31 Aug

9:30 am Mass – Tues 1 Sep

9:30 am Mass – Wed 2 Sep

9:30 am Mass – Thurs 3 Sep – **St Gregory, pope, doctor [Memorial]**

9:30 am Mass – Friday 4 Sep

READINGS NEXT WEEK – Twenty-Third Sunday in Year A
Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

For Your Life

Today's First Reading catches the prophet Jeremiah in a moment of weakness. His intimate lamentation contains some of the strongest language of doubt found in the Bible. Following God's call, he feels abandoned. Preaching His Word has brought him only derision and reproach.

But God does not deceive—and Jeremiah knows this. God tests the just and disciplines His children through their sufferings and trials.

What Jeremiah learns is what Jesus states explicitly in today's Gospel. To follow Him is to take up a cross, to deny yourself—your priorities, preferences, and comforts. It is to be willing to give it all up, even life itself, for the sake of His Gospel. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we have to join ourselves to the Passion of Christ, to offer our bodies—our whole beings—as living sacrifices to God.

By His Cross, Jesus has shown us what Israel's sacrifices of animals were meant to teach: we owe to God all that we have.

God's kindness is a greater good than life itself, as we sing in today's Psalm. The only thanks we can offer is our spiritual worship, giving our lives to the service of His will.

Peter doesn't yet get this in today's Gospel. As it was for Jeremiah, the cross is a stumbling block for Peter. This is our natural temptation, as well: to refuse to believe that our sufferings play a necessary part in God's plan. That's how people think, Jesus tells us today. But we are called to the renewal of our minds—to think as God thinks, to will what He wills.

In the Mass, we once again offer ourselves as perfect and pleasing sacrifices of praise. We bless Him as we live, confident that we will find our lives in losing them, that with the riches of His banquet our souls will be satisfied.

Scott Hahn - stpaulcenter.com

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.



sjec.org.au/news



StJohnCampbelltown

When God's way is not our way

Today's readings remind us that faith does not mean we always understand God's ways. Jeremiah is tired and discouraged. Being faithful to God has brought him rejection and suffering. In the Gospel, Peter also struggles with God's plan. When Jesus speaks about His coming suffering and death, Peter protests: "This must not happen to you."

Both Jeremiah and Peter are honest with God. And that teaches us something important about prayer: we do not have to hide our feelings from God.

There are times when our prayer may simply be:

"Lord, I don't understand."

"Lord, I am tired."

"Lord, why is this happening?"

God can receive that prayer.

Honest prayer is often a sign of trust.

But today's Gospel also teaches us that speaking to God must be followed by listening to God.

Peter wants Jesus to avoid the Cross, but Jesus tells him that he is thinking in a human way rather than God's way. Then Jesus says:

"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself, take up his cross and follow me."

Jesus does not ask us to look for suffering. But He does ask us to remain faithful when love requires sacrifice.

Our cross may be caring for someone who is sick, forgiving someone who has hurt us, remaining faithful in difficult times, or putting the needs of others before our own.

We can always speak honestly to God.

But after we speak, we must also ask:

Am I willing to listen when God's way is different from mine?

Sometimes God does not remove the cross.

Instead, He gives us the grace to carry it and the courage to follow Him.

Parish Life & Ministry Survey - sjec.org.au

Thank you to everyone who has completed the survey. Please visit the parish website today to **see the results**. If you would like to sign up for a ministry, please complete the form also available on the parish website.

Giving Glory to God

Share Your Answered Prayers!

Has God answered a prayer, brought healing, or granted a blessing in your life—big or small?

In the Scriptures, whenever God moved among His people, they built a monument of stones to remember His goodness (*Joshua 4:6–7*). When we share our answered prayers, it isn't bragging—it gives glory to God and builds up the faith of our entire parish family!

Why Share Your Testimony?

- Glorify God: Praise Him for His active presence in your daily life.
- Encourage Others: Your story gives hope to someone currently going through a hard season.
- Build Expectation: Remind our community at St John's that Jesus Christ is alive and moving in power today!

How to Share:

- Online: Visit therekindleproject.com.au/answered-prayers or scan the QR code below.
- In Person: Fill out a paper slip in the foyer and drop it into the Testimony & Prayer Box. (*You may remain anonymous if you prefer*).

Let's build an altar of praise together and give thanks for all the good things God is doing!



Upcoming Events

Anointing Mass

10am Sat 5 September

Prayer Ministry

Receive prayer for any need - physical or spiritual 11:30am Sunday 12 Sept.

Children's Mass

10:30am Sunday 27 September

Prayer & Shared Lunch

11:30am Fri 11 Sept (Parish Hall)

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

Ann Caroline English, William O'Connell, Michael Seery, Fr John Roberts, Maria Curtis.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Frank Byron, Flavio Mustone, Margaret & Laurie McGuinness, Desmond James McAuliffe, Reynaldo Puse, Patricia Beard, Brock Bolin, Maryanne Tomarchio, Alberto Macadangdang, Bojena Tsvirko.

Rosters

Sunday 6 September

Acolyte

Vigil Michael Norris

7:30 Tom Hunter

9 Joy Kuriakose

10:30 John Hill, Andrei Valderrama

5 Raul Ladera

Extraordinary Ministers

Vigil Graeme & Roseleen Goldie

7:30 Jean Reid, Ian Star

9 Maria Aliifa'alogo, Falakika Nau

10:30 Hazel Vargas, Imelda Landrigan

5 Rowena & Patrick Cooke

Readers

Vigil Carmel Gorman, Angel Estepa

7:30 Tarek Boulous, Atoni Kaufusi,

Mary Johns

9 Flor Artus, Wendy Fawbert

10:30 Norma McNally, Broone Periera,

Tessie Yaghooti Fam

5 Maria Brookes, Melinda Canete

Musicians

Vigil Ben McKenzie & John George

9 Glynn Family

10:30 Joe Talamaivao

5 Siervas Musika Choir

RENEWED & SENT

Bishop Brian Mascord invites you to the Renewed & Sent Parish Renewal Summit at St Gregory's College, Gregory Hills, from 1–3 October 2026.

Join clergy, religious, lay leaders, ministry volunteers and parishioners from across the Diocese of Wollongong for three days of inspiring keynote presentations, practical workshops, prayer, and opportunities to connect with others who share a passion for the future of our parishes. This opportunity aligns with Bishop Brian Mascord's Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes, helping us to grow as communities where people encounter Jesus, become his disciples, and are sent to share the Gospel. Whether you come on your own or as part of a parish team, you'll leave encouraged, inspired, and equipped with practical ideas to help your parish grow in faith, mission, and community. For the full program and registrations, visit

renewedandsent.com.au

Registrations closing soon

Priestly Ordination of Deacon Seth Harsh

All parishioners are warmly invited to share in the great joy of the ordination to the priesthood of Deacon Seth Harsh, celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord, on **Sat 12 Sep at 10:30am at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rosemeadow.**

Please come and support Seth with your presence and prayers as he takes this beautiful step in his vocation and begins his priestly ministry.

RSVP is essential by 1 September 2026
rsvp.dow.org.au.

St Carlo Acutis Relic and Display coming in September

Our diocese is excited to be hosting the International Carlo Acutis Major Relic Pilgrimage between 14-21 September 2026.

The relic will visit the parishes of **Oran Park (Mon 14)**, **Rosemeadow (Tue 15)**, Nowra (16-17/9), and the Wollongong Cathedral (Fri 18 - Mon 21), with opportunities for veneration of the first-class relic of St Carlo, participating in the sacraments, and visiting St Carlo's own Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition. Everyone, but especially students and young adults will be amazed and drawn into a deep experience of faith in encountering St Carlo's story, relic and the display. Go to stcarloaustralia.com for more information.

Biblical Roots of the Mass

The theme of EUCHARIST28 is *This is My Body, Given For You*. Please join us at FaithworX in *St John's Hall* on Sunday evenings to watch and discuss a series of videos, *The Biblical Roots of the Mass* - available on formed.org and presented by Dr Brant Pitre. There are 6 more videos. All welcome, just turn up! We begin at **6:15pm** with a cuppa & biscuit, watch the video (35-50 mins) on the big screen, with discussion, and finish about 7:45pm.



Why don't gardeners ever tell secrets?
Because the potatoes have eyes, the corn has ears — and the beans stalk.

Formation Pathway: The Next Faithful Step

What is God asking of our parish now?

Parish renewal isn't about finding the perfect programme or copying what worked somewhere else. It's about learning to recognise where God is moving, discerning what he may be asking of us, and having the courage to take the next faithful step. This important formation is for clergy, parish and ministry leaders, and parishioners, and is the perfect preparation for the Parish Renewal Summit in October. 7-9pm

Campbelltown: Tues 1 Sep

Wollongong + Zoom: Wed 2 Sep

To register: dow.sh/fpsept2026

World Youth Day Seoul 2027 – Diocesan Pilgrimage

One Year to go until World Youth Day Seoul 2027! Applications are open for the Diocese of Wollongong's pilgrimage. If you're interested in joining thousands of young Catholics from around the world for this once-in-a-lifetime experience of faith, community and pilgrimage, visit dow.org.au/wyd27 for information on the itinerary, costs, travel arrangements and FAQs. An information night will be held on Wed 2 Sep 2026 from 6-8pm at the Xavier Conference Rooms (38 Harbour St Wollongong) to provide further information and provide a chance for potential pilgrims to meet each other. Anyone looking to apply is required to attend this session.

Join our mailing list at dow.sh/wyd27 to receive the latest updates and announcements.

Whoever loses his life for my sake...

At the time of the writing of Matthew's gospel (around 75-80 CE), Christians were being persecuted and put to death for their beliefs. They were literally giving up their lives for their faith. These persecuted Christians saw Jesus' triumph over death as a sign of great hope and trust in the future for themselves. Jesus' words in the gospel – 'whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' – would give hope to those under persecution that ultimately they too would triumph and that the deaths of their friends were not in vain.

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

"O God, you are my God whom I seek." As St Augustine recognised, our hearts are restless until they rest in the Lord; eliminate that which blocks your seeking for God. (Psalm 63:2)

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

Have you got what it takes?

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option.

Compass Catholic Family Camping Weekend

Registrations are now open for our next CCFC Weekend planned for Friday 16 - Sunday 18 October. Join with families from across the Diocese for a relaxed weekend of family fun, faith and food! For more information and to register go to: dow.sh/familycamping26

Please donate to support our parish

Use the new tap machine 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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