



WEEKEND MASSES

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

Weekday Masses

Monday – Friday 9:30 am; 6pm Friday
10am Saturday

Adoration

Friday 10 am – 11 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 11 am – 12 pm (with Adoration)

PARISH CLERGY

Fr John Ho PP
Fr Richard Healey AP

CONTACT US

sjec.org.au/hello

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OFFICE HOURS

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

PRIMARY SCHOOL

(02) 4625 1171
Principal: Paul Moroney
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Sunday 19, Year A | 9 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.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.*

FIRST READING | 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

*Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord
God.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 84

**Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.**

SECOND READING | Romans 9:1-5

*I would willingly be condemned if it could help my
people.*

Mass Today

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL | Matthew 14:22-33

Command me to come to you over the water.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.*

9:30 am Mass – Mon 10 Aug – **St Lawrence, deacon & martyr [Feast]**

9:30 am Mass – Tues 11 Aug – **St Clare, mystic [Memorial]**

9:30 am Mass – Wed 12 Aug

9:30 am Mass – Thurs 13 Aug

9:30 am Mass – Friday 14 Aug – **St Maximilian Kolbe [Mem]** 6pm Vigil for Assumption

10 am Mass – Sat 15 August – **Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary**

This Week

READINGS NEXT WEEK – Twentieth Sunday in Year A

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

Sinking Fear

How do we find God in the storms and struggles of our lives, in the trials we encounter in trying to do His will?

God commands Elijah in today's First Reading to stand on the mountain and await His passing by. And in the Gospel, Jesus makes the disciples set out across the waters to meet Him.

In each case, the Lord makes Himself present amid frightening tumult—heavy winds and high waves, fire and earthquakes.

Elijah hides his face. Perhaps he remembers Moses, who met God on the same mountain, also amid fire, thunder, and smoke. God told Moses no one could see His face and live, and He sheltered Moses in the hollow of a rock, as He shelters Elijah in a cave.

The disciples, likewise, are too terrified to look on the face of God. Today's Gospel is a revelation of Jesus' divine identity. Only God treads across the crest of the sea and rules the raging waters.

And the words of assurance that Jesus speaks—"It is I"—are those God used to identify Himself to Moses.

Even Peter is too overcome by fear to imitate his Lord. His fears, Jesus tells him, are a sign of his lack of faith. And so it often is with us. Our fears make us doubt, make it hard to see His glory dwelling in our midst.

Yet, we should know, as we sing in today's Psalm, that His salvation is near to those who hope in Him. By faith we should know, as Paul asserts in today's Epistle, that we are heirs to the promises made to His children, Israel.

We must trust that He whispers to us in the trials of our lives—that He who has called us to walk along the way of His steps—save us whenever we begin to sink.

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

The Voice in the Silence

Life often feels like a storm. We face worries about our health, our families, our work, and the future. In the midst of so much noise and uncertainty, we can easily wonder where God is.

This Sunday's readings remind us that God is always present, even when we cannot immediately recognise Him.

The prophet Elijah expected God to appear in dramatic signs—a mighty wind, an earthquake, and fire. Instead, God came in the gentle whisper of silence. Elijah discovered that God's presence is often found not in the spectacular, but in the quiet moments when we are willing to listen.

In the Gospel, the disciples are caught in a violent storm. As they struggle against the wind, Jesus comes to them walking on the water and says, **"Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid."** Peter begins to walk towards Jesus, but when he focuses on the wind and the waves instead of the Lord, he begins to sink. Yet the moment he cries out, **"Lord, save me!"** Jesus **immediately** reaches out His hand and lifts him up.

We all experience storms in life, but today's Gospel reminds us that our hope is not found in the absence of difficulties. Our hope is found in the presence of Christ. When we keep our eyes fixed on Him, we discover the courage to persevere. When we fall, He is always ready to reach out and lift us up.

This week, let us make time for silence so that we may hear God's gentle voice, and when life's storms arise, let us confidently pray, **"Lord, save me."**

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. Start date is 2 Aug. There are 10 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.

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

Mary Magdalene Hong, Venka Perkovic, Molly Maclou, Victoria Telesforo Vasquez.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Dayaka Jothi, Shaneil Madhoji, Selu Paseka, Brigid McCullins, Joy Sutton, Esther McPherson, Elamma Kuriakose, Leone Paseka, Henryk Swierk, Julia Brunt-Petelo, Ryan Connor McCarthy.

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**

Parish Life & Ministry Survey - sjec.org.au

Our parish community is important to us, and we want to continue growing as a welcoming, faith-filled church where everyone feels encouraged to share their gifts. This survey is designed to help us understand what helps people feel connected, what makes involvement difficult, and how we can better support parishioners to participate in community life and ministry.

Anonymous Parish Renewal & Ministry Survey

Your Answers Matter!
You can complete this online.



Scan to take the survey

Complete online this week (*Paper copies available at all Masses*)

**** Please complete the survey online [sjec.org.au/survey] if possible ****

Prayer Intentions

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation

Masses will be celebrated as follows:

- Vigil Mass Fri 14 August at 6 pm
- Day Mass: Sat 15 August at 10 am

All parishioners are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate this important feast.

National Vocations Awareness Week and Vocaris for Young Adults

National Vocations Awareness Week takes place from 2 to 9 August: a time for every one of us to be renewed in our commitment to living out our Christian vocation or “calling”, which begins in baptism and is then lived out through ordained ministry, religious life, marriage or the single life. The next Vocaris event will provide a unique opportunity for young adults (18+) to learn more about responding to the call of Jesus, on **Saturday 15 August from 6 pm–9:30pm at the Wilton Community Centre**, featuring the testimonies of a deacon (soon to be ordained priest), a religious sister and a married couple, each sharing the joy of discovering God’s unique call in their lives. Go to dow.sh/Vocaristestimony or use the QR code for more information or to register.

If you would like to discuss your vocation, contact Fr Duane Fernandez, Vocations Director vocations@dow.org.au

2026 Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass

If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, you are warmly invited to the Significant Marriage Anniversaries, celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on **Sunday 6 September 2026 at 2pm at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong**. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Xavier Centre Conference Room.

Registration is essential and must be completed online at dow.sh/ma26 by no later than Monday, 17 August 2026. Any enquiries please email Helen Bennett helen.bennett@dow.org.au

ST JOHN'S JOKES CORNER

A small boy came home from Sunday school beaming with excitement. “Mum!” he said, “We learned about when Jesus walked on water, and Peter tried to walk on water too!” “That’s wonderful,” his mum said. “What did you learn from it?” “That Peter should have worn his floaties.”

Cursillo Diocesan Women's Encounter Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 September 2026 Carmel House Varroville

Cursillo is a life changing experience providing a method to support and nurture our faith journey and enable us to live vibrant Gospel oriented lives. The weekend will include talks, discussions fostering friendship, daily Mass, spiritual direction, good music, fun and laughter.

Cost: **\$320** (payment options available) covers all meals, accommodation, resources and activities. Enquiries: Shirley Parker 0431 513 109 cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com dow.sh/cursillo

EUCCHARIST28 – Adore & Pray

In preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress 2028, join us for an overnight prayer vigil before Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, at St Joseph’s Parish, Bulli.

Friday, 14 August 7.30 pm – Vigil Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- Taizé Chant (led by Gabriella)
- All-night Prayer Vigil with Jesus Youth, including Rosary, Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross and quiet prayer.
- Supper will be available in the parish hall. Those wishing to do so are welcome to bring a plate to share

• Saturday 15 August 7.30 am – Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

- *Everyone is warmly invited to join us for all or part of the vigil.*

Upcoming Events

Anointing Mass

10am Sat 5 September

Prayer Ministry TODAY

Receive prayer for any need - physical or spiritual 11:30am Sunday 9 August. *A Spirit-filled ministry where two or more gather in Christ's name to pray boldly over individuals, bringing every intention — healing, hope, and surrender — directly before the living God in the Spirit's power.*

Children's Mass

10:30am Sunday 23 August

Clergy Retreat

17 - 21 August (No weekday Masses)

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

Peter stepped out of the boat in faith, and though he faltered, Jesus caught him. Trust that same hand as you discern God's call in your life.

(Matthew 14:22-33)

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

Separation

The image of Jesus still ashore while the disciples battled against strong winds and rising seas must have been an evocative one for the Matthean community. Like the disciples, they were acutely aware of their separation from Jesus. Unlike the disciples, they were separated by time and the raging storm that beset them was a tide of suspicion and persecution. At times they felt the strength and courage of Peter to step out of the boat and be Jesus in their world, but at other times they doubted their own abilities. It is a message for the Church of the day and the Church of today.

'Lord! Save me!'

The cry of Peter is one that each of us feels the need to cry out at some stage in our life. Jesus trusted Peter's ability to walk to him on the water; otherwise he would not have called Peter to do so. It is Peter who doubts himself. In this moment of realising that he can't do it alone, he calls out to Jesus. One of the enduring images of Jesus is as the one who saves – the Saviour. When the realisation eventually comes to each of us that we can't do it all alone, we need only call on the one who saves.

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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