



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)

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

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Sunday 20, Year A | 16 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

*Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
 and look on the face of your anointed one;
 one day within your courts
 is better than a thousand elsewhere.*

FIRST READING | Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 66

O God, let all the nations praise you!

SECOND READING | Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom,
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL | Matthew 15:21-28

Woman, you have great faith.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*With the Lord there is mercy;
 in him is plentiful redemption.*

This Week

Clergy Retreat - no weekday Masses

There will be a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
 at 9:30am from Monday - Friday.

READINGS NEXT WEEK – Twenty-First Sunday in Year A
Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

A Foreigner's Faith

Most of us are the foreigners, the non-Israelites, about whom today's First Reading prophesies.

Coming to worship the God of Israel, we stand in the line of faith epitomized by the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel. Calling to Jesus as Lord and Son of David, this foreigner shows her great faith in God's covenant with Israel.

Jesus tests her faith three times. He refuses to answer her cry. Then, He tells her His mission is only to Israelites. Finally, He uses "dog," an epithet used to disparage non-Israelites. Yet she persists, believing that He alone offers salvation.

In this family drama, we see fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy and the promise we sing of in today's Psalm. In Jesus, God makes known among all the nations His way and His salvation.

At the start of salvation history, God called Abraham. He chose his offspring, Israel, from all the nations on the face of the earth to build His covenant kingdom.

In God's plan, Abraham was to be the father of many nations. Israel was to be the firstborn of a worldwide family of God, made up of all who believe what the Canaanite professes; that Jesus is Lord.

Jesus came first to restore the kingdom to Israel. But His ultimate mission was the reconciliation of the world, as Paul declares in today's Epistle.

In the Mass we join all peoples in doing Him homage. As Isaiah foretold, we come to His holy mountain, the heavenly Jerusalem, to offer sacrifice at His altar. With the Canaanite, we take our place at the Master's table to be fed as His children.

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



A Place at God's Table

Today's readings remind us of a beautiful truth: **God's love and mercy are for everyone.**

In the First Reading, the prophet Isaiah speaks of God's house as "a house of prayer for all peoples." God does not close the door because of someone's nationality, culture, background, or past. His desire is to gather all people into his family.

The Gospel gives us a powerful example in the Canaanite woman. She is an outsider, yet she comes to Jesus because her daughter is suffering. At first, Jesus seems silent. Still, she does not give up. She continues to trust and simply says, "**Lord, help me.**"

Many of us know what it is like to pray and feel that God is silent. We pray for healing, for our families, for our children, or for a difficult situation, but nothing seems to change. The Canaanite woman teaches us not to walk away. Her faith is not great because life is easy, but because she continues to trust even when the answer is delayed.

St Paul also reminds us that God does not give up on his people. This gives us hope, especially when we worry about family members who have drifted away from faith. We may not be able to change them, but we can continue to love them, pray for them, and trust that God is still at work.

This Sunday, we are invited to ask ourselves: **Do I trust God when he seems silent? And is my heart open to those who are different from me?**

At God's table, there is room for everyone. His mercy is never limited, and no one is beyond the reach of his love.

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**



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 8 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.

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

Fr John Roberts, Maria Curtis, Neville Norris, Vitoria Ahwa, Louis Michael Desperles.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Brock Bolin, Maryanne Tomarchio, Alberto Macadangdang, Bojena Tsvirko, Stanislav Tsvirko, Wadih Nehme, Dayaka Jothi, Shaneil Madhoji, Selu Paseka, Brigid McCullins, Joy Sutton.

Rosters Sunday 23 August

Acolyte

Vigil Volunteer please

7:30 Brian Thompson

9 Bernard Augustine

10:30 Gavan Hill, Andrei Valderrama

5 Tom Hunter

Extraordinary Ministers

Vigil Graeme & Roseleen Goldie

7:30 Karen Schneider, Ken Fernandez

9 Diana & John Hill

10:30 Norma McNally, Imelda Landrigan

5 Rowena & Patrick Cooke

Readers

Vigil Marie Cassar, Sheila Fonseca

7:30 Jean Reid, Cathy Porter, Ian Star

9 Marie Joseph, Nathan Cox,

Cherima Lucilo

10:30 Martin Shields, Ella Talamaivao,

Children (Universal Prayers)

5 Tess Valesini, Val Alcantara

Musicians

Vigil Ben McKenzie & John George

9 Glynn Family

10:30 Joe Talamaivao

5 Filipino Choir

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Friday 21 August 2026

6:30am-8:00am

Peter Gilmore "The Power of Vision"

Xavier Conference Centre,

38 Harbour Street, Wollongong

Join other men for a morning of breakfast, prayer and inspiring input. Be inspired and strengthened as you connect with others seeking to live as authentic disciples on mission.

Book here: **dow.sh/MPB26**

by Tuesday 18 August

Parish Life & Ministry

Survey - sjec.org.au

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey last weekend. It is not too late to complete the survey - visit the parish website today to take the survey or to see the results so far. Every member of the family, and every person who attends Mass at St John's, including children, are welcome to complete the survey personally. **Don't miss the chance to have your say.** If you would like to sign up for a ministry, please complete the form also available on the parish website.

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.

Eucharist28 Update: Eternal Life in the Eucharist

The International Eucharistic Congress ('Eucharist28') is coming to Sydney in 2028! At every Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist is a moment of communion, where we are united in Christ, who's body and blood we share. In the Scriptures, Jesus tells us, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day." (John 6:54) Through the Eucharist, Christ unites us to Himself and draws us into the eternal life He promises. This invitation is for everyone, even those who have died. At each Mass, the Church offers the Eucharistic sacrifice for the faithful departed, that they may experience eternal life and unity with Christ. To help your parish and community experience this moment of Eucharistic renewal on the journey to Eucharist28, head to eucharist28.org for more.

St Carlo Acutis Relic and Display coming here 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.

Cursillo Diocesan Women's Encounter

Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 Sep 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

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

The Canaanite woman persisted in prayer with unwavering confidence. Seek the Lord's calling in your life with persistent faith, trusting that he always hears and answers. (Matthew 15:21-28) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez, the diocesan vocations director, vocations@dow.org.au

Kletos 2026 - Chosen Pre-Conference

A half-day gathering with music, games, food, fellowship, and formation to ignite you and set the tone for the Chosen Conference 2026 It will be a power-packed preview of what is to come at the Chosen National Youth Conference in Melbourne. Chosen is a National Youth Conference run by Jesus Youth Australia, bringing together young people from all over the country to experience God in a real and powerful way, build friendships, and grow in faith. What: Kletos Pre-Conference Program When: 22 Aug 2026, 11am to 3.30pm

Free! Our Lady Help Of Christians Catholic Church Hall, Rosemeadow.

dow.sh/KLETOSRosemeadow

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.



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 23 August

Prayer & Shared Lunch

11:30am Fri 11 Sept (Parish Hall)

ST JOHN'S JOKES CORNER

A little boy asked his mother after Mass, "Mum, Father said today that there is a place at God's table for everyone." His mother replied, "That's right." The boy thought for a moment and said, **"Then God must have a very, very big dining table!"** 😊
*And perhaps that is not a bad image for today's Gospel: **God's table is always bigger than we imagine.***

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